
Senate Executive Committee Meeting
August 15, 2016
12:30 P.M in SSB 212

Present: *Mike Banish, Kader Frendi, Tim Newman, Ramon Cerro, Joseph Taylor, Lenora Smith, Wai Mok, Carolyn Sanders, James Swain, Monica Dillihunt*

Guests: *Provost Christine Curtis, President Bob Altenkirch*

➤ Faculty Senate President Kader Frendi called the meeting to order at 12:31 pm.

➤ **Administrative Reports**

○ President Bob Altenkirch

- The incubator building is in process. Groundbreaking should be in July 2017. This is funded by federal, city, county, state, foundation, and private gifts. The residence halls this fall are completely full including every bed. There is an overflow of 80 students in Beville center hotel. We are trying to work a deal with a nearby apartment complex. This will allow the students to rent through them. We are in the process of creating a new residence hall mirroring charger hall. It has received the first approval by the board. It will go before them again in September. We added from fall 2014 to 2015 approximately 500 students. Fall 2015 to fall 2016 we will add 477 students. Fall 2017 projections add another 404. We have a bed issue now and we will next fall, and 2018 all beds will be full. The benefit of residence halls is they are paid back by the revenue. We are going before the board in September to get approval to build three new Greek houses. We will be the lender they will pay us back in 19 years at 5.25% interest. They aren't big enough to go out on bond.
- Parking will be a problem this fall. It isn't the number of spots; it is the location of the spots. We have hired a parking consultant. We have different color decals this time. The parking consultant will take data based on where the vehicles are parked and how to manage the parking. He did a survey of other Alabama universities. Of the Alabama universities, there are only two that don't have zone management parking; we are one of them. The purpose of the decals is to track where people are parking. This will help determine if zone parking would be beneficial.
 - Ramon – The major crisis is in front of this building.
 - Tim – One of the major problems is the parking garage. There may be open spots on the roof but it is long way up and down. Maybe look at zone parking in that area. Offer free parking to students that park at the top levels, but that is the only area they can park
 - President – We didn't want to subset and segregate. The zone parking will be done all at once. He suggested using the parking deck as the guinea pig.

- Provost – This will be difficult since we have so many locations with restaurants. We haven't figured out the best way possible.
- President – The fitness center is an issue.
- Kader – What about pushing residents to the peripheral?
- Provost – At night that is dangerous. Students walking long distances back to their dorm.
- Joe – Have we considered a shuttle system that would drive those students back to their residence hall?
- Provost – They are too expensive to operate.
- President – They are expensive and you have to have enough customers.
- Tim – Do we offer any kind of escort program? This would be available when they need someone to come and walk with them.
- Joe – When I was in college, we had to park two miles away and they shuttled us in.
- President – The police will escort at any time.
- Tim – At Auburn they do this 24/7 and I think it is good service to offer.
- Mike – Didn't we have that a decade ago?
- Monica – It was a phone system, but didn't work.
- Mike – I ran a night lab and someone would come to the Engineering building to wait and escort.
- There are six electric vehicle charging stations. Encourage your colleagues not to park there if they do not have an electric vehicle. The display boards will program the boards to welcome incoming visitors. Please don't park in spots that are noted for a specific person.
 - Ramon – On the parking issue, is there another place to put another parking garage?
 - President – We will have to put in more parking. The consultant will be able to tell us where to put it. The parking deck is really expensive about \$20,000 per spot. The DOT paid 80%, we paid 20% on the current garage.
 - Kader – What about high rise residence buildings?
 - President – Higher up, higher the cost.
- Don't expect anything from the special session of legislature concerning the budget. Our budget operation and maintenance increased 2.99%. That is not enough to account for salary changes and increase in cost. The additional revenue from enrollment increase will have a significant impact. This will help address ongoing issues. The total increase in state funds is 6.5%. The difference was earmarks. We have been successful to get earmarks, \$3.95M from John Christy, \$2.7M for the incubator building to go with the \$1.5M received last year. We also received \$400,000 to oversee the work of a consultant to see if the dream chaser aircraft can land in Huntsville.
- Provost Christine Curtis
 - This summer the associate deans, Mike Banish, and Kader Frendi worked on scheduling. We did study and researched how far the students have to walk to get across campus.

