

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

November 10, 2011

The Faculty Senate of the University of North Alabama met November 10, 2011 in Room 102 of Floyd Science Building at 3:30 p.m.

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

Miranda Bowie for Senator Stenger from Mathematics,
Mark Foster for Senator Barrett from Economics and Finance,
Viljar Weimann for Senator Loeppky from Music and Theatre,
Bob Johnson for Senator Davidson from Secondary Education,
Jana Malone for Senator R. Garfrerick from Entertainment Industry,
Chiong-Yiao Chen for Senator Kirch from Art, and
John Hodges for Senator Crisler from Social Work.

Senator Richardson moved the adoption of the agenda. Senator Figueroa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Richardson moved the approval of the minutes from the October 6, 2011 meeting. Senator Sanders seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

President Cale was unable to attend the meeting.

Vice-President Thornell discussed the guidelines for promotion/tenure from each department which have been requested by the University-wide Portfolio Review Committee. Due to concerns raised about how the guidelines have been constructed and utilized, it was recommended that the guidelines be reviewed by the department for a consensus vote and then given to the dean of the college by December 2. During the month of January the dean will review the guidelines of each department. The guidelines will then be given to the Vice-President for Academic Affairs to review during the month of February in order to insure consistency. Vice-President Thornell requested guidance in how these guidelines would be provided to the University Portfolio Review Committee. Two solutions were to have the candidate for promotion provide in their portfolio or to have all the guidelines compiled in a binder. It was also suggested that the guidelines just be placed on-line. Vice-President Thornell encouraged the senators to let their colleagues know of this process.

REPORTS:

Senator Carnes, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, reported that the committee is working on examining the Faculty Handbook to insure that changes approved are reflected within the handbook. He also stated that the committee is working on the process of how to develop a list of names from the senate to be given for consideration for placement on the University Portfolio Review Committee and a process to insure that subsequent changes in policy get placed in the Faculty Handbook.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Senator Lee moved approval of the proposal for Quality Assurance in UNA Distance Learning. Senator Carrasco seconded. Senator Austin moved to amend the proposal to change the strategy to read:
1. Solicit UNA faculty for voluntary participation in a four-module training in Angel (Pearson-eCollege for nursing faculty) over the course of the fall semester. This four-module training will be developed and offered by the UNA ETS staff, and can be offered on a flexible schedule.
 2. In the spring semester, ETS proposes that faculty who participated in the fall Angel modules and nursing faculty who have completed Pearson-eCollege training can then enroll in a three-module training offered by the Sloan Consortium (Sloan-C) (<http://sloanconsortium.org/index>), a leading organization in the field of professional development for distance education faculty.

Senator McGee seconded. The amendment passed. The vote on the amended proposal passed.

- B. Senator Sanders moved approval of the revision to the Faculty Handbook as recommended from the Council of Academic Deans. (See Attachment A) Senator McIntosh seconded. The motion passed.
- C. A revision to the Early Scholars Program was presented. (See Attachment B) This revision was an effort to address the concerns of no admission criteria, no standards for continuing in the program and the expense to support the program. The committee polled high school guidance counselors concerning tenth graders. The dean of the college where the course is taught will be allowed to make exception calls. Senator Richardson moved the approval of the proposed changes. Senator Lee seconded. Senator Richardson moved to amend the proposal to change the gpa in #1 from 2.75 to 3.00, to change #4 to read “Allow 10th – 12th grade students with a composite ACT of 22”, and to strike in #5 “dean of the college where the course is housed” and replace with “the Vice-President of Academic Affairs in consultation with the appropriate departmental chair.” Senator McIntosh seconded. The motion failed. Senator Richardson moved to strike “Early Scholars” and replace with “Dual Enrollment”. Senator Davison seconded. Senator Richardson moved to table the issue. Senator Blount seconded. The motion to table passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Senators were reminded of the QEP meeting next Wednesday.
- B. Shoals Symphony performance is scheduled for December 11.
- C. Rumors concerning closing Kilby are unfounded.
- D. The reading of all names of those killed in Iraq and Afghanistan will begin at 6 a.m. in the amphitheater on Veteran's Day.

Senator Roden moved the meeting be adjourned. Senator Beckwith seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

ATTACHMENT A

3.10 FACULTY RESEARCH/DEVELOPMENT

The performance of the University is the cumulative result of the performance of each person employed by the University. The purpose of faculty development is to increase the teaching or research effectiveness of individuals to enable them to contribute to the University's overall mission. Thus, the goals of development are of mutual benefit to the faculty and the University. This is accomplished by enhancing employees' knowledge, skills, and attitudes that have a positive impact upon teaching performance and on helping them reach their fullest potential as members of the university team.

Each university-funded grant for development should be based on this philosophy. The University makes available a limited amount of resources for faculty development grants which, within specific regulations found on the Application for Faculty Development, allow faculty to:

1. Be partially reimbursed for costs for additional graduate course credit;
2. Attend noncredit workshops or seminars that extend a faculty member's knowledge in his or her current teaching area or broaden teaching areas which will benefit the University;
3. Attend noncredit workshops or seminars related to accreditation; and
4. Pay costs in relation to specific certification which, in turn, are of benefit to the University.

Faculty research and development monies are disbursed to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost who will distribute to the college deans, Director of Library Services, and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs percentages of those monies based on full-time faculty. The money will be distributed according to the following procedure.

Deans/Director of Library Services/Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs will establish a Research and Development Committee which will review applications requests for research and development and will recommend approval to the Dean of the College/Director of Library Services/Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs who will grant final approval. Application forms are available in Requests should be submitted to the offices of the college dean/Director of Library Services/Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. Interested faculty will submit proposals to the committee.

1. ~~Grants will be made for October 1 to September 30 time periods (or less) and projects lasting more than one year must be reapplied for each year.~~ Grants will be made for October 1 to September 30 time periods (or less as designated in the proposal). Projects lasting more than one year may be extended by notifying the appropriate college dean director of library 6 services, or associate vice president for academic affairs.
2. Faculty development monies will be limited to full-time faculty.

A proposal not approved will be returned to the faculty member. For funded projects, documented evidence that the objectives were ~~was~~ accomplished must be submitted to the department chair and dean upon completion of the project. ~~The department chair will furnish copies of the report to the dean of the college and the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.~~

ATTACHMENT B

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO EARLY SCHOLARS PROGRAM AT UNA

1. Require a high school GPA of 2.75 in the core to be eligible for initial enrollment in Early Scholars program
2. Require a C or better in initial coursework and 2.5 cumulative GPA thereafter for continued participation in Early Scholars program
3. Allow one 3 or 4 hour course tuition-free instead of five hours. A second course would be charged tuition.
4. Allow 10th grade students with a composite ACT of 22 or better to enroll as Early Scholars tuition-free based on conditions above
5. Exceptions must be approved by the dean of the college where the course is housed

Submitted by UNA Early Scholars Committee: John Thornell, Thomas Calhoun, Vagn Hansen, and Kim Mauldin