FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE MEETING
November 8, 2018
12:50 P.M. ENG 117

Present: ***Kathy Morrison, Lori Lioce, Carmen Scholz, Gang Wang, Mike Banish, Jeff Weimer, Vladimir Florinski, Tim Newman, Christina Carmen, Laird Burns***

Absent: Monica Dillihunt, David Johnson

Ex-Officio: Provost Christine Curtis

- Faculty Senate President Mike Banish called the meeting to order at 12:52 pm.
- **Meeting Review:**
  - **Chapter 5 was voted on to stay the same as the January 2018 version.**
  - **Chapter 8 was voted to be sent to Undergraduate Scholastic Committee.**
  - **Copyright Policy was tabled with open discussion.**
  - **Bill 423 was voted to be sent to Finance and Resources Committee.**
  - **Bill 424 was amended and passed for full senate agenda.**
- **Administrative Reports**
  - Provost Christine Curtis
    - The President is on his way to Tuscaloosa.
    - The Executive Plaza planning is proceeding. They put out an RFP in October for a planner. They have received eight responses. They are interviewing three. They should make a decision soon. I would suggest you and your colleagues have a discussion and list what would be key elements in Executive Plaza. I have heard suggestions of Upper Classman and Graduate housing. I have heard senior housing, restaurants, and grocery stores. From your point of view, what would enhance the university? The President uses examples of Tuscaloosa and Toomer's Corner at Auburn. We need a place for students to go. Be thinking about that, so that you can give your input.
      - Laird – Is the planning committee for the university involved?
      - Provost – I am not sure. I feel sure he will seek their input.
    - Commencement is on Thursday, December 6th. Engineering and Science will be in the morning and everyone else in the afternoon. Jan Davis will be our speaker.
    - Morton Hall is under renovation.
    - The new parking lot near Spragins Hall is open.
    - Conversation is continuing with Greg Smith about the lighting on campus. We have gotten the point across that we need lights on from dusk to dawn. They have been working since the decision was made to get the sensors working. Part of the problem is unresolved, it could be underground. If lights are out, you need to report them to facilities.

- I have charged the Dean's to work with the faculty and see if there is anything that can be removed. Some journals have been here for a long time and may not serve the new faculty. We need to narrow down those to our current need.
  - Vladimir – I was asked to mark the journals that I work with. The Department Chair passed that down.
  - Jeff, Mike, Carmen, Tim – We have not heard anything.
  - Mike – Is this a printed list?
  - Provost – No, it is a long spreadsheet that was emailed to them.
  - Mike – Can you email the list to us?
  - Provost – Yes, I can.
- I am going to the BOT meeting tomorrow. There isn't a lot on the agenda.
- On Saturday, I will be in New Orleans at the APLU. They have set up an initiative for universities to form a collaborative. We are supposed to jointly work on student success. Alabama is in one group. UAB is another group. We are in another group with NJIT, Michigan Tech, and one other. The four of us all have colleges of engineering and science. The others seemed to be more STEM focused than us. We have had three conference web calls. We are trying to come up with areas that we want to work on. The other three have issues with gender diversities. We don't really have that as a university wide. One of our issues is advising. I put forth retention and progress toward graduation. That is our key issue. I may not win on the issue 3:1, but we do need more discussion on diversity.
  - Jeff – Is the idea of this meeting for you to come back with action items to further these things?
  - Provost – Yes, that is why I want to push our key areas. I don't know that we can add more.
  - Jeff – How do we translate back the action items?
  - Provost – APLU has no authority. If you want a good reputation carried out. My goal is that what is agreed too is within our scope.
- The gift agreement for the scholarship that was the resolution has come back from the Office of Counsel. A scholarship page is being worked and the Faculty Senate Scholarship will be a part of that page. November 27th will be a day of giving.

➢ **Officer/Committee Reports**

- Mike Banish, President
  - Brent, Janet, and Amber came last time to discuss Degree Works. There were a few faculty that had concerns. It was explained to me that Degree Works is the gold standard for students. Our concern is that it allows our students to further isolate themselves. It keeps them from visiting a faculty member or advisor. We are struggling with our six year graduation rate; this is a way to disengage students.
    - Carmen – That is in light to our analysis of why students leave. We have students that are introverts. This plays into their hands.
    - Provost – That is just one part. It is a degree audit system to replace CAPPS. CAPPS was bought with Banner in 2006. There are 875 universities that use Degree Works. Anyone that works with banner has Degree Works. From a processing standpoint, we had to move to the current standard. Brent negotiated and we got it back down to the 2006 price. It is still expensive, but we can't be the only university without it.

