FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE MEETING
September 10, 2020
12:50 P.M. OKT N142

Present: Jeff Weimer, Mike Banish, Tim Newman, Carmen Scholz, Kader Frendi, Kwaku Gyasi,

Zoom Remote Participants: Ex-Officio: Provost Christine Curtis; Paul Whitehead: President Darren Dawson, Laird Burns

➢ **Faculty Senate President Tim Newman called the meeting to order at 12:59 pm.**

➢ **Meeting Review:**
  o **Online Course Policy was voted to send to Faculty Senate.**
  o **Communicable Disease Policy was voted to send to Personnel Committee.**
  o **Summer School Operations Policy was voted to send to Finance and Resource Committee and Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.**
  o **Electronic Signature Policy was voted to send to Faculty Senate.**
  o **Title IX Policy was voted to send to committees for review.**
➢ **Administrative Report:**
  o President Darren Dawson
    ▪ Most items on the administrative report haven't changed. We have lost about 15 students. We are right at 10,000. Our safety measures seem to be working. Our numbers are staying around 10 a week.
        o Paul – I was selected for sentinel testing. When I went in to select a date and time, my only options were off campus. Can I forego testing?
        o President – Yes, that was the issue with this process. No one should have to test off campus. My apologies on that and we will try to get that straightened out.
        o Paul – Should I come to SSB to test?
        o President – No, if you don't have a date and time selected for testing, do not come for testing. We will work through that.
    ▪ Kader – When I look at the dashboard on that UA System, UAH's quarantine room rate is the lowest of the three. Why is that?
        • President – I will pull that. Quarantine space is 13%. We had ten or twelve in quarantine. This shouldn't be a big issue for us, but we have 200 other rooms available.
    ▪ Mike – Are you aware that health check went down on Wednesday?
        • President – Yes, I am. No, violations were tracked during that time.
        • Mike – It didn't display for students. So I couldn't check for class. We do get these notifications that our students are not in compliance and that's independent from the health check not working. The information is not useful. It just says they are not in compliance. We don't know if that means

they didn't do it, they have COVID, or they just had symptoms? It is really confusing on what are response should be to this. I don't want to ask them to do the health check if they are really sick. There needs to be an interface.

- Carolyn – One challenge is getting students to check their UAH email on a daily basis. I don't know how to get the word out especially to freshman students.
- President- I was under the impression you get an email and text. The only thing we know is if the passport has been enabled. I think the only thing the IT people know is if the passport is green.
- Mike – Since you talk to the health check people, maybe you can pass on getting more information conveyed to us. Also, maybe we can encourage the students to check their email.
- President – I think the problem is the information is considered confidential. If they would write out if they tested positive or flagged something in the question, it wouldn't enable the passport.
- Carolyn – I think when we did our very initial health check, we could include our cell number. If you haven't responded to the email, you then get a text. I get better luck by communication via text rather than email. Maybe some students are getting the text prompt.
- President – I will see if IT can send something out to get the students set up for text messages.
- Jeff – I think the UA Alert System has all the cell numbers. Maybe we can send something to the students through that.
- President – That is a great idea.

- Mike – I want to be hesitant about saying this. I understand our IT people are trying to survive. One thing that would be useful is if we had another monitor in the classroom to see who is participating via Zoom. You have a small meeting going and you can see all participants. When you have seventy, you have no idea to see what they are doing. If you want to scan them, you lose focus on the lecture.
  - President – You are saying you want another monitor to see the Zoom participants?
  - Mike – Yes, no other programs loaded.
- Carmen – I have a comment. I noticed with the split class and half are supposed to watch from home, I gave a pop quiz and participation was poor. Most of our students take jobs and most Chemistry students are employed. They take that as a pass to take a 40 hour job. I am not sure how to convey the message, that student is enough work.
- Mike – I have a question about the Electronic Signature Policy. In that, when I look at section six, non-compliance. This is so undefined. What are the consequences of the offense?
  - President – I don't know exactly what that is talking about. I will find out. Obviously, we will have to look at that and fix it. It's hard to say what someone meant by that.

