
FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE MEETING
January 11, 2018
12:50 P.M. in CTC 104

Present: Carmen Scholz, Laird Burns, Monica Dillihunt, David Johnson, Mike Banish, Kader Frendi, Anne Marie Choup, Tim Newman

Absent: David Stewart

Ex-Officio: Provost Christine Curtis

Guest: President Bob Altenkirch

- Faculty Senate President Carmen Scholz called the meeting to order at 12:50 pm.
- **Meeting Review:**
 - **Faculty Handbook Chapter 5 passed first reading and placed on agenda for faculty senate meeting.**
- **Administrative Reports**
 - President Bob Altenkirch
 - Commencement is May 6th. It looks like it will be split into two ceremonies. We exceeded the fire code last time. The VBC has let us know that if it isn't split, after 6,200 in attendance, it will be stopped. There are a number of ways to split. We thought about using the concert hall and the arena. The issue there is added cost. If we have back to back ceremonies, there isn't any extra cost. If you start at 2:00 it will end too late. The earliest you can start on Sunday is 1:00. We looked at Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Monday, the VBC isn't available. We can't push to Wednesday due to final exams. The question is how to split it?
 - Monica – Have we looked at tickets?
 - Bob – I have looked at it and it isn't popular.
 - We could split it undergraduate/graduate, college/college. The other question is the speaker. We figure the ceremony time split by college would be about an hour and a half plus clearing out. That would then make the next starting at 4:00. That is a very long day for the staff. I don't see another choice than splitting it.
 - Kader – I know other colleges our size split into colleges after PhD. That in return allows a graduation happen all the time for the colleges.
 - Provost – That doesn't help us any.
 - Kader – The parent would only come to the one their child is at.
 - Provost – Where would we have it?
 - Kader – Greenway is an option.
 - Laird – What about rain?
 - The most logistic way is splitting. The question is how and the decision on the speaker.

- Christina – So we are eliminating two simultaneous graduations because the concert hall is extra cost and the speaker?
- Bob – I don't think the same time is an option for those that have to attend all.
- Christina – If you do one in the concert hall you wouldn't have to wait until one is completely over to get to the next.
- Mike – How much is the concert hall?
- Bob – I don't know but I am thinking \$10K plus extra staff to tear down and set up.
- Kader – I think maybe consider Christina's idea for this year, and then look into this next year.
- Laird – How much time would it take to start with the graduate program? Would it be quicker than the undergraduate?
- Bob – You have to flush out the arena.
- Laird – That is constant. The graduate program would be shorter due to the number of students.
- Bob – The time wouldn't change much.
- Carmen – I think the clearing out takes longer than just a half hour.
- Bob – If it were a Saturday, we could start earlier. The VBC isn't available for that option.
- Laird – Can we plan for next year and book now?
- Provost – I think we will always interfere with A&M.
- Kader – Maybe it needs to be moved back to campus.
- Laird – We don't have the facilities.
- Tim – You would have to do it by college.
- Mike – You could move it back to Spragins and run by college.
- Bob – First December I was here we had three ceremonies in Spragins.
- Christina – Was it a different speaker for each ceremony?
- Bob – I spoke at all three that year.
- Kader – Under Williams, the speaker just spoke at the first.
- Laird – They could come into this building for the reception.
- Anne Marie – What is the drawback to doing it on campus?
- Bob – The size and outside is the rain.
- Anne Marie – But it has worked before?
- Mike – Doing them simultaneously with the same speaker starting at 2:00 done at 4:00, you could easily do that Saturday through Spragins Hall.
- Laird – You would have to do five sessions for each college to meet the same amount of room the VBC offers.
- Kader – We save money.
- Provost – No you don't. The cost is about the same.
- Mike – How?
- Provost – The setup and everything that has to be done.
- Mike – That doesn't make sense if you have to rent the concert hall.
- Provost – That is only what I was told. I haven't seen the book.
- Mike - I think logistically it's easier to do the arena and split it. Tuscaloosa doesn't have a speaker. Without a speaker, you gain back about half an

hour. The ceremony takes two hours with a speaker. We could be done under an hour and a half without a speaker.