- Today, we are sending off our final response to SACSCOC. We have the implementation plan to QEP and considered recommendations concerning faculty credentials. We agreed on seven of the eight faculty members that no longer needed to teach a particular course. We developed a faculty credential policy. At this point, it is an interim policy. The deans have been working on forms that have to be submitted to help better the faculty roster. We will host an audit every semester to manage faculty and their credentials. If there is a problem, we will work early on, and not wait until we get caught.
- RISE School is up and going. The school was in need of renovation to get within code. It has been painted and looks really nice. They will start Wednesday. There will be two head start classes.
 - Carolyn – I heard rumors about what is over there.
 - Provost – The theatre department will be in the backside of the elementary school. The other thing that will be there will be the gym - to teach elementary school PE teachers. There is a library and a classroom. It isn't scheduled for this semester, but college of education students will meet in that classroom. The cafeteria will be functioning to serve hot meals.
- The College Academy is up and running. We have 31 students. The place is beautiful. The FYE courses were taught this summer in one week. The course will be taught every summer. The teachers at the school were telling us that the FYE made a difference.
- I will be setting up some task force. We will be reinvigorating the SIE committee. This committee will be asked to come together again and many members are from the faculty senate. Mike, may they serve?
 - Mike – Let's see who they are.
- I would like to have a committee on what to do instead of digital measures. This will be used for annual faculty reports.
- Director of Student Success has left and we have done some reorganizing with the testing services center. We had a program review the disability support services. We are trying to figure out how to reform everything into an effective unit. I would like to ask the task force how we do this.
- Last thing is the charger foundation group that met for two years thought we should have a charger foundation oversight committee. We need to have a group of faculty to look at our charger foundation courses to make sure we are complying with the spirit.

➤ **Officer and Committee Reports**

- Kader Frenji, President
 - No Report.
 - Mike Banish, President- Elect
- Back to policies, we have 12 policies from IT that we started going through. We had a special meeting with IT and worked through five of them successfully. Dee Childs has left and Malcolm Rice has taken over. I did not slam Malcolm at first with these policies. I will pass on to Carmen the policies. She will take over for me to shepherd the policies.
- Kader, Carmen, and I got together last Friday to go over the membership list and new committee list. Lauren and I worked this morning to clean it up and it should be ready for tomorrow's meeting to vote.

- James Swain, Governance and Operations Committee Co-Chair
 - I am now the Chair, Monica is off as the other Chair.
- Ramon Cerro, Personnel Committee Chair
 - After the last meeting in the spring, my committee sat down to go over the librarian and lecturer policies.
- Joseph Taylor, Finance and Resources Committee Co-Chair
 - The librarian policy was split and tweaked to match the handbook. I sent the librarian policy to David and updated the language that is appropriate to their field. He used UAB's librarian policy and some from Montevallo.
 - Provost – This is something totally different. We aren't going tenure-track for librarians.
 - Mike – On page three under librarian series, he has added in tenure-track titles to those.
 - Tim – Does anyone know if that is his intention?
 - Joe – He doesn't say tenure.
 - Ramon – Under procedures he states non-tenure.
 - Joe – I don't think he means tenure. He just wants titles to line up.
 - Provost – If it implies tenure, then it will set us up for nightmare. If we decide to use titles that are similar to tenure-track, there will have to be modifiers.
 - Joe – I don't think he intended tenure. He is just trying to line up titles with other institutions.
 - Mike – On page 4, comment 11 it states, we want to be fair to everyone with titles. We don't want this to offend. Maybe it should be Librarian 1, 2, 3, & 4.
 - Tim – The difference in this update is a lot.
 - Mike – If you take out the underline portion, it isn't changing that much. From procedures on, there are changes.
 - Provost – I think this needs to be reviewed from the beginning again. I can't accept it at this point. We aren't going to make the librarians assume they should be tenured or go through a similar process.
 - Tim – I agree with Provost. We got criticized by substitute senators by not having time. We need to review both and have one brought back. Is there a group that would like to bring these together?
 - Mike – Can I suggest that Ramon and Joe get together with their committees? If you would like to meet the two of you with David.
 - Ramon – I need to look at this.
 - Provost – As you come up with something, please meet with me. This has many ramifications.
 - Ramon – It gives us more stability to the librarians and the lecturers. The main issue is due process.
 - Mike – The motion is that personnel committee and finance committee work together to merge into a single bill working with David and back to Provost. Tim seconds motion.
 - Joseph – If this isn't implying tenure, what would be a radical departure?

