
FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE MEETING

April 22, 2021

12:50 PM to 2:20 PM

OKT N142

Present: Tim Newman, Kwaku Gyasi, Kader Frendi, Carmen Scholz, Jeff Weimer, Emil Jovanov, Azita Amiri, Laird Burns, Tobias Mendelson, Carolyn Sanders

Absent: Mike Banish

Ex-Officio and Guest (not in person; via Zoom): Provost Christine Curtis, President Darren Dawson

- **Faculty Senate President Tim Newman called the meeting to order at 12:55 PM after having checked all Health Check passports.**
- **Meeting Review:**
 - **Policy 03.01.08 voted to be placed on full senate agenda.**
 - **Bill 463 passed first reading.**
 - **Bill 458 voted to be sent to an ad hoc committee.**
- **Administrative Report**
 - **President Dawson**
 - Spragins Hall exterior should be done by the middle of May. Shelby Center is moving forward. Altenkirch Lawn will begin after semester in May. We were able to use the bond money for these renovations.
 - We are moving forward with the Executive Plaza demo. We want to proceed with that because of the city's agreement to do a lot of the work. We are still considering leaving the COVID Clinic in place there.
 - Tim – Will the athletics hall of fame be in place once the Spragins renovation is complete?
 - President – Yes. I am not sure what it will be called but yes. They will put the awards out and place them in one big display case.
 - **Provost Curtis**
 - We are in the process of searching for a Dean for College of Nursing. If you have any contacts, please send the nomination to Michele Kennedy.
 - The Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate School search is moving forward. The committee is developing their recommendations.
 - Fifth year review of College of Business Dean is coming to a close.
 - I included the updates for health and safety. Everything will stay the same through this semester until May 9th. On May 10th, the health check will go away. We can resume domestic travel on August 1. The system is asking us to be conservative with our travel expenses.
 - I put up the final exam options. Online courses will complete exams online. On campus and hybrid can be completed on campus following current guidelines.

- Tenure and Promotion were announced at the award ceremony last Friday.
- O&M have announced changes to the webpages. They are allowing certain individuals to make changes.
 - Laird – I understand that the Dean of Professional and Continual Studies is retiring. What is the status?
 - Provost – We haven't started a search yet. We were contracted with Hanover and they are doing an analysis on the best way to move forward. Most of professional studies is self-funded. It is an interesting situation on how to fund and pay salaries. We wanted to make sure we were positioned accordingly. We will have an interim situation and will include you on that.
 - Kader – You mentioned final exams. Can hybrid be completely online as well?
 - Provost – Blue and silver sections? Yes, if that is acceptable to you. You just can't make the online students come to class. It would be like a take home exam.
 - Kader – My committee is in charge of running elections for the year. One of the committees is the Rights of Copyrightable Committee. Is there one named that?
 - Provost – We probably need to set that up. Do you want to send me some language?
 - Kader – Yes, we can help with that. There are two other committees mentioned in the handbook – Information Services Users Advisory Committee and Patent and Copyright Committee. They are not in the reference manual.
 - Provost – May I suggest you contact Kannan Grant. Who does Information Services advise?
 - Kader – I guess OIT?
 - Tim – OIT's name has changed over the years. It was Information Services years ago.
 - Provost – Let me ask Malcolm to look through the policies for IT. There was one or more IT policies that came forward that dealt with some sort of group. But we did eliminate some policies coming forward that would have added some groups.
 - Laird – I do appreciate your approach to reevaluating Professional and Continuing Studies. Will we hear some interim ideas?
 - Provost – We expect the report 6-8 weeks and can share at that point.

➤ **Officer/Committee Reports**

- Tim Newman, President
 - I went to the BOT meeting last week. I made a presentation there. I learned there is are two new term Endowed Professorships from Alabama Credit Union here. Senator Kevin Bao is one of the two holders of that. I told the Board that you were ready to lead the way out of 2020 and to more normal modes for the future. I was told by the Pro Tempore that the Board would be supporting us. Carmen and I met with the Provost last week. We met with the President and Provost yesterday. We learned our graduate operations staff had gotten to zero.... There is an issue with payroll calendars for those with both teaching and research going into summer.
- Carmen Scholz, President-Elect