- Laird – We can't hear the speaker regardless. The sound is so bad.
 - Kader – If you don't have a speaker would you not give honorary degrees?
 - Bob – You can and have them not speak.
 - Laird – Can we address the sound?
 - Provost – It was better last time.
 - Carmen – I am not so willing to let go of the speaker. They make it more festive and memorable.
 - Anne Marie – You are sold on the VBC idea, so you are asking us how to split it?
 - Bob – Yes, I think that's the best option. How you split it is the question.
 - Kader – I think long term we need to bring it to campus. I think it will look festive on campus. I think it's nice to have ceremonies along campus.
 - Provost – We have an understanding with the VBC, and then enter a contract. We have done this for May.
 - Kader – I am not saying this May, but in the future.
 - Bob – We will look at splitting non-doctoral/doctoral; doctoral going first. What about a speaker?
 - Carmen – Who was the candidate of choice for May?
 - Mike – I would say Doug Jones.
 - Provost – I have been at commencements where a board member speaks for a few minutes and the main speaker at another.
 - Carmen – Depending on the speaker, you could see if they would give the speech twice.
 - Kader – Or forego the speaker.
 - Bob – I won't ask Doug Jones because of it being election year.
 - Provost – The list we received for potential candidates doesn't include Doug Jones.
 - Laird – Do you have a speaker for the first session and record it?
 - Bob – I will just go down the list and see what the response is.
 - Tim – We could always look at someone locally.
 - Bob – So it will be split in two and I will work on a speaker.
- You may know or not know but Ray Vaughn and Delois Smith is retiring. We are starting the search process. There is an extra step through the board now. We have to provide a search plan. The first is written, we are working on the second now. They are retiring the end of spring. We could have someone in place for Delois but Ray's will be harder. Tuscaloosa went through a search for the same position and it worked well.
 - Christine is going to talk about the drop/add period. Fall 2017, head count enrollment at the 10th day, was 9,101. A tuition table starts in July. The tuition table at one point in time had 9,598 students in it. In the fall semester there was 8,962 students that didn't have zero tuition in the tuition table. Tuition table starts and the number was 9,598, on the tenth day it was 9,101. During the fall, it was 8,962 that showed paid. The issue is keeping as many people in the tuition table as we can. Part of looking at the drop/add date is to maximize the number of people we

maintain in the table. The thought is to move the add/drop date less than ten to keep them in the tuition table.

- Kader – Bob, I am coming back to the tech hall issue. They started fixing the tiles in the hallway. They took some out and never came back. There are some spots with no tile on the third floor. You can easily trip. Some of the hallways it is crunchy. It is long overdue from the traffic.
- Carmen – Bob, I was reminded that the memorial was never put up for the shooting victims. Are there plans?
 - Bob – I will check into that.
 - Carmen – Faculty wanted signs that say no weapons allowed.
 - Bob – There is a bill at the legislature to allow weapons.
 - Laird - That is regardless?
 - Bob – Yes, it is a state law.
 - Monica – You can have them in the car.
 - Bob – We are working against the bill.
 - Mike – They just started.
 - Bob – This pops up every now and then.
 - Carmen – I think it was a hot topic and the shooting shut it down. If this is a state law and they can bring a gun to class, am I giving F's?
 - Bob – I don't think the chance of it passing isn't high.
 - David J. – I think it passed in Georgia and Texas.
- Carmen – The pedestrian crossing lights on Technology Drive by Tech Hall worked before Christmas, but I think it went out again.
- Tim – I read your response back on Appendix G. I ask that you moderate people on that. The rule says we just have to have the same language not in the same place. I hope this isn't making us a clone to our sister institutions.
 - Bob – The policy is in two places because it applies to everyone. If it is only in the faculty handbook students shouldn't have to look there.
 - Tim – I understand the logic on 108 is strained. The IT policies have been in an interim status for two years. I thought they are unworkable. I found out that they are. All of our computers purchased as to run Banner. Native Banner will not run on newer computers. We have policies that network services can't even live under. They are requiring us to be up to date on everything; we can't be on Native Banner.
 - Bob – What is the genesis of these IT's policies?
 - Provost – The genesis is certain policies had to be in place for SACSCOC. IT put forward those policies. They have been in interim status and the conversation is ongoing. Because of Board Rule 108, I have asked them to look at UA and UAB policies.
 - Laird – Is there an allowance for not being in sync?
 - Provost – Yes. Your reply from start to beginning isn't possible because we don't have the personnel right now. Maybe in the summer we can get to it.
 - Tim – These policies were used to take my personal computer out of my lab. That is over the top. That is theft. I had old equipment that ran a device that was personal property that wasn't on the internet. One computer was hacked, and they came in and confiscated my personal equipment. The one

who did it stated that IT told them to. If it isn't connected to the internet what is the issue with that?