➢ **Officer/Committee Reports**
  o Laird Burns, President
    ▪ I have a few items on today. Title IX Policy issue. I know some committees have started to look at this. There's a policy that is on our policy website. Some

confusion is the one today the same as the one on the web? Is the one in the past the one on the web? The one in the packet today is on the UAH Policy website. The prior policy is not on the website. There could have been something that happened over the summer that should have be taken under that policy. This wasn't presented the way usually how policies are presented. There wasn't a cover page or signature page. It is in effect even though the signatures weren't up there. It is in effect as an interim policy. Is there a redline version to see difference from prior policy? The answer is no because it is very different from the original. We are supposed to be getting a highlight of the changes.

- Mike – Who made the changes to the new policy?
- Tim – From what I am told, Department of Education has formulated new guidelines that necessitated new guidelines. Therefore, we needed a new policy in place very quickly.
- Mike – So Laterrica put those changes in place?
- Tim – I don't have a precise answer to that. That was my impression. As I am looking through the actual language that was not specifically stated.
- Kader – The interim policy should show at the top who originated the policy.
- Tim – That is stated on the cover page, but I haven't seen that. Laterrica wrote the new regulations are more prescriptive to the prior ones so there isn't a lot of room for change. The framework for the policy doesn't originate from us.
- Mike – Is this the same policy being put down at all three campuses?
- Kader – I would assume that is the case. They want uniformity among the campuses.
- Tim – I will ask how similar this is to sister institutions.

- An issue as come up with faculty regarding final exam times. There was no published final exam time for asynchronous class time. I was told you can't do that. The strong recommendation is that you will give your students 24-48 hours. You cannot insist on a specific time that they take the final.
    - Carmen – We have seen what happened in Physics during the summer. You think giving 24 hours will not lead to more cheating? This needs to be condensed. They organize Zoom meetings during exam times to help each other.
    - Kader – One suggestion was to pick three window times to take test and maybe make a new test for each window.
    - Tim – In my college, it wasn't a command, but you must allow a 24-48 hour window. There may be some variation between colleges. I think this is something that we need to contend too. I don't know if there is time to do something about this for this semester, but for spring, it should be possible. I was talking to a classmate from grad school. His spouse have international participants. They show up at designated times even during the middle of the night. I would think if they can, our students can do the same. I suggest we give faculty members more academic freedom. Personally, I don't think it's asking the student to take a test during a two hour window.
    - Carolyn – I am going to fill Rolf's shoes. I am not teaching an asynchronous class. If I was, I feel like Carmen does, less time is better. I would be up in

arms if I was told I had to allow a large window. I can't understand why this should change. I am sure some situations need large times but I would not.

- Gwaku – The Provost stated that there may be internet issues, so this allows them to take the exam any time.
- Carmen – How many cases have we heard of students having connectivity issue?
- Mike – I have had some.
- Carmen – The freshman chemistry class during the summer average exam was 95. It is usually 80.
- Jeff – Tim, did I understand that it may vary from college to college?
- Tim – I read the direction from my college.
- Jeff – I would rail against it.
- Kader – I am now nervous in who is actually taking the test.
- Mike – You can do the lockdown browser.
- Kader – They can bring in a former student and sign them in. You don't know who they are. It isn't a Zoom session.
- Paul – Are you familiar with Respondus? It is connected with LockDown. It features the webcam. I used that and only one had a webcam issue.
- Carmen- We are talking 200 kids in a class.
- Paul - It does take time. It highlights questionable areas. It color codes who is high priority.
- Carmen – A student told me his friend always has a second computer at his desk.
- Tim – I think this has been a good discussion. Probably one committee needs to bring this forward.
- Carmen – I think we need to bring forth academic freedom for the faculty members.
- Mike – We need to implement policies that treat all students equally and equitably. Those students who choose not to cheat doesn't need to be penalized against those who are. I would prefer we not use academic freedom and use equity. There is a much larger problem that can't be addressed in this body.
- Tim – Hopefully we can get some recommendations on this.
- Carolyn – I think Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs.
- Tim – Me too, but I don't have a chair. I think I am going to drop it in Personnel as well. My bias is to allow a faculty member to establish a time. I don't think it is fair to tie faculty member's hands.
- Mike – You could also shove it to Faculty and Student Development.
- Carolyn – Let's keep in mind that the more committees we are sending them too, the longer it will be for it to come forward.
- Tim – If committees can just come up with some ideas.