- No report.
- Laird Burns, Past President
 - No report.
- Carolyn Sanders, Parliamentarian
 - No report
- Kader Frendi, Governance and Operations Committee Chair
 - We have been very busy collecting all the volunteers to serve on committees. The elections will end tomorrow for President-Elect and Ombudsperson.
- Azita Amiri, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair
 - We just approved all the new forms that were sent to us. The new format for forms should start in August.
- Jeff Weimer, Finance and Resources Committee Chair
 - No report.
 - Tim – RCEU has finished selections and all students have been notified?
 - Jeff – Yes. They are taking over to set up the student registrations and faculty notifications.
- Emil Jovanov, Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs Committee Chair
 - No report.
- Kwaku Gyasi, Faculty and Student Development Committee Chair
 - No report.
- Toby Mendelson, Personnel Committee
 - We have Chapter 6 today and Chapter 7 tomorrow.
 - Tim – Personnel has worked really hard this year.
- Kader – New senators are invited to the last meeting.
 - Tim – The Use of Facilities Policy states we can only have 49 indoors.
 - Laird – Can they join via Zoom?
 - Tim – It would only be audio.
 - Provost- I think for academic purposes you can seat up to the proper amount to keep socially distance. I can get in writing the okay for you to have more than 49 in CHAN.
 - Tim – Do you want to do committee chair elections at this point? Will we have committee assignments ready for new senators?
 - Kader – It is just election of chair not assignments. We know what committees the new members will be in.
 - Laird – My department has been approved for the split and we will get one more senator. I would like to come back and chair the budget committee.
 - Carolyn – If they join via Zoom, is there a way for them to interface with others. If that is a formal vote, it would seem to me to wait and let them be fully involved.
 - Tim – We have to have three committee chairs elected to set an agenda for a meeting. We can do it at any point before the first FSEC for fall.
 - Jeff – The suggestion to wait until fall semester would suggest that the current FSEC take responsibility to convene their committee in person and select a chair. It sounds like a reasonable approach if we do that.
 - Laird – My understanding is that you won't be on senate in the fall, correct?
 - Jeff – I am not sure.
 - Tim – So should we invite the new senators for next week's Senate but not have elections at this time?

- Kader – It isn't okay with me. We want to go back to normalcy and state we are moving away from COVID. I want to do that at this meeting.
- Tim – Okay, we invite the new senators and if the committee has quorum, they elect new chairs?
- Toby – Can we take a poll on how many senators will be attending?
- Kwaku – How many make quorum?
- Tim – Over half is quorum. Is there a motion that we will invite new senators and elect chairs? Kwaku moves. Kader seconds. On ensuing vote, ayes carry.

➤ **Policy 03.01.08**

- Tim – There are two supplemental documents added from the President of the Staff Senate. We received this policy in March. What do you want to do with this policy?
 - Kader – Motion to take to senate.
 - Tim – There is a motion. Is there a second? Carmen seconds.
 - Jeff – As it comes before the FS, I noticed the membership on this committee. I ask we consider the representation that could disadvantage the faculty.
 - Tim – Are you saying we need faculty on the committee?
 - Jeff – I am not saying yes or no, but that it should be considered. It could be a case where staff senate has representation. I have no amendments to offer.
 - Tim – I call for the vote on placing on agenda. On ensuing vote, ayes carry.

➤ **Bill 463**

- Tim – This is a revision of Chapter 6 of the handbook.
 - Toby – I move to approve on first reading. Carolyn seconds.
 - Tim – You have considered Chapter 6 twice now. We received feedback from administration. We got a response back from administration on the most recent Chapter 6.
 - Toby – We have been working on this for the entire year. One major change was the grad council. We had initially wanted equal representation on the council.
 - Tim – There is a change in the number of college representations.
 - Toby – Yes, there were changes. We wanted the same number of members regardless of masters of PhD.
 - Carmen – Blue is the new material and purple changed by administration?
 - Tim – I don't think the color coding has any meaning. The strikes and additions are the only differences.
 - Carmen – I would like clarification on 6.1. There is a purple section that has been added by the senate and the Provost removed it.
 - Toby – Provost knocked out what we had written and then we put in some amendments. We thought about it and decided it wouldn't pass administration.
 - Jeff- Motion to amend. Insert phrase in various places. Toby seconds.
 - Emil – Just adding a reference to no reference makes no sense.
 - Carmen – I think this a good way to say there are many references to this.
 - Tim – Let's vote on the motion to amend. Ayes carry. Let's now vote on adopting on first reading and placing on meeting agenda. Ayes carry.

➤ **Bill 458**

- Tim – This came up in the last meeting. There was a vote to place on agenda at first reading and it failed. We passed over it then and it is now back. Is there a motion?
 - Kwaku – Can I move to adopt on first reading?
 - Tim – Yes. Kwaku moves. Is there a second? No second; motion fails.
 - Carmen – Given it has failed twice here, should it go to committee?