- Laird – If there is an issue with the equipment, can they at least be ordered to talk to Tim first?
 - Bob – What happened to it?
 - Tim – It was taken to surplus. I said go get it and they said it was gone. I am letting that be water under the bridge. We have to have policies to do the job and not over the top things.
- Provost Christine Curtis
- The policy that Bob was referring to is the recommendation from Clear the Path Committee. It was to change the add/drop date to the same. If you bring them together, the recommended dates are listed out in the policy. There aren't any issues so far. I wanted your thoughts.
 - Laird – I don't have an issue matching. I think we need to remind the students that have been here each semester of this date.
 - Anne Marie – Can they add/drop with the same amount of credits?
 - Provost – The same rules will apply.
 - Anne Marie – Academic and Financial match?
 - Provost - Yes.
 - Anne Marie – If the student finds out that the schedule doesn't work but just need some adjustments.
 - David – Can they do this with a late fee?
 - Provost – Yes.
 - Mike – The only problem I have is we start so soon after the first of the year. Has Alabama started?
 - Monica – The day after the game.
 - Mike – We have already been going a week. I had many students miss the first day of class because they weren't back from the game. If we are on the tenth day and Alabama is sixth day, we are the same calendar day due to our start day.
 - Provost – We have to start early because of the 40.5% in the summer.
 - Mike – My concern going down to the sixth day is some students would only be in class two or three days. We could say that is their problem, but to keep our return rate high, we may not want to be harsh.
 - Carmen – We are also a university. The students who usually have to figure this out are freshman; they should be here the first day. More seasoned students should know how to put together a schedule. I don't have a problem with it.
 - Laird – They are going to be late regardless of when it starts.
 - Carmen – They are adults let's treat them like that.
 - Laird – Are we agreeing to send this to faculty senate for agreement? What is the protocol?
 - Provost – We are seeking advice. If you are ok with it, then we will go through the process.
 - Kader – At this point, we follow policies on policy.
 - Christina – Is this a cost saving motivation?

- Provost – The motivation is keep the students. Auburn has a much later date but they charge a lot to drop at this point.
- Carmen – Is this out for a vote?
- Provost – I was just seeking input.
- Kader – I think put it out to the Undergraduate Scholastic Committee.
- Mike – It is a policy that is being changed.
- Tim – No, it hasn't been introduced.
- Provost - I will go back and send it to you officially. I think sending to the committee would be good.
- Tim – Can I propose that two pieces of information be sought? What is the date that students can drop for partial refund? We went from 9,101 to 8,459; can you provide data on when we lost those students?
- Provost – We dropped 140 after the tenth day in the fall. For the spring it is 8,459, not the tenth day.
- Kader – The other number was for?
- Provost – The summer.
- Laird – Per the website, there isn't a partial.
- Carmen – There is a new class schedule for MWF's where the times match between the 180 minute classes and the 55 minute classes. The decision making process totally missed that. Was there some discussion? Where did this come from?
 - Provost – There was a lot of problems with scheduling the classrooms. The way it was before they made the change was synced to MWF afternoons. There were issues when they weren't syncing.
 - Carmen – Don't we lose class periods?
 - Provost – Yes, but they weren't effective class periods.
 - Kader – I don't understand how the departments do the scheduling. My knowledge is they pick a class and regardless of the class size they keep me in the same room. It is very tight. I don't know if they watch that number or not.
 - Provost – Usually the Associate Deans are in contact and make the request.
 - Kader – I was put in a nicer class now. Last semester, I could see the pain. The SIE student evaluations have a section for facilities, they are not happy. They are very straight forward. I think we need to look at the student's evaluation on the facilities.
 - Carmen – Sometimes when the classes are tight, there are no other classes available. The whole discussion emphasizes the need for a classroom building.
 - Provost – What size classrooms are most important?
 - Kader – I would say 80. We move into nursing and take over their building.
 - Mike – One of the things we did was let MW takeover MWF. We have a serious problem because we have abandoned a day.
 - Provost – That was a choice of the faculty. There is the opportunity to teach MWF and MW.
 - Carmen – The faculty is that split on teaching 55 minutes and 180 minutes. There is no common ground, even in my department.