- We have this issue with backlogs of bills. The way our bylaws read says that third readings come first. Bill 451 and 452 will be on the agenda. We also have another one, 447. That was about the pace of Chapter 7. That also must be one we attend too. Then we have a postponed policy and five new policies today. There is another policy 445 that we didn't get to in February. The question is how to order things. What will the agenda be? I would like for the committee to determine how we

order these items. Let me give you one piece of advice of our current items, the Summer School Operations Policy, this is one that we could wait on. NCSARA, the Provost would like to get going but could wait. The other ones should be moved on.

- Mike – We need to do bylaws first, then Academic Misconduct, then Chapter 7.
- Tim – Can I have a motion on third reading order? Mike moves. Carmen seconds.
- Jeff – I looked at the Academic Misconduct Policy. I don't want to hold it up. There are one or two things I may want to bring forward. I want to ask in strategy, in terms of the best way forward. I appreciate Mike and Carolyn. I would propose an amendment to the policy and get the changes to the senate before the meeting. I want to pass it through protocol to not override your efforts.
- Tim – All in favor of 451, 452, 447 for third reading. Passes unanimously. Let's defer on the second reading order.

▪ NCSARA – I tried to ask and see if it effects any discipline. The College of Education is the prime beneficiary and maybe nursing. My impression was that no one was aware before the senate meeting. We may have found there is some value to this. It is postponed. My plan is to distribute that with the senate packet.

o Carmen Scholz, President-Elect
  ▪ No report.
o Laird Burns, Past President
  ▪ I support what you are doing with the order of bills.
o Carolyn Sanders, Ombudsperson
  ▪ Carmen has brought me up to speed on current cases. I hesitant to say this, I really wonder how many faculty know there is an ombudsperson. We need to figure out the best way to get that word out.
o Kader Frendi, Governance and Operations Committee Chair
  ▪ We had a meeting last week. The first order of business was the election of committees. We did dive into other issues with academic freedom in addition to shared governance. A big thanks goes to those who sent volunteers to run for committees. Campus wide voting is for the Appeals Committee. The Provost seems to agree with the process.
    - Carolyn – Is there anything stated with the two versions you have seen is that it is a two year appointment? Is there anything stating that someone can't serve if served the previous two years.
    - Tim – It doesn't say that.
    - Carolyn – I think it is critical.
o Paul Whitehead, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair
  ▪ We have one form under review. We plan to meet in person on Monday to vote.
o Jeff Weimer, Finance and Resource Committee Chair
  ▪ No report.
o Gwaku Gyasi, Faculty and Student Development Committee Chair
  ▪ Something that came up in last discussion with faculty teaching online and face to face, we want to make sure we are doing the right thing. We felt some young faculty are being forced to do what they don't want to do.

