

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**October 15, 2015
12:30 P.M. in SKH 369**

Present: Kader Frendi, Michael Banish, Wai Mok, Tim Newman, Ramon Cerro, Joseph Taylor, Eric Seemann, Carolyn Sanders, Azita Amiri, Eric Fong, Monica Dillihunt, Lenora Smith, President Altenkirch, Provost Curtis.

- Faculty senate president Kader Frendi called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

- **Administrative Report**
 - **Smoking Policy:** The president reported that his office received a total of 16 responses: 9 in favor, 4 against and 3 undecided. The president stated that one-third of local businesses are smoke free. The UAH policy calls for Smoke and Tobacco Free campus. A question was asked about smoking in a parked car, the president answered that under the new policy one cannot do that. Another question was asked about the role of police in enforcing the current policy, the president answered that not much for now. They will remind people about the smoke free campus policy. Some Senate Executive Committee members commented about shelters and health impact of smoking.

 - **Four Day Summer:** The president reported that 80% of the staff members who responded to a Staff Senate survey liked the four day summer schedule. In my meeting with Kader, he told me that some faculty, especially the junior tenure track faculty, don't like it. A comment was also made about graduate students working on thesis being affected. The president reported that the total savings from the four day schedule for the past summer were approximately \$150K. The president went to say that after a meeting with Kader, the decision was to go back to the 5-day schedule with staff still being able to take either Friday or Monday off as the unit manager decides. By doing this, the president stated that the university will lose the savings but help lift the staff and faculty moral. Ramon Cerro did not like the change back to 5 days.

 - The president reported that the Student Services Building will probably be done in March and the conference center will be ready for the board of trustees meeting in April.

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- The president announced that the university park entrance from the neighborhood will be blocked and the vehicular entrance will be from the campus side. Also the T-Ball field will be taken out. The University hopes to have all the work at the park completed in the spring.
- The president reported that the work along Sparkman is to get power to the new electronic sign.
- In response to Eric Seemann's question regarding another parking deck to alleviate the parking problems in center campus, the president answered that we need a more efficient use of our facilities, i.e. especially in terms of scheduling classes which seem to be concentrated in Tuesday-Thursday.
- Ramon Cerro talked about remote lockdown of buildings and rooms in the engineering building. The provost said she will check on that with the dean of engineering. The president mentioned that Shelby King Hall has the remote lockdown safety feature installed.
- Senate President Frendi asked if there had ever been a study done on the cost and benefit of motion-sensed lights being installed into new places on campus. President Altenkirch said he did not know of any such study. Provost Curtis said she will post this question to the University's energy person. Dr. Fong commented that the College of Business Building had been retrofitted to have some of those types of lights.
- Provost Curtis reported that the SACSCOC report is on MyUAH with all the documentation. She asked that if anyone sees any errors in the reports that they need to report it immediately to the Provost, Dr. Wren, or Suzanne. so it can be corrected. The provost reminded everyone of the timeline for SACSCOC.
- The provost mentioned that going forward we will do assessment of our programs once a year. The provost mentioned that we need to be compliant with SACSCOC if not we could lose Federal Funding. Dr. Cerro mentioned that it would be advantageous if there was a way to make ABET and SACS assessment compatible. Two other members reported that they had noticed some incompatibilities in other disciplines.
- Both the president and the provost reported that they have just concluded a two-week recruiting trip, one week by the president and one week by the provost. The recruitment covered the state of Alabama and some southern Tennessee locations. The provost stressed once again the need to retain our

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students and improve our graduation rate. The president mentioned that the raise is based on enrollment and that the raise letters will be sent by Monday to everyone.

- The Provost distributed a Business Insider article that noted that UAH is #37 on a Smartest Colleges in the USA list.
- Mike Banish asked about the tuition matrix and if one can change a tuition scholarship/discount to a residential scholarship. The president answered that it cannot be done. Later, Dr. Banish suggested we need more ways to reach out to at-risk students. The Provost responded that the University is trying to identify and reach at-risk students.
- The president announced that college fees are not included in the tuition scholarships/discounts.
- The Provost stated that some units (which have high costs) are considering if additional fees may be warranted for students taking their courses.
- The president announced that he received a resolution from the SGA about Grading at UAH specifically the use of “+” and ”-“.

➤ **Officers and Committee Reports**

- Mike Banish reported that he has received reviews of the substantive change policy and that a memo to that effect will be submitted to the full senate for discussion and vote. Mike urged the other committees to submit their reviews.
- Ramon Cerro, Chair of personnel committee, reported that his committee reviewed FOUR policies; Emeritus Faculty, Faculty Separation, Modified Duties and Extension of Tenure Clock. Given that a lot of the material in these policies comes directly from the faculty handbook, the committee recommended voting against these policies.
- Eric Fong from Undergraduate Curriculum reporting about a concern regarding a university NISP that was approved by the board of trustees regarding a degree in professional studies to be offered by Continuing Education. The concern was about who will teach in such program, will it affect other programs??? The provost answered by saying that program was modeled after well-established programs around the country and that it won't take away from any existing program, i.e. if a student in this program desires to take course in an existing program on campus, the

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student will be directed to the existing program. Dr. Fong suggested the professional studies program be housed in an existing academic unit. Dr. Newman expressed concern that a unit without faculty was proposing courses and degrees; our practice is for the faculty to set the curriculum, but this unit has a curriculum without faculty.

- Eric Seemann from undergraduate scholastic reported that they received one academic bankruptcy case.
- Joe Taylor from Finance and Resources reported that his committee will meet with Ray Pinner on October 29th and ask about the details of the university budget. Mike Banish asked Joe to dig into more details about the tuition money and how it is spent around campus. Taylor also announced that the Distinguished Speaker series call would go out later this academic year, after Finance and Resources had revised it.
- The time limit for the meeting having been reached, a motion was made by Newman and seconded by Banish to extend the time by 5 minutes. Motion passed unanimously

➤ **Approval of the Agenda for the Senate Meeting**

- A motion to approve the Senate Meeting agenda was made by Newman and seconded by Dillihunt. The motion passed unanimously.
- The meeting then adjourned, after a motion from Sanders seconded by Newman was affirmed by the Committee.

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