        - Lori – The positive of using it is that it is super easy. You can coordinate online and go in together.
        - Mike – It is how we roll it out. Do we need to make them show that have had some communication with advisors?
        - Provost – That is a big discussion with APLU about advising. There is a lot of work we need to do.
        - Tim – I think that we had a situation when I came where I saw everyone. Then it moved out to the advising center. It has since then moved to online. I have students that are not engaged. I have students who won't look at me in lecture. I have issues with attendance. I think we have more students that are shy. We have too many students come in and they get lost in the crowd. As we grow, we will start to see this happening more. I think we have to make certain that students cannot override what their advisors have set up. I have graduate students come in and we discover a gap in their undergraduate knowledge. We won't uncover that if we don't meet with them. We can't let them change a decision the advisor makes.
        - Carmen – Neither can the advisors change what the faculty has said. That is a disservice to the students. I can tell every first of September who will not make it. It is those who didn't take Organic. The reason is the advisor overrode it.
        - Lori – Will there be the ability to place authority?
        - Provost – The authority stays the same.
    - Another issue are the crosswalks. We had two students ran into cars on their bicycles last month. I have yet to see cars stop the full length of time or not stop at all at Holmes. I have yet to see a UAH policeman give out tickets for this. They are heavily concentrated on parking.
        - Provost – That is parking, not the police.
        - Laird – They need to reinforce the crosswalk.
        - Provost – The length of time has increased. The city owns the crosswalk and sidewalks on both sides of Holmes. The city has to put up the signs for cyclist to dismount and walk across. The cars can proceed when clear.
        - Mike – A policeman sitting there with a radar gun and ticket book would cause the cars and bicyclist to be more responsible.
- Laird Burns, President Elect
    - I am going to Tuscaloosa for the BOT meeting.
- Carmen Scholz, Past President
    - One thing was brought to me in regards to the President search committee, is there a person of color on the committee?
    - Provost – Yes, three.
    - Carmen – I have been asked why the PO's over $1K are getting delayed.
    - Provost - I only receive what goes through the Dean's accounts.
    - Carmen – The opinion if the research faculty is that it goes through you.
- Tim Newman, Parliamentarian
    - I looked at the Chapter 5 that came back. We have been in the handbook revision process for eight years now. I am the senior person part of the process. I think that is surprising that we sit still with no revised handbook. In the case of Chapter 5, I had a negotiation with the President. There was one issue that separated us from

administration. Many have negotiated the same issue and we understand we won't get our way. There was only one issue that separated it. It is very sad to me that we sit here with five additional issues with Chapter 5. When you are in a long term negotiation, you don't bring up issues. I feel that my time has been wasted and I am resentful to that. It's not appropriate due to the number of hours worked on this. This is not the proper way to conduct negotiation. I think this process has been a horrible process, not on the faculty side. The faculty has worked with good faith.

- Lori Lioce, Governance and Operations Committee Chair
  - Gang and I have received good feedback on the surveys.
- Gang Wang, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair
  - We approved the first batch of forms.
- Jeff Weimer, Finance and Resources Committee Chair
  - We have 66 project proposals. The student solicitation is open until December 3rd. Faculty final submission will be open soon and be open until December 21st. The committee next spring will start the review process.
  - Christina – How does the 66 compare to last year?
  - Jeff – We had 50 or so last year.
  - Laird – We funded all those last year.
  - Jeff – We did add a few questions on the submission form in regard to teamwork and interdisciplinary.
- Vladimir Florinski, Personnel Committee Chair
  - I was asked to collect data on classes. I have partial data so far for some colleges but not all. My college for example, they were 21% this year and 60% last year.
- Christina Carmen, Ombudsperson
  - Dr. Ho requested a statement to the executive.
- David isn't here to receive great thanks along with Dr. Scholz for Bill 424. The rework was very nice.
  - Lori - I thought that Science Direct was continuing. Does it need a new name?
  - Jeff motions that this bill is brought for discussion. Laird seconds.
  - Jeff – I am concerned about putting the EG specifically, line 20. I am concerned about the specific "EG Athletic Programs. Laird seconds. Ayes carry. 1 opposes.
  - Jeff – I have to think about this in terms of stating the budget specifically will be curtailed on line 20. I am concerned that this is a confrontational approach. I support the approach. I am concerned about the word "absolutely." Maybe use "can be."
  - Mike – Take some time to think about it. I motion for an amendment to remove "for 2019" from the title. Laird seconds. Ayes carry.
  - Christina – I think one foundational issue that has filtered over for Science Direct is their budget doesn't increase similarly to other departments on campus. I think percentage-wise, the library budget should increase yearly similarly to other UAH departments/entities.
  - Mike – I would like to separate that out. I think we can bring forward another resolution about their budget. I am calling for a vote.
  - Provost – It would seem to me at line 34 would be in the subjective.
  - Laird – I make a friendly amendment to change the grammar in line 34.
  - Mike – All those in favor. Ayes carry.
- Handbook Chapter 5