- Toby – If it is tabled, does it go back to committee?
- Tim- No, it continues to sit here.
- Jeff – I move to send to Personnel and Governance. Carmen seconds.
- Kwaku – I am just wondering why UAB and UA allow lecturers to serve on senate but we don't? Why are we different here?
- Tim – I cannot answer that.
- Carmen – It is the opinion of this faculty. We have our reservations and concerns. They may have a different structure of faculty.
- Emil – Has anyone checked on that?
- Tim – I don't know the history. I think it would be interesting to know. I know their committee structures are quite different than our structure. I think they would be different than us. One thing with UAB is they have the hospital and the school. I often get confused on the two in discussion. There are some faculty in UAB Medicine. So I don't understand their set up completely.
- Jeff – I am have mixed feelings on this bill. It is for that reason I would like for it sit a bit longer. I understand that can of worms that this opens up. I am not sure the two sides are really understanding where they need to meet in the middle yet. In terms of the concerns, we are not ignoring lecturers. I don't want that bounced around. We do want respect across the board for lecturers. It is far bigger than what is appreciated. Letting lecturers on the senate will not take care of the issue with the handbook and bylaws. I would like for this to come back and think about it for the fall.
- Carmen – Jeff, I think you are absolutely right. I think the disconnect we have is representation. With tenure and tenure track disappearing, it isn't about the lecturer. I have faculty that are approaching retirement that then feel like they can speak up. Lecturers do a fantastic job. They are always one step out the door.
- Laird – This has been around since I was President and before.
- Kwaku – Clinical faculty can serve on faculty senate. Is this not a double standard?
- Carolyn – You make an important point. We haven't had a full discussion on this. I feel strongly on this. I never want the message to be interpreted that we don't want them represented. We want to find a compromise. I have concerns we don't speak out enough in these meetings. I know in my department, my colleagues look up to me. I have trust in our current administration but they change. I think this warrants a lengthy discussion over time.
- Toby – There is a lot of passion on both sides of the argument. Would it be more appropriate to form a separate committee to research the issue rather than sending to a standing committee? I think there are people who are on both sides of the argument.
- Kader – The inclusion of the clinical faculty and not lecturers is on the history of UAH. Lecturers were not there much if at all at the beginning of UAH but then we had medical/health so we had clinical faculty. This has been an evolving position. We have had this debate in 2015. Our position then was to offer protection to lecturers. We in Senate are on the side of lecturers. We asked the administration to give them a contract to protect them for a certain number of years not just one or two. There was an argument to give them a five or six year contract.
- Laird – One challenge with one year appointments is they can't serve on the senate because it is a two year term. The lecturer policy allowed up to five or six year

contracts. We also created the position of senior lecturer. We want to support them. They have to be appointed before they can be elected.

- Emil – All of these are wonderful examples. After those two years, they would like to stay here. They know if they speak against administration, they won't stay here. I am afraid we are going to support further separation. I served temporarily and was reminded I shouldn't think as faculty. If we are not careful, there is a major issue at hand. I agree it is independent of UAB and UA.
- Carolyn – I would suggest based on Tobias' rationale it should go to special committee. It deserves that.
- Tim – You can amend the current motion to involve creation of new committee or defeat and create new motion.
- Carolyn – I would like to introduce an amendment to the motion to send to special committee.
- Carmen – Standing committee and special?
- Carolyn - I think solely to special.
- Tim – Who is the creator and the number of committee members, we need that in the motion?
- Laird – We have to have a justification as to why we are different than other campuses. We are structured different from the other universities. We can justify that to the system. The committee needs to consider those caveats. We need to prove those justifications.
- Tim – I suggest your motion state that the committee has 7 members, appointed by Senate President?
- Jeff – At least one per college.
- Toby – I agree with that.
- Tim – So you mean one per college having voting representation on Senate – i.e., excepting Professional and Continuing Studies and Library?
- Emil – I have doubts that if you decide who is on committee, we may have issues down the road.
- Tim – From what I am hearing, you wish that there be strong proponents on both sides. I will work to do that.
- Carolyn – In connection to Emil's comment, do you feel seven is adequate?
- Tim – Yes. I don't want to go beyond seven. Okay, now we have the motion to amend that would create this committee and send the bill there. Toby, I think you are the second? Yes. Okay. We will note vote on the motion to amend. Ayes carry.
- Jeff – Where does it stand? Will the chair be a FSEC member?
- Tim – The chair of an ad hoc committee will not be a member of FSEC. We will now vote on the motion, as amended, to refer the bill to the ad hoc committee that I will create. On ensuing vote, ayes carry.
- Laird – When you consider this, consider a chair that is more mutual than biased.

➤ Meeting adjourned 2:22 PM