
FACULTY EXECUTIVE SENATE MEETING
August 9, 2018
12:50 P.M. ENG 117

Present: Carmen Scholz, Vladimir Florinski, Kader Frendi, Christina Carmen, Anne Marie Choup, David Johnson, Laird Burns, Tim Newman, Lori Lioce

Absent: Mike Banish, Monica Dillihunt

Ex-Officio: Provost Christine Curtis

Guest: President Bob Altenkirch

- Faculty Senate President Carmen Scholz called the meeting to order at 12:52 pm.
- **Administrative Reports:**
 - President Bob Altenkirch
 - Health Insurance – HR and Consultants have ironed out the charges for this year. Insurance is going up. They are putting into place a high deductible, low cost policy. That will be an option this year. The structure of the insurance will look the same. The premiums will go up, but there will be the additional policy. We asked the question about getting out of the tier system. The answer was not to get into in the first place. Alabama is in it, but at two tiers. Everyone will eventually migrate above the cutoff and no tiers. It would take us years to get out. So we are still in tiers.
 - Tim – Does that mean the standard policies will go up a whole bunch?
 - President- No, there isn't a huge change. I think the high deductible; low cost was provided because health care keeps going up. People coming in are younger and fewer health problems. They can migrate over time into the other policy. We are going to try it.
 - Provost - If someone chose the high deductible this year, can they swap back next year?
 - President – Yes.
 - The Counseling Center is considering charging for services. This is an analysis of charges. These charges are laid out exactly how UA charges. What's happening here is when someone calls for an appointment, if not a crisis, they are receiving a waiting time. Our waiting time is running out a month. The proposal is certain requests for assistance can be handled by a software package. The student would be directed to this instead of a person. They use it in Tuscaloosa. It cuts down on time to an appointment. The charges would be to maintain the software. The revenue would go into supporting the software. Tuscaloosa has had good response and what they propose. We would acquire the software in the fall and implement in the spring.
 - Anne Marie – What does the software do?

- Lori – Self help module?
- President – Yes, educational. It's oriented towards students.
- Laird – How do we help students with mental issues and don't have the money to pay for help? Maybe I am missing when the costs aren't mandatory. There is students that choose rent or food and that concerns me. If it is a crisis what happens?
- President – The problem now is that it can be several weeks before someone gets an appointment.
- Kader – Is there something available similar to Teladoc? The students can call a line?
- Carmen – The problem is they schedule and they don't show?
- President – The problem is the workload. They can't handle the people.
- Carmen – How is paying for it reduce the need?
- President – Some would be diverted to the software rather than individual sessions.
- Laird – Did they survey students to see if was of help?
- President- We had conversations with Alabama and said it works.
- Laird- You talked with students? I am trained to listen to the customer.
- Lori- At least they would have the module versus no help.
- Provost – Modules would include test anxiety, drugs, and alcohol.
- Christina – There is no charge until they need to see an individual?
- Provost – Correct.
- President - The plan is to put this in place in the spring. We will then assess the delay with the software versus now.
- Christina – How many counselors do we have? Have we hired? Is that a plan to hire?
- President – I don't know the number. They do have a number of interns. They are utilizing everyone they can find.
- Enrollment projections are 9,700. We are holding steady on projections. Last year it was 9,100. We are moving toward 10,000.
- Mike and Laird have been reviewing financial data. I put together budget data from FY08-FY18. If you go to the third page, this is a summary that I showed Laird and Mike. This has the 17-18 budget, the change is from FY 08-18. The percent of division budget, example is the President is 1% of the whole budget. To take away on this summary sheet, look at Academic Student Affairs, 75% went to student centers. The next page is the same data but drills down one more level to college level. The yellow cells are the same data as the previous page. The next level goes to the department level, and then it drops another level. This shows every research center. You have three levels, division, college, and department. The ultimate answers are the same.
 - Tim – Can you define what budgeted expenditure s?
 - President – It is an expenditure that may not come from a reserve.
 - Tim – Is this budgeted? You mentioned a year ago that we used unspent funds to cover depreciation Are these the end expenditures? Or are these the planned?
 - President- This comes from expenditure data from 17-18. The board has changed budget procedures.

