

---

**JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE  
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE  
VOLUME XXI  
MINUTES FOR MEETING 570, 15 SEPTEMBER 2016  
APPROVED 29 SEPTEMBER 2016**

***Present:*** Xuejing Xing, Sophia Marinova, Laird Burns, Kevin Bao, David Steward, David Harwell, Ryan Weber, Joseph Taylor, Christine Sears, Carolyn Sanders, Jeremy Fischer, Anne Marie Choup, Eric Seeman, Kyle Knight, Mike Banish, Ramon Cerro, Ting-Ting Wu, Yuri Shtessel, Fat Ho, Harry Delugach, James Swain, Kader Frendi, Babak Shotorban, Christina Carmen, Marlena Primeau, Maria Steele, Mary Bonilla, Amy Hunter, Qingyuan Han, Roy Magnuson, Debra Moriarity, Carmen Scholz, Tim Newman, Dongsheng Wu, Ming Sun, Vladimir Florinski, Monica Dillihunt, Shannon Mathis

***Absent with Proxy:*** Irena Buksa, Dianhan Zheng, Earl Wells, Casey Norris, Ann Bianchi, Tracy Durm, Shanhu Le, Carmen Scholz

***Absent with no Proxy:*** John Schnell, Mark Lin

***Ex-Officio:*** Provost Christine Curtis

- Faculty Senate President Mike Banish called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm.
- Approval of FS Minutes #569. Motion given by Tim Newman with amendments. On page 8, the word term should be changed to academic year. On page 4, the number of freshmen increase and transfer students should be corrected. All in favor of motion to approve minutes with amendments. Ayes carry.
- Approval of FSEC Report from September 8<sup>th</sup>. Motion given by Tim Newman with amendments. On page 7, the word dismal needs to be changed to dismissal. On page 2, the word south should be changed to north. Two lines later the word then should be changed to nor. Near the end, change starts much. All in favor of motion to approve minutes with amendments. Ayes carry.
- Summary of Bills/Policies
  - Lecturer policy did not pass second reading unanimously. It will be on the agenda for the next full senate meeting.
  - Bill 382 – Notification to Senate on Deanships passed second and third reading unanimously.
  - Bill 385 – Alumni Giving passed second and third reading unanimously.
  - Bill 386 – Optimal Class Size passed second and third reading unanimously.
  - Bill 387 – Faculty and Emeritus Faculty Authored Books in the UAH Bookstore passed second and third reading unanimously.
- **Administrative Reports**
  - Provost Christine Curtis
    - I have some updated information on the 2016 enrollment. We have information from Alabama and Auburn. UAB started late so we don't have their information yet. The number of transfer students at UAH is 778. Total enrollment stayed the same.

- Our numbers at the bottom for freshmen ACT have remained solid. Freshman enrollment in Honors is at 289. Honors ACT average is a 31.5.
  - Mike – Could I ask what our pell grant percentage is?
  - Provost – I don't have that number right now. Last year for freshman was close to 25%, overall was 27%. What we see is as you increase the out of state enrollment, the pell grant recipient total goes down.
- I wanted to share some information with you from US News. I was struck when I went on the web and saw the headlines. I wanted to share we are going on recruitment trips soon. They are looking at graduation retention rate for first time freshmen through sophomore year. Our retention rate this year was 83.2. I stopped and asked if we have our graduation rate yet and we don't. I will send it on once I get it.
  - Member – I thought at one of our meetings last year we were looking at the four year graduation?
  - Provost – We are looking at both. Nationally we look at four year then six year. Six year has become the norm. On recruitment tours, I always give the six year. I don't give four because it is so low.
  - Kader – We have seemed to have fallen down several spots.
  - Provost – We have but if you notice our overall score has gone up from a 23 to 28. You are correct. The top one is last year and bottom is this years. For 2017, they use 2015 data. For 2016, they use 2014 data.
- On your next sheet you will see how we are graded and the definitions. As you have questions, I would direct them to Suzanne Simpson. This is basically how we are graded. The one thing they all point out is based on ACT and other parameters; this is what US News says we should have 67% graduation rate rather than 49%. We need to increase this number. It will take time to do this. I thought you would like to have this data.
- Next thing I wanted to talk about is policies. I have received a lot of good feedback. The leadership met and we had a good discussion. I made a mistake and I apologize, the only person with signature authority on an account can administer purchases on that account. There is a second person that is usually in the administration ladder – the director, in academic units it would be the chair or deans. They have to approve the transaction. Another good point was made, what if there is disagreement? If it is, it should go under appeal. It's only the cases that get to me that have disagreement. We are public officials; we are entrusted with these funds. We have the students, faculty, and the universities interest in mind. We want to protect each of us and have good practice. That is where I am coming from.
  - Ramon – Does the procedure apply to purchasing large pieces of equipment?
  - Provost – Yes, anything over \$1,000 dollars.
  - Harry – One thing from this policy is that I would infer that the chair of the faculty member cannot initiate on their own.
  - Provost – Correct.
  - Harry – I am glad that you mentioned that. For PI's for contracts and grants that are not faculty members are subject to the same policy?
  - Provost – Mike has been in the center and has assured that there has to be two signatures.

