

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

September 4, 2008

The Faculty Senate of the University of North Alabama met September 4, 2008 in the Faculty/Staff Commons of the University Center at 3:30 p.m.

There were no proxies.

President Bates called the meeting to order and welcomed Pat Sanders from Communications and Theatre replacing Senator Green and Crescente Figueroa from Chemistry and Industrial Hygiene replacing Senator Gaunder.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes for the April 24, 2008 meeting were approved with two corrections.

President Cale updated the Senate on two issues reported about the university in the newspaper. The China story was correct. We are bringing in high quality, economically able students. The student loan story was confusing. Because of the capital credit crisis, lending entities are having difficulty securing student loan monies. Our provider, EdAmerica has not been able to get federal funds. In the summer the students were sent a letter that we might be late in delivering the loan checks due to the changeover of our system. We have fourteen days but we were able to get the checks ready if funds were given to the university in 48 hours. We have issued all loan checks for which we have funds.

President Cale stated that there are two important searches in progress: Director of International Programs and the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Search Committee for the Director of International Programs has met and is beginning to write the advertisement. President Bates is overseeing the election of members for the Search Committee for the Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

President Cale reported that although we have reduced the size of the MBA classes by 100 due to accreditation and reduced the number of international students from 1300 to 900, we have not seen a substantial drop in enrollment. This is due to the largest freshman class, the second largest transfer group and improved retention. The credit hour production has seen less than a one percent drop. We should not see any impact on our budgets.

Vice-President Warren stated that the distance learning continues to play an important role at the university. There were 118 sections of distance learning classes with 2972 students enrolled. There were twenty new faculty members added this year. New faculty orientation was held yesterday with a dinner following. Other orientations sessions for HR, Library, and Banner are also scheduled. The two top floors of Willingham Hall are completed. Furniture is moving into the basement. They are looking at planning who goes there since space is tight.

REPORTS:

A. Committee Reports:

1. Academic Affairs: will be meeting soon to elect a chair.
2. Faculty Affairs will meet soon.

B. Shared Governance Committee reports: none

C. The Faculty Picnic is scheduled for September 5th at 4:30 at Veteran's Park.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

President Bates made the senate aware that in September of last year we voted to remove the limit of \$2000 from the Faculty Research Grant. When asked by a faculty member, President Bates stated that he assumed that it had been done. It had not. He contacted Bill Huddleston, (new chair of Shared Governance) and took him the information. Bill has sent the issue to the correct committee. President Bates will keep track of its progress.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Leland Davidson was elected as faculty member representative for the VPAA Search Committee.
- B. Sandra Loew presented a report from the ADA Task Force (See Attachment A). There was a request that the senators ask their colleagues about the Appeals Panel membership which would be a two year commitment. They meet several times per year and especially before each semester begins.
- C. Recent changes in the Faculty Handbook were discussed. The changes was presented in the February meeting and asked the senate for feedback. In March it was sent to the Faculty/Staff Welfare Committee which changed it further and sent it on to the VPAA/President which was voted on and approved by the Board of Trustees.

1. Anything about the Faculty Handbook changes should be presented on and voted on by the Faculty Senate.
2. President Bates will be meeting with the Chair of the Shared Governance Committee monthly.
3. We need to come up with a long term solution concerning changes to the Faculty Handbook.
4. The question is how do we implement this new policy just voted on by the Board of Trustees.
5. Another issue is how do we make a better policy.

Vice-President Warren suggested a solution. He will write another memorandum asking for review of this policy as it related to the university as a whole. He will also ask for an implementation schedule. This will let discussion take place.

Senator Roden moved the meeting be adjourned. Senator Statom seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

ATTACHMENT A

ADA TASK FORCE

May 2005 – Task Force convened by President Cale

Members:

Sandra Loew, Chair

Jennifer Adams

Larry Bates

Paul Crandon

Ann Dillon

Kim Greenway

Vagn Hanson

Barry Morris

Angie Pickens

Developed policy and procedures; piloted procedures; all approved by Faculty senate and Administration.

Task Force met in May 2008 to assess implementation of policies and procedures.

Outcome:

Recommend the panel process should continue for two more years.