- Mike – It is a waste of facilities to abandon Friday. We have now lost another 25-30% of available classes on MWF because shifting to the same start time.
- Provost – But we weren't using those start times effectively that we lost.
- Mike – I look at the retention data sent out. When you do that data for this coming year, instructors don't really have much input on the reason of withdrawal. It all gets put in DFW regardless of health issues and them receiving an F.
- Provost – I think there are success rates with and without W.
- Carmen – With the F's and W's in some classes, they are the result of students being put into the class without the prerequisite. This isn't the instructor's problem. They get punished due to the advising office not following the prerequisite guidance. I find it unfair that the F and W's are put on the faculty.
- Provost – I feel sorry for the student.
- Carmen – I see the student go to the advising office and they get put into the class.
- Kader – I think that is a bigger problem. I think we have a very big problem with advising.
- Tim – When I started as a faculty member the graduate counsel's minutes were distributed. That has stopped. I thought they may be online, but not. I think that needs to resume. I was told that they removed an institutional requirement on graduate degrees in December. The difference now is the word "ongoing" is emitted. I am concerned we will get into SACS trouble.
 - Laird – We submitted a graduate class through the same process we always do. They came back and wanted more detail than normal. They need a set of guidelines to keep consistency.
 - Provost – Every college has representatives on the graduate counsel.
- Kader – We are hearing that there could be a Chinese branch of UAH, is that correct? Who will run the curriculum?
 - Provost- That is correct and they will teach the same curriculum. The faculty will be ones that volunteer and want to teach. A request went out for those who had interest. There will be faculty that will be interested and go. We won't be teaching full semesters. You can go for a full semester. There will also be some faculty that is hired in China. It will be open to the system faculty.
 - Laird – What is the tentative time table?
 - Provost – The Chinese government hasn't approved, nor Beijing. The hope is fall 2019.
 - Christina – You mentioned going through the Chinese approval, don't we need our approvals?
 - Provost – Absolutely. We are going through all the processes.
 - Laird – We probably need formal training for those going.
 - Kader – This senate and the senate body has never been informed of this. It is after the fact. We have a committee that looks at the curriculum.
 - Provost – It is our curriculum.

- Carmen – We hire faculty that will be ours?
- Provost – yes.
- Carmen – So they will be our faculty? What about tenure track?
- Provost – They will be our tenured faculty. No, tenure track. A renovated building will be for us to teach in on a campus.
- Tim – So are faculty from UAH going to be part of the hiring search for lecturers?
- Laird – So we may want to do electrical/mechanical study abroad?
- Provost – Absolutely.
- Kader – The faculty from UAH will be on a volunteer basis?
- Provost – Yes.
- Tim – The discussion is weird to me. Kader isn't even knowledgeable that one of his programs would be taught there. I would think the faculty senate would be in the discussion.
- Provost – The Deans were made aware and thought it would be presented to the faculty. It hasn't been approved. Faculty who teach Charger Foundation courses will have the opportunity to go teach. It will be freshman to senior with our curriculum. We have five students here on a exchange student basis from the university.
- Tim –How would we know what they are doing?
- Provost – The plan is to have as many of ours interested to be there. There will be administrative oversight there. I am sure that David Berkowitz would be glad to come speak to the senate.
- Carmen – I think we have a case of unintentional lack of communication that should have been avoided.
- Provost –We don't have approval yet.
- Mike – Coming in and telling us we have been approved to do this and hire, there has been a lack of communication passed down.
- Anne Marie – I think it is very interesting and a great opportunity, but I do think the communication should have been better.
- Provost – We can't see anything until the board approves.
- Tim – I can't buy that. We have shared governance among the campus. We should have been involved from the beginning. This is top down.
- Provost – I recommend David come speak.
- Mike – I would rather have Shankar.
- Provost – David is the Director of International Services.
- Kader – I think I join Tim. I received the email from Shankar from China about any interested. It went silent and now has surfaced again. It was quiet from summer until now. They are already refurbishing a building for us. The senate should have been informed.
- Provost – I am sorry. The President wanted to the board to be in agreement before it went public.

➤ **Officer/Committee Reports**

- Carmen Scholz, President
 - For the sake of time, are there any committee reports?
 - Laird Burns, Finance and Resources Committee Chair

- The CEU has 150 positions and 149 applications. It is in good shape. Faculty receives emails now to see applicants and within a week after being done they can give us their selection.
 - Carmen – All the bills were on the agenda for December. They will go back on the agenda for this month.
 - Tim – I don't think we have to revote.
 - Kader – We need to add the guest.
 - Carmen – We have an additional item.
 - Tim – You have been emailed the Chapter 5 revisions. I would like to move that it be passed on first reading placed on faculty senate agenda. Mike seconds.
 - Carmen – All in favor. Ayes carry. Chapter 5 passed first reading unanimous and on agenda. Chapter 5, 417, 419, 420. I understood that you discussed 417 in December?
 - Mike – Right, we just didn't finish.
 - Tim – That wasn't pending when we adjourned was it? It was deferred so you don't have to pick it up first.
 - Mike – Motions to extend meeting. Ayes carry.
 - Kader moves to adjourn. Laird seconds.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.