- Provost - I want to see it. David is trying to make them like faculty. That is fine, but there are categories for faculty.
 - Kader – We have a short fuse on this.
 - Kader – All in favor of motion. Ayes carry.
- Kader Frendi – The next policy on the agenda is the lecturer policy.
- Ramon – What I want to say is there are two issues that still persist. One is why have a parallel ladder? Why do we need a policy that should be in the handbook? We can talk about details of the policy, but I have a feeling when it goes to senate floor there will be a lot of opinions.
 - Kader – When it comes to handbook that would be in Chapter 7 which hasn't been touched yet. Whatever we decide on will be in that chapter. The urgency for lecturers is based on what we heard from Joey's department.
 - Monica – Part of it came because the handbook isn't finished. There isn't anything in place.
 - Ramon – Again, I am telling you what I heard the most. Those are the two issues that are consistent. Our committee tried to make the policy avoid looking like a parallel ladder. I for one understand that some departments need lecturers. At the same time, you realize there is faculty that would be comfortable to not do research. Those are two things that we need to put together that are fair to everyone. The things in red are the main issues. In order to make things better for lecturers, we introduce some ways of continuing contracts or eventually dismissal. There are many reasons for this. A lecturer is binded by his welfare and if there is a bad review, he is without a job. In many cases, they have to wait until August to know if they have a job. One aggravating thing is faculty host parties but lecturers aren't included. Faculty doesn't treat them as faculty. This will give them more stability. If you have to dismiss them do so with a due process. The number of lecturers in a department should be controlled. I think this is easy to fix with the wording. There are other things that will make it difficult. I think it should be made available to the senate and all faculty.
 - Kader – Any other discussions? I understand the additions and share same concerns. We have fallen out of Carnegie one and we get back not with lecturer. This isn't a way to fix Carnegie problem. I understand some departments need the help to cover.
 - Tim – I think as an institution, we have fallen from the Carnegie classification. When we are under budget strain that is the area we make cuts. In my department we have less TA's to help balance the budget. That isn't a long-term strategy to help with the Carnegie issue. We had graduate students teach these classes in the past rather than convert faculty lines to lecturer. I think it stresses the wrong direction for the university. We shouldn't always look for lecturer, that shouldn't be the norm.
 - Joe – I don't disagree with any of that. We should hire tenured. We hire lecturer because freshman enrollment is booming and we have to utilize these to teach 101. I don't see this policy as a promotion of hiring non-tenured faculty. If we went fully to only hiring tenured, we would be diluted. It isn't financially an option to hire that many tenured.

- Mike – To me, the problem is the English department at the UAH campus isn't large enough and we are hiring tenure-track to teach 101.
- Ramon – Maybe the solution isn't the solution that affects the whole university. Each department may be different.
- Mike - I am going to vote for it because these people do deserve this. They have helped with the billboard, but not received any recognition.
- Joe - We hire lecturer's right after graduate school. We don't want them here forever, but some are here that are excited. If they want to be here and they do great jobs, we should have something in place for them.
- Tim – In the last sentence of lecturer, duplicate it under senior lecturer.
- Kader - All in favor of friendly amendment. Ayes carry.
- Joseph – Under lecturer series page two, add comment from our updated policy to include 7.10.12.
- Tim – I think we should add this statement to clarify for appeals.
- Kader – We have a friendly amendment to second page next to last section. Tim seconds amendment. Ayes carry.
- Provost – When there is a surprise retirement, resignation, illnesses; practically, how are supposed to handle these issues? How do we do this if we can't reach faculty? It's impossible in the summer.
- Ramon – We would put up an emergency solution. We can give the Provost, Chair, and Dean emergency powers.
- Provost – I think that needs to be stated.
- Tim – I think that the faculty's preference will be to fill with part-timers.
- Provost – When you are out of those, what is the solution?
- Mike – If something happens, the faculty has already asked for that person and the unforeseen case is that you don't ask for that person.
- Joe– Should there be additional statements?
- Provost – There are times when this will be an issue.
- Kader – I think under these circumstances, we hired part-timers to cover and when they return, they come back. If it is permanent we search for replacement.
- Provost – In some cases we have used all part-time members; we have had to go to look for a lecturer.
- Kader – What we are trying to fix is if they are outside Huntsville it is a one year appointment. This talks about replacement.
- Joe– This isn't about hiring, but promotion.
- Ramon motions to extend meeting by 15 minutes. Mike Banish seconds. All in favor.
 - Ramon – The read wording may need to be presented more clearly.
 - Tim – I like the current wording. I don't know how persistently we have issues that cause vacancies. Lately, it has happened, but before then? I think we could have another policy to cover these circumstances. There are other circumstances that could happen outside this issue. Let's have a policy on emergent issues. A second way is to send back to committee and define a situation with a solution.

- Mike – I would like to make motion that we move this forward and give full senate a shot. We will go with version 3. Monica seconds. Aye carry. 1 opposition. Motion is approved to send lecturer policy with amendments to full senate.
- **Approve the Agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting #568 August 16, 2016**
 - Ramon motions to approve agenda removing librarian policy. Mike seconds. Ayes carry.
- Tim motions for the meeting to adjourn. Monica seconds. Ayes carry.
- **The meeting then adjourned at 2:15 p.m. after a motion from Tim Newman, second by Joseph Taylor, committee affirmed.**