- Carmen – Are you still taking into consideration the TA's and part time help?
- President – Yes, they are budgeted up front. We have to take into consideration what the board has asked.
- Carmen – I have been made aware that a student made a donation in my honor to our department. It never showed up. I went and asked how much, and wasn't told. Bob Lyons was aware but couldn't tell me how much. I have a feeling that giving never shows up to our department. I finally received an email that alumni gave \$100. I took a photo of what we purchased and sent it to the donor. How can we find out why the flow isn't working?
- Provost – Let me talk with Miley.
- Kader – In the old days it went to the foundation account. That is how we used to thank people. I check with my staff assistant and they would say yes there is money there.
- Carmen – Our Chair knows that you have donated. Where does this money end up? Why in 20 years we get a donation after a fuss?
- Laird – I thought we had a policy decision about a company giving a donation we wouldn't charge an F&A tax.
- Provost – I don't think it is a policy, they just don't do it.
- Laird – How do the companies pay that?
- Provost – OSP. They can give a gift if there aren't any strings attached.
- Laird – If the company did a gift?
- Provost – It has to have no strings attached.
- Laird – It can be given to a certain area with no restrictions to how to use the funds?
- Provost – Yes. They can give a small grant. It can have a deliverable though.
- Kader – I am always lost with depreciation. It is always unknown. You can budget it for the year, but you don't know what may happen that year.
- President – Up front, in the recurring revenue, money you can move into a reserve, we move into depreciation. Facilities fee is budgeted to a reserve. We estimate the capital expenditures. They will show up in the budget but don't hit in the audit statement. You put those in depreciation on the front end and they stay there. We were doing that anyway, it was just located in another place.
- Kader – I know a year ago it sent departments and colleges in a shamble because they weren't receiving the funds.
- Carmen – Is that money slated for depreciation in an account? The state can't get their fingers on it?
- President – No, we maintain a reserve of \$100M. They want us to spend what is budgeted. We want it spent the way it was budgeted. There will be less money moved into unit reserves, but into a central reserve.
- Laird – The shenanigans go on in reserves. The board wants to make it clear and in correct categories.
- President – They are going to ask us to put together a three year plan to show what the reserve funds will be used for. They are to be used for emergencies or capital expenditures.

- Tim – One issue we have with graduate students is we need them to go to a conference to present. If it was a domestic travel, there used to be a line for that. Now you go to a Dean or Chair, they can sometimes fund that. It sounds like that is not going to be an option? It was already a problem to fund students. We have to do something.
- President – I think overall it is a small amount of money. We should address that up front. If you understand how an audit statement works, there is an expenditure piece. If you spend outside that revenue stream, there is a problem. You have to be careful that you don't drive the bottom line negative. We had one bad year from the stock market. The other recent hit was pension liability. That will be \$8M this year. Those are liabilities that aren't ours. Your example needs to be addressed up front.
- Tim – That issue has been put off for 25 years. I paid out of my pocket. I am not doing that anymore. We went down to journal fees. I don't know how to do my research side of the job. There isn't any money for that. We may need to consider dropping being a research institute.
- Lori – Are you proposing to put a budget line in for that up front?
- President – Yes. It isn't going to disturb it that much. We have to be careful to not do other things out of that line. You can't hire and pay salary with benefits. Small expenditures yes, but most expenditures from reserve need to be capital or emergencies.
- Tim – Scheduling is another issue. We flirted with centralized scheduling years ago and stepped back from it. I have faculty that say we have two sections a class and DL. I always had a room that would allow me to record for DL. Now the software has assigned me to another room. Also it is known that the scheduling problem has no solution. We don't know how the software would even do this. Unless it knows all the restraints and knowledge, there are a lot of problems. There is a lot of heart ache over moving classrooms around. Now to make a change, we used to have the staff assistants call one another. Now it is much more time consuming to call the Dean's office. It's a tight time crunch to make changes because you only had 12 hours to put changes in.
- Provost – It has been very difficult because we lost Morton. My understanding they pulled the very large classes and fit them in first. We only have two classes that will hold 100. Then they did the rest of them. One issue is they don't have all the factors. The concern of doing it earlier is because of orientation. We had orientation every week except the 4th of July week. It has been a true challenge for everyone. We ask that everyone be patient.
- President – When Morton opens up and the addition, some problems will be alleviated.
- Laird – How will we approach this for spring and next fall?
- Provost – For spring, we can work better because the number should be the same. We have gained a lot of knowledge from this semester. Fall, we will probably break 10,000. We probably need to debrief the faculty.
- President – Morton was going to be renovated and the addition. The people would move from CTC back to Morton. Then Roberts move to CTC. We were approved to

float a bond of \$29M to cover this. The bids came in for Morton well over. We are going to have to focus the bond only on Morton. We increased it to \$30.5M. The reason is for that is so much work going on in this area, the contractors increase their price. We found out that the contractors added 15% to materials for the tariffs. When we made the estimate, those did not exist. We aren't going to increase the bond anymore than that. The board was okay with this increase. Any other increase would not be okay.