- ▪ Kader – I think the decision for going hybrid versus asynchronous was the size of class. There was no way in my case to go hybrid. The big classes are all online.
          - ▪ Carolyn – I assumed faculty could ask to teach remotely.
          - ▪ Gwaku – We don't think they Dean forced but we want to make sure that some weren't forced to teach face to face. Does the Chair have the right to force that?
          - ▪ Carmen – That is interesting to hear. I hear most were forced to go online and didn't want too. I think it should be the Professor's decision.
          - ▪ Tim - I think a resolution on this issue would be welcomed to be debated.
          - ▪ Carmen – With online teaching, students are not taking school serious anymore. The longer we are in this situation, we lose our standard.
          - ▪ Kader – I spent the morning talking with students who haven't logged into Canvas and its three weeks in.
          - ▪ Carolyn – We have thrown a lot at our freshman.
          - ▪ Mike – I think even sophomores are suffering too.
      - o Mike Banish, Personnel Committee Chair
          - ▪ Can we pull Chapter 6 back to get done?
          - ▪ Tim – My understanding is that it is tabled. Was it for a reason?
          - ▪ Mike – I can untable it at this upcoming meeting. We will look at it this coming week.
          - ▪ Tim – I can't control what anyone does. I don't know what our members will do. If one of you are planning to do that, please give me a heads up and we will distribute it in the meeting packet.
          - ▪ Mike – Do you want me to write up a response to Electronic Signatures to formally say we are delaying?
          - ▪ Tim – Why don't you have that ready? Carmen and I meet with him next week and maybe he will have an answer.
- ➢ Agenda Items:
  - o Approve FS Meeting Minutes:
      - ▪ Page 7," I served nine years ago."
- ➢ Online Course Policy
  - o Tim - Do I have a motion to send to committee or senate floor? Kader moves. Carmen seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry.
- ➢ Communicable Disease Policy
  - o Laird – It was stated that it didn't apply to a pandemic, but I thought yes, it could. They didn't enforce the Communicable Disease Policy but came out with a mandate from the System Office. We have 389 faculty and equivalent number of part time faculty. We only had one faculty member on that policy. I think we are underrepresented. They finally revised this policy. I am not sure where we are other than we have an interim policy in place.
  - o Tim – We may have some change bars on this, but I would compare them side by side.
  - o Laird – We should have more than one faculty member on the committee.
  - o Tim – Where do you want to send this?
  - o Kader – I say committee. Personnel.
  - o Mike – I don't mind to look at it. We need more than one faculty representative on this. The thing that has come out of all this is that the communication is very horrible. We need clear and concise communication.
  - o Tim – I heard a motion to send to Personnel. Carolyn seconds.

- o Laird – When this first started I was the lone voice to the President to involve us. Tim and Carmen joined me later. We have some direct prospective to support you on this. I think we need to make time to support.
  - o Tim – All in favor to sending to committee. Ayes carry.
  - o Mike – I am also wondering if there is any in response to finance and resource.
  - o Jeff- I think there is a need for communication and representation of the faculty. I don't see where finance and resource comes in to this.
- ➢ Summer School Operations Policy:
  - o Carolyn – This scares me. This is a huge change to summer school compensation. I think it grants the Dean and Provost the power to make decisions. I don't know how the policy read before. I am concerned that whoever the Dean and Provost is may decide all engineering is taught during summer and none of my. I would submit that my amount of course prep is the same regardless if the student enrollment. I could potentially be paid off. This from my faculty standpoint have a lot of red flags.
  - o Tim – Don't presume I am speaking for or against. Some say we only have X number of students, some faculty say they will teach for less. I don't know where I stand on it.
  - o Gwaku – Either a class goes or it doesn't. I have the same amount of preparation and teaching regardless of the number.
  - o Kader – We need a policy. We need it to be fair to faculty.
  - o Mike – This is actually somewhat illegal. This is an illegal policy. If you go by the OMB Circular A21, if you have research grants or federal, you are certifying a certain amount of time. It is illegal for someone doing research. This needs to be squashed.
  - o Tim – I think you are wanting this to go to committee?
  - o Carmen – This opens all doors to force tenure earning to teach classes they get paid half for.
  - o Laird – I want you to understand.
  - o Jeff – Motions to send to committee.
  - o Mike – Faculty and Student Development
  - o Jeff – I will volunteer my committee. I don't to be the only one.
  - o Tim – Jeff's motion is to send to his committee and Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Carolyn seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry.
- ➢ Electronic Signature Policy:
  - o Carolyn – Motions to send to senate. Jeff seconds.
- ➢ Title IX Policy:
  - o Tim – We will take this up at our next meeting.
  - o Jeff - Motions to send out as item to committee. Carolyn seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry.
- ➢ Meeting adjourned at 2:27 PM.