

## FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

December 7, 2017

**Call to order:** The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate of the University of North Alabama was held in room 330 of the University Commons on December 7, 2017. The meeting convened at 3:30 p.m. with President Dan Hallock presiding.

**Proxies:** President Hallock recognized the following proxies: Sandra Loew for Karen Townsend (Department of Counselor Education), Andrew Potter for Jason Watson (Department of Computer Science and Information systems), and Aaron Benson for Suzanne Duvall-Zurinsky (Art).

**Members in attendance:** David Brommer, Lisa Clayton, Amanda Coffman, Katherine Crisler, Wes Davenport, Nikita Duke, Sarah Franklin, Leah Graham, Mark Greer, Dan Hallock, Felecia Harris, Scott Infanger, Keith Jones, Ian Loeppky, Glenn Marvin, John McGee, Rachel McKelvey, Janet McMullen, Prema Monteiro, Michelle Nelson, Katie Owens-Murphy, Jeffrey Ray, Alaina Reid, Lee Renfroe, Patricia Roden, Leigh Stanfield, Richard Statom, Daniel Stevens, Alexander Takeuchi, Pete Williams, Tammy Winner, Rachel Winston, and Ryan Zayac. President Kitts and Vice President Alexander were also in attendance.

**Members not in attendance (without proxy):** Rae Atencio (Military Science), Craig Robertson (Professional and Interdisciplinary Studies) and David Ruebhausen (Entertainment Industry).

**Adoption of the agenda:** Senator Loeppky moved the adoption of the agenda. Senator Statom seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the minutes:** Senator Statom moved the approval of the minutes of the November 2, 2017 minutes. Senator Harris seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Remarks from President Kitts:** President Kitts recognized that it was a busy time of the year and gave best wishes for the holiday season. He presented a slide presentation with information which will be presented to the entire campus shortly.

He presented **Plan 208**, “The Quest for Equitable Funding for the University of North Alabama.” It is named for the distance from UNA to the statehouse in Montgomery. It is the greatest distance of any of the fourteen public universities in Alabama. He presented historical evidence that the inequity of funding has been an ongoing problem. Data was also presented showing the funding per FTE student for all four-year institutions as well and comparison with similarly sized institutions. For similarly sized institutions, UNA ranked last in funding. For all four-year institutions, UNA ranked twelfth out of fourteen when comparing all students. When comparing using only in-state students, UNA ranked last in funding for all institutions. President Kitts stated that it was a priority to share the information with legislators in a manner to highlight the mistreatment of UNA and to encourage a change in funding to help UNA recover from the deficit in funding in the past and to discontinue the practice in the future.

**Remarks from Vice-President Alexander:** Dr. Alexander discussed two exciting academic developments: the transition of the Honors Program to an Honors College and the Creation and establishment of a School of the Arts within the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Honors Program which was established in 2005 has currently 315 students. There is a strategy in place to hopefully double that number. UNA already has the components necessary for an Honors College: separate application process, residential program and separate curriculum. It is the hope that having the Honors College will help recruit better students and set us apart from other peer institutions. Dr. Alexander reported that the cost to transition will be minimal and that this demonstrates our commitment to strong academics.

The creation and establishment of the School of the Arts in the College of Arts and Sciences is seen as a way to attract and retain high attaining students in music, drama and art. There is a need to do a better job in packaging, marking and coordinating efforts in these areas. We need to capitalize on the cultural heritage of the Shoals Area for showcasing, promoting and fund raising. This will be coordinated with a director position.

#### **Reports:**

**Academic Affairs Committee:** No report was given.

**Faculty Affairs Committee:** No report was given.

**Faculty Attitude Survey Committee:** No report was given.

**Ad Hoc Committee – Student Evaluation of Faculty Teaching:** Dr. Alexander's office is supporting the work of the committee which is looking at existing instruments.

**Unfinished Business:** none

#### **New Business:**

##### **Revision to Sections 3.2.1 and 4.3.1 of the Faculty Handbook – Start/Payment Dates for New Faculty**

Senator Franklin moved the approval of the revision. Senator Graham seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

##### **Revision to the UNA Consensual Relationship Policy:**

Senator Statom moved to send the revision to the Faculty Affairs Committee. Senator Loeppky seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

##### **Proposal from the Faculty/Staff Welfare Committee on the Policy on Children/Personal Visitors in the Workplace:**

Senator Statom moved to send the proposal to the Faculty Affairs Committee. Senator