- David – What is the status with Roberts?
- President – We will delay that. We will address changes to Roberts with cash.
- Provost – The HVAC on the first and third floor is the main issue with Roberts.
- David – Is the timeline for Morton the same?
- Provost – No, we did a call three days from the bid. They want to extend the time to the end of December. That was a saving grace by them extending. It will be the end of December 2019 for both renovation and addition. This should give some relief to the scheduling.
- Kader – Back to scheduling, I understand there is only one person knowledgeable with ASTRA?
- Provost – Amber has been working hard.
- Kader – Why didn't we train anymore people?
- Provost – We will as we learn it.
- Kader – We don't need one person running this software.
- Tim – I want to appeal with you on the issue of the handbook. John Caites states that we aren't legally correct. I honestly think he isn't correct. I think it is out of sorts with parliamentary practice. With giving the memo from the Provost on August 6th that states the statement will be removed. I think that goes against shared governance. I don't know if you remember seven years ago we discussed the history of this campus. You and I had an agreement that no changes would be made unless all were in agreement. I want to appeal that here.
 - President – I think Caites is saying those things don't have to be voted on by anyone.
 - Tim – If language needs to be changed there are processes. It isn't a 90 day process. It is a resolution sent to us and brought to the senate.
 - President – The statement that is there indicates that you have to approve it.
 - Tim – John's argument is that we trump Congress. No one believes that. I don't think you believe that, the board, or the court.
 - President – That is why in the preface, he states that it should be agreed by both parties.
 - Tim – We can't tell NAFTA we are changing it. Everyone has to agree. If there are problems, the court doesn't rewrite it. We rewrite it. I also say that this senate has been admirable in their responsiveness to everything being brought in. Under Kader's presidency, 27 policies came to us. We got all those back to you. We are being proactive.
 - President- We have a legal opinion and you disagree.

- Kader – I looked at John Caites response, he always compares us to UAB and UA. We don't have to be a mirror image.
 - Laird – I know in corporate law if any clause becomes invalid, you don't throw out the whole contract. You have a process to negotiate and correct those clauses. I think John has good intent. I don't think we want one individual choosing the language for the whole faculty. I think that we should have a clause that the handbook isn't a contract.
 - President – I think he looks at it from the point of view if the board changes a rule. If the handbook contradicts that, the rule trumps. He is saying that the handbook needs to be fixed so there aren't any contradictions.
 - Laird – In the time you have left, we want to get the language cleared.
 - President – When you take the statement on, it can be misunderstood. It isn't a necessary statement.
 - Kader – I can argue it is. We made that mistake. We made changes without going before the faculty. The senate gave its wrath. That is to protect future the President.
 - President – If you read the statement on its face, it says the senate won't change the handbook.
 - Laird- I think the language can be changed to address that.
 - Tim – It is just a reminder that it has to go before the full senate. No one individual has one rule. The preface says that and the handbook.
 - President – The statement on the site is the one that creates the problem. The problem is the board makes a rule, the handbook contradicts, and then the senate won't approve it.
 - Laird – That isn't our intent. We can word it to state that needs to be resolved if that issue arises.
 - Tim – What I see here is there is one statement you don't like and it changes. Shared governance goes away.
 - President – Our legal opinion says there are issues with it.
 - Tim - I have legal opinion that goes against that opinion.
 - Carmen – I don't think we are pursuing opposite goals, we are just arguing the way to get there.
 - Kader – John Caites gave a statement to replace it.
 - Provost – We did make a suggestion in the preface to include that statement. This is his suggestion.
 - Kader – I would like to have it at the beginning.
 - President – If I were a board member at that level, I wouldn't think it made sense.
 - Laird – So we are going to draft a response?
 - President – The process doesn't change, just the language of that statement.
 - Kader –Our memory goes back to previous administrators that changed things without our thoughts.
- Provost Christine Curtis
 - We received good news. The graduation rate broke through 50%. I thank everyone for pushing our students to graduate. The retention rate is above 84%. We are anticipated 9,700 students, maybe 1,400 – 1,450 freshmen.

- Dr. McGuire will be here on August 23rd and 24th. She will have some workshops for faculty and staff. Some will be directed towards students. The topics will be on how to teach the students how to truly learn.

➤ **Officer/Committee Reports**

- President Carmen Scholz
 - The joint PhD in nursing will come online next fall.
 - We do not have any bills. As we set the agenda for next Thursday, we have to approve the standing rules that were sent to you. Kader motions to approve. Laird seconds. Ayes carry.
 - Any report from committee chairs?
 - Carmen – Election of committee chairs happens next Thursday.
 - Anne Marie – Can we have that happen in the middle? Last year it was a struggle.
 - Provost – I have asked for the chair of scholastic affairs committee to serve as a member of academic misconduct policy development. Academic misconduct goes through student affairs. The way the decision is made with student affairs, one person is making the decision on the sanction. I personally am uncomfortable with those decisions being made by one person not familiar with academic. I would provide to the committee policies that are addressing academic policies from UA and UAB. Due to board rule 108, we can deviate widely but those two are different. It's a much better type of situation versus us. If you remember our last discussion on key loggers. We were quiet because the student was being investigated. The student key logged and changed every grade. We caught him during pure luck. This student was expelled. Over the summer, academic technologies have bought the software to go on the back end. During this they have found another key logger. This can be a software or hardware. This student is being investigated. I made the decision we are going to multi factor. The memo went out. We are doing this very quickly.
 - Laird motions to approve agenda. Tim seconds. Ayes carry.
- Motion to adjourn by Kader Frendi. Tim seconds. Ayes carry. Meeting adjourned at 2:26 pm.