- Mike – There always was when I was in a center. I don't know that there is a policy for that.
- Provost – This will be a university policy.
- Harry – The faculty concern I have heard is that faculty are being treated differently than PI's. The intent is that they be treated the same.
- Another policy going into interim effect is the leave loaded benefits policy. This has been instituted because of the OMB uniform guidance that came out in December 2014. We have been applying leave loaded benefits to business/industrial type contracts. With the uniform policy, it requires that we do this with all contracts. When NSF came in to audit, they suggested we might want to consider applying it uniformly to all contract and grants. Bob Lindquist is the person that has been going around talking to different groups. He has talked with center directors and budget analyst. I would recommend that you ask him to come and give the presentation if you are interested. It is for leave. It would apply to post-docs, research staff. It does not apply to 9 month faculty per the faculty handbook. That is how they are handling it. He knows the rules and how they will be applied.
- Lastly, I want to discuss scheduling. If you could get me recommendations from the senate by 30 September. They need to start working on the schedule for fall 2017. As we are growing, we have to do things differently. We had a discussion with the deans yesterday and there is no objection to the 55 minutes and pushing the schedule five minutes later. We may need to have a class starting at 7 am. There is also a discussion that after a given time in the afternoon, it becomes an open schedule. So if you have a one day a week class late afternoon or early evening that you could schedule when it is better convenient.
  - Mike – I want to add that Kader, Carmen, and I did meet with the Provost earlier this week. It was a really beneficial meeting. I think all parties came to a good agreement.

➤ **Officer/Committee Reports**

- President, Mike Banish
  - Dr. Scholz is gone. I will be gone next Thursday and Friday for the BOT meeting.
  - I have announced the proxies we have. The FSEC released three policies to the committees being declared non-shared governance. One thing I am going to ask for is that when we do this I am going to ask for two votes one for regular sitting senate members and then proxy votes.
  - We are working on the class change forms. That will soon be up on the website. Before I get into business, if you would like Kader, Carmen, or myself to come to your department to discuss issues that are important for the faculty senate to discuss we are open to that. I am happy to come.
  - I am going to call for three ad-hoc committees today.
    - The scheduling ad-hoc committee: Dr. Magnuson will take over that committee. He has to have the committee report out in two weeks. I would like a member from each college to volunteer. ENG - James Swain. Liberal Arts – Joseph Taylor. Nursing – Mary Bonilla. BUS – Sophia Marinova. ED – Shannon Mathis. Member motions to approve the volunteers. Tim seconds. Ayes carry.

- Charger Foundations – This doesn't have a chair yet. In the SACS report, we stated we would have a university committee on Charger Foundations. I would like a committee from the faculty senate that could live from year to year. I am not going to ask for volunteers today. If you would please go to your department and express what we are going to do. I am looking for people with passion for this.
- Increasing the Quality of Number of Graduate Students will be led by Kader Frendi. It can either be faculty senators or people from your department. I know for science and engineering we typically discuss PhD's. We want to increase the talk of master's. I would suggest on that committee that you directly email Dr. Frendi.
- Governance and Operations Committee Chair, Monica Dillihunt
  - The list for those who can serve on university committees went out yesterday. Our charter says that we must have faculty senate representatives on each of those committees. Please check that list again. If you serve as your college rep, you can't be the senate rep?
    - Mike – Tim, what is the rule on that?
    - Tim – Well the senate votes on the membership of university committees. That is a senate appointment.
    - Mike – Can you serve two functions at once?
    - Harry – I think you can, but not recommended.
    - Monica – Also for some we weren't a college when they were formed so we don't have a slot on the committee. Should there be college representation on all of them?
    - Mike – Yes.
    - Tim – No. Only if the charter of the committee specifies it. Most senate committees do, but not all university committee do.
    - Monica – Most of them did have one representation from the college.
    - Tim – Some of them like faculty appeals have a specified number of how many reps from each college, but generic ones don't.
    - Member – How do I know my term for the committee?
    - Monica – It is online.
- Finance and Resources Committee Chair, Joseph Taylor
  - The deadline for distinguished speakers is tomorrow for spring 2017.
  - RCU deadline for faculty is Oct 28.
  - Our committee is meeting Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> with the President for a budget presentation.
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair, Christine Sears
  - Our committee looked over the optimal class size bill and it is on today's agenda.
  - We will be meeting on Tuesday to go over course approvals.
- Ombudsperson, Eric Seeman
  - No report.
- Past President, Kader Frendi
  - No report.

- Let me add one thing to the ad-hoc committee I am chairing. One pushing factor to this committee is the Carnegie ranking. We hope to get back up in the ranking.
    - Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs Committee Chair, James Swain
      - We are finishing up the second appeal.
    - Personnel Committee Chair, Ramon Cerro
      - We sent the credentials to be authorized by the personnel committee.
      - I wanted to send the corrected version of the librarian policy but I never received one. As we discuss it today, please keep this in mind.
    - Parliamentarian, Tim Newman
      - No Report.
- Policies and Bills
  - Lecturer Policy
    - Many would say that this has been a long time coming. It passed the first reading of the FSEC. If there are no nays, it passes first and second reading. That is the rule for all on the agenda today. Are there any comments, concerns?
      - Roy – One question, from my understanding we don't have a chapter 7?
      - Mike – Yes, we do.
      - Roy – There is reference to chapter 7.
      - Mike – Do I have a motion to approve this bill? Harry Delugach moves. Eric Seeman seconds.
      - Ramon – We still don't have a chapter 7.
      - Mike – We all believe we have a chapter 7. It isn't new, but it is from 1998.
      - Joseph - I know the concern from last time was that it was advocating for a hiring practice of replacing tenured faculty to lecturers. I hope that the first paragraph now clarifies that. Also this was to reward those that have been for a certain time. I would hope those changes have made this more desirable.
      - Debra – In red, it says that they respond particularly to the teaching of the department agenda. That doesn't mean that are limited to this?
      - Mike – No.
      - Mike – I would like to call for a vote on the lecturer policy. All in favor. 30 in favor. All proxies in favor. 6 in favor. All opposed. 2 opposed. 2 abstained. This policy passed second reading.
        - Sophia – Why are some people opposed? Should that be addressed?
        - Tim – I will answer that. I have been opposed to this policy from the beginning. I think the university embarked on a practice to replace faculty members with lecturers. I am opposed to that direction. I think it is unhealthy for the university. I think it is directly tied to our problem with maintaining a Carnegie ranking. I think our emphasis needs to be on hiring faculty members who can perform curriculum development, research, and graduate student guidance. Carry out committee activity duties on campus and maintaining the life blood in the permanent actions of the department. I don't think encouraging the solicitation of more lecturer lines is conducive to that. Moreover, I think if we want to have non-permanent faculty members teaching, I think we are better served to increase our

graduate teaching assistants to do that. So I knew this policy was going the wrong direction and that is why I voted no.

- Senate Bill 382, Notification to Senate of Deanships
  - Mike – I would like to open this bill for faculty discussion and voting. All those in favor. Ayes carry.
  - Mike – Any comments?
  - Sophia – Can you tell us a little bit about this?
  - Mike – I can read the bill. The concern is that we start colleges and deans and some appear to us as a surprise. Before you have a deanship, you have to have a vote in the faculty senate.
  - Roy – In complete sympathy that it should come to the senate, it bothers me there is a bill about it. Obviously it should fall under shared governance, but do we need a bill to state that. It seems band-aidish.
  - Tim – I would like to respond to that. This is a bill that I authored at the request of colleagues. It does come in response to proliferation of deanships, associate deanships, and assistant deanships at UAH. In particular, the creation of such things without any involvement of the faculty senate. I don't view this as a band-aid because there is a directive in the bill to bring forth a policy that is consistent with this bill. I don't think that is a band-aid. The only thing more permanent than that is to put this in the faculty handbook and maybe it does belong in the faculty handbook but in fact there is a mention that when the faculty handbook is next revised, governance and operations should create language that is consistent with this. I don't think this is a band-aid. I think this is the senate doing the job they are supposed to do in saying we have all these other policies and we should have one for deanships. I agree with Roy that it shouldn't have been necessary to do this. I don't understand why deanships are created without involvement of the senate. They are and have been. I hope that this is a practice going forward. Something being coded in our policy guidebook that says you need to go to the senate.
  - Sophia – Does this include the evaluation of current deans?
  - Mike – No.
  - All those in favor of bill 382. 37 faculty members. 4 proxies. No oppositions. 2 abstain. Bill 382 passed second and third reading.
- Bill 385, Alumni Giving
  - Mike – I would like to open this up for discussion. I am going to steal some of the Provost's presentation for this. If you look at our alumni giving percentage, less than one in twenty. We advertise we make the most money. I actually wrote this bill. I used to give money, and now the first thing they ask for is your credit card number. That offended me and I don't trust them that much. I give to my college; to my department. It has passed first reading.
  - Debra – One concern to reading this if we are giving direct donations, there are record keeping issues. You have to be absolutely sure that the alumni office knows who that was.
  - Mike- I would hope that it is to go through the development office. If you give, it asks specifically to whom you want to give.
  - Harry – My impression is that is not how it happens. Most of my students go directly to the department not the development office.

