

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

March 15, 2007

The Faculty Senate of the University of North Alabama met March 15, 2007 in the Faculty/Staff Commons of the University Center at 3:30 p.m.

President Loew called the meeting to order and recognized the following proxies:

Major Smith for Senator Fennell from Military Science, and
Dr. Lesley Peterson for Senator Mauriello from English.

Senator Maynard moved the approval of the February 8, 2007 minutes. Senator Rieff seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Adams moved the adoption of the agenda. Senator Adler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Newson, Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Provost, reported that he presented the online program for Sociology to ACHE. He stated that there is a statewide task force on distance learning on which he is serving. One of the issues which they are addressing is concerned with how the online students will count toward credit hour production. He stated that he is happy to announce that Dr. Priscilla Holland has been appointed Assistant Vice-President for Academic Research. She will not move up to his office area until her replacement is found. He is hoping to move that search along quickly. He reported that there will be a separation of the Academic Computing into a separate area. He presented the promotion process schedule from the Faculty Handbook Appendix 3.C. He requested that it be revised to allow more time for him to review the portfolios by either moving the target data for submission earlier, making the announcement later, or to shorten the review time at the department level. Senator Adams moved this issue be sent to the Faculty Affairs Committee of the Senate. Senator Richardson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A question was raised concerning why the new position created within his office, the Assistant Vice-President for Academic Research, was not advertised and a search performed. Dr. Newson stated that in light of the SACC self-study coming in the future and the pending retirements of several key participants in our last studies, it was felt by the administration that this would aid in the loss of those participants. Senator Gauffer requested a statement from President Cale regarding this departure from standard operating procedure concerning filling this Assistant Vice-President for Academic Research position. Senator Robinson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Adams requested a report from Dr. Newson concerning the calculation of the online students with regard to credit hour production and how the nonresident status would be counted for these students as well.

Dr. Newson reported that he had chaired a university task force on enrollment management which is working on several issues including raising admission standards,

level of international student enrollment, the maximum student capacity given the instructional workforce and physical plant, and how to balance the graduate and undergraduate enrollment. He requested that any input be sent quickly to him because they hope to have a final recommendation ready to be considered during the summer. This task force consisted of Kim Mauldin, Vagn Hansen, David Shields, Kerry Gatlin, Linda Austin, Dan Hallock, Priscilla Holland, Sue Wilson, Tina Vick and Dr. Newson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Committee Reports:
 - 1. Craig Robertson reported that Faculty Affairs has sent a draft of the application for leave to President Loew and is awaiting further issues.
 - 2. Craig Robertson reported that the Faculty Attitude Survey Committee has sent out a second reminder today and is planning on sending out a followup reminder with next Friday the last day for the survey. He asked for guidance concerning whether to summarize open-ended responses or to directly quote them.
 - 3. The Academic Affairs Committee had nothing to report.
- B. Shared Governance Committee Reports:
 - 1. The Faculty/Staff Welfare Committee has sent the office hours policy on to the Executive Council.
 - 2. The Academic and Student Affairs Committee has sent the ADA policy on to the Council of Deans.
- C. Senator Adams shared some information concerning benefits of belonging to the Higher Education Partnership. He reported an issue of concern is the Governor's recommendation to cut the funding proportions to higher education. We must let our state representatives and senators know we will not be happy with such an action. Senator Adams reminded the senate of the Higher Ed Day in Montgomery on April 5.
- D. President Loew reported that there was a misunderstanding created from the minutes of the Arts and Sciences Department Chairs Meeting which made it appear that all employees would have background checks conducted. The background checks will be conducted for new employees only.
- E. President Loew reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee has adopted the practice of sending out to senators the unapproved minutes of the last senate meeting on the Thursday prior to the upcoming meeting. The agenda will be sent out on Tuesday prior to the meeting.
- F. Senator Adams brought a case of blatant plagiarism by a graduate student who was allowed to withdraw from the class to avoid any penalty for the admitted plagiarism. After studying the withdrawal policy, he could not find any wording

which states that it supersedes any other policy. We need a clear statement about which policies cannot be superseded.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. The Withdrawal Policy which we received last month was not what we approved but it is in the new catalog. Areas of concern included the guarantee of the ability to withdraw, the misuse of the policy, and the vagueness of the language. Senator Adams moved that we send the approved Faculty Senate Withdrawal Policy from February 23, 2006 back to the Academic Affairs Committee for consideration to reconcile with the Attendance Policy and Instructors Rights, to clarify the language concerning how to obtain a withdrawal, to consider what policies it supersedes and which policies supersede it, and to consider the University of Alabama policy. Senator Richardson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. Senator Gaunder moved the approval of the Foreign Nationals Employment Policy. Senator Adler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Senator Robinson moved to send the Academic Affairs proposal concerning honor cords to the Commencement Committee to ask for their input to be returned to the senate and the issue tabled until next meeting. Senator Bates seconded. A list of honor societies to be considered was also requested. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. A resolution concerning the fifty upper-division credit hour requirement received from the Department Chairs of the College of Arts and Sciences was presented. (See Attachment A)
- B. The issue regarding how to handle students who sign up but never show up to class was removed from consideration for this meeting. (See Attachment B)

Senator Maynard moved the meeting be adjourned. Senator Roden seconded. The motion passed unanimously.