    - Jeff – I motion that we reject this and that nothing be done further on any revisions until the entire handbook is accepted. We have an accepted chapter 5. The idea to revisit what was accepted shouldn't be accepted. Tim seconds.
    - Laird – Tim was talking about January 2018 we go back to that version or the old version?
    - Provost – I worked it and sent it through the system office/legal. The President then said that the interim VP for Research needs to accept it.
    - Mike – All those in favor of Jeff's motion to return to 2018 version.
    - Jeff – I am motioning we hold the 2018 version until all the chapters are accepted.
  - Chapter 8
    - Provost – I started reading the chapter and realized that there have been things done since it was sent to you in February 2017. We need to change that within this chapter. I then sent it to the President. The Office of Counsel asked to be removed as the point. They want it to go to Disability Services, then Provost Office, and then Office of Counsel. I listed in the email the different area was formatting.
    - Mike – My suggestion for Chapter 8 is to assign it to a committee. I would guess Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs. You all have a copy of chapter 8. You have your committee list; have them take it to their faculty. I believe that every faculty needs to have input on. I am going to assign it to Faculty and Student Development so they can lead the discussion in faculty senate. This is a lot of how we deal with students.
    - Provost – There were some things in here that referred to the catalogue but they aren't in there anymore. Ask you committee to confirm that it is up to date.
    - Laird – 8.3.1 Grading System, my son came here from Michigan State and they downgraded his GPA. If I have two students, they have the exact undergraduate education. If they come to UAH with everything identical and receive an 89 on every assignment. One gets a 3.5 GPA and one gets a 3.0 GPA. That half a point matters a lot. I think we have a list of peer institutions to see what they do. From mathematical standpoint, we disadvantage our students.
    - Mike- There are two points. If you have an A-, you have a 4.0.
    - Lori – Degree Works wouldn't recalculate it?
    - Jeff – That would fall in banner.
    - Provost- There was a resolution from SGA. Is anyone clear on it?
    - Tim – They wanted to do away with plus and minuses, only ABC.
    - Mike – Students then withdrew their request with us.
  - Copyright Policy:
    - I have been asked to put a hold on the policy. Some colleges would like a fresh look at it. Please send it out.
    - Tim – Did we vote to assign Chapter 8 to undergraduate Scholastic? Jeff motions. Laird seconds. Ayes carry.
    - Laird – I think there is an unintentional flaw in the policy? It has to do with it being the Dean's responsibility to negotiate rights. The default is if it doesn't happen, it defaults to the university even if the faculty is negotiating in good faith.
    - Provost – If the Dean doesn't negotiate, there should be an appeal. I completed the policy and sent it on for signatures. It hit the Office of Counsel and they asked that be included.
    - Mike – I recall that if followed Tuscaloosa's policy.
    - Provost – We don't know when UA was last reviewed by the Counsel.

        - Mike – It was a recent policy.
        - Provost – The Office of Counsel has experience with copyright and they stopped it.
        - Tim – There is a huge loop hole in the policy now. The wording has to be revised. I think it needs to say that the Dean must negotiate and it be documented.
        - Mike – This will be tabled with an open discussion.
    - Bill 423:
        - Carmen – We have Bill 423 that was the readdress for OIT policies. While this was on the table, OIT resolved the whole issue. I am asking that we put it on the senate meeting and it be voted for first reading and motion for reconsideration.
        - Mike – I motion to reconsider Bill 423. Jeff seconds. Ayes carry. I would like to motion to send Bill 423 to Finance and Resources. Tim seconds. Ayes carry.
    - Mike – We have been told that a statement has been added to the scholarship matrix page stating scholarships can be revoked after the first semester.
        - Provost – My understanding is that every student is given the chance through the summer to get a 3.0. They are then evaluated and if it is impossible to recover their GPA it can be pulled. It's a realistic thing to not keep a student that has done so poorly that they can't get a 3.0 GPA.
        - Mike – I just think it is a harsh statement. It seems to be that we are taking students scholarships away. If their scholarship is taken away they will then leave, and that will go against our retention and graduation rate.
        - Provost – That student would be lost at the end of spring semester. If you were controlling the funds, it isn't fiscal management to continue that student.
        - Mike – How many policies do we have? 220? There isn't one to cover this. It seems strange that all of the sudden a statement pops up without faculty input.
        - Provost – You can discuss that with the VP in charge of that. I was sent some information in the middle of the summer. One question was what happens to a student that is ill? The answer was handling it case by case. Another was will a student below 3.0 GPA and can recover by summer? Yes. Then a big question popped up in October. The other thing that has changed is the housing was provided to more students. Now you have to have a perfect score and 4.0+ to get housing for only two years. I tell them the reason was we don't have the housing. The other reason they removed it was supply and demand. We have enough demand without providing a scholarship for it.
        - Mike – I will ask the President to address the statement and why there isn't a policy. We can also invite the VP for Student Affairs.
        - Provost – I think it would be wiser to discuss this with the President and let him proceed.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:27 pm.