- Debra – I think to get that number to go up there has to be a different approach by UAH and the development office. This is a good step. Clearly the online should be friendly, warm. The last thing is starting out asking for your credit card.
- Roy – I am wondering if you had any feedback from development.
- Mike – None yet.
- Roy – I was concerned there was a bait thing in there about tenure and tenured earning faculty have input on these donations. I am concerned about getting agreement on how to spend the donations. Hopefully the chair would consult with faculty on how to spend that money.
- Ramon – I think this is a good idea.
- Roy - My comment is with my experience from other institutions. I tend to get a letter from the President and the Dean to express new things and ask if I would like to give. As far as I know none of these activities are common and faculty development doesn't know much about it. I am concerned as to what it would look like if you just state COS rather than all the departments.
- Mike – If we get it through, nothing like an ad-hoc committee.
- Joseph – I do think there is something to be said for provoking change. From what I have heard, there is a lot of hand tying. You can't go and talk to those you know money would come from.
- Harry - My experience when I talked with development if money is being given to a department, as long as they know to add it they are good. They may object because they have a larger campaign that we don't know about. My impression is if we are talking lots of money that could be a problem.
- Mike – I am targeting our alumni.
- Debra – One of the things in any management training you go to, don't step on the toes of your advancement office. But I don't think you are saying go out and solicit. You just want to make it more convenient for alumni to give. The website is one of those problems. Maybe have development come address the senate on how they would like the departments to work together on this.
- Mike – For our department, our main scholarship cannot get on the list. We discussed this.
- Mike – All in favor of bill 385. Ayes carry. No oppositions. 2 abstain. Bill passes second and third reading.
- Bill 386, Optimal Class Size Bill
  - Mike- I am opening this bill up for discussion and voting.
  - Tim – I move the adoption of bill 386. Roy Magnuson seconds. Ayes carry. No oppositions. 2 abstain. Bill passes second and third reading.
- Faculty and Emeritus Faculty Authored Books in UAH Bookstore
  - Mike – We want to increase our status and visibility.
  - Roy – Again, great idea. I am slightly concerned about jurisdiction. We don't have any authority over the bookstore. We could put it in their contract on next renewal. It seems we don't have the power to do that.
  - Carolyn – Barnes and Noble have a sweet deal. I think this is the very least that can be done to support intellectuals.
  - Debra – I make a point to visit other bookstores on other campuses and there are always sections of authored books.
  - Member – I had a thought from business law. If you have written a polite request, does this have any value since there is a contract and they say no.

- Mike – The intent is that we express our will and the President discusses this the next time the contract is up for renewal.
  - Provost – It may have been a tradition before it went into the contract.
  - Mike – All in favor. No oppositions. No abstains. Bill passes second and third reading.
- Miscellaneous/Additional Business
- Debra – Bicycle racks. Students are chaining bicycles to everything at the Shelby Center.
    - Kader – We are having the same issue at Tech Hall. I emailed the President yesterday and something should be on the way.
    - Provost – There is something on the way. I am meeting with facilities tomorrow and can let you know about the timing.
  - Ramon – Is there anything about making a senator to stay the duration of the meeting?
    - Tim – No. If the senate is concerned with a quorum issue, it has the right to appoint a sergeant of arms to guard the door from someone leaving. There is no rule that someone stay. If we are at quorum and someone is opposed and a person leaves, the bill is not acted on. That is the power of the minority. The view in parliamentary law is that is a tool to deteriorate leaving.
    - Mike – That is why we went to the standing rule.
  - Mike – Dr. Curtis just passed me a note that the 2010 cohort six year graduation rate is 49%.
    - Provost – Same as last year. We didn't go down.
  - Monica – The faculty is concerned about the lighting and cameras around Roberts Hall. There are some break-ins. Where the camera is it doesn't cover the whole parking lot.
    - Provost – It is noted.
  - Sophia – Is the graduation rate constant among colleges and majors?
    - Provost – I haven't seen that yet. Typically it is constant.
  - Member – There is a Huntsville City bus that goes through campus. There is a stop in front of the university fitness center. There is no bench and no covering. I sometimes wait for the bus. Is it possible to have some signage and nice waiting area?
- Motion for meeting to adjourn given by Harry Delugach. Debra Moriarity seconds. Meeting adjourns at 1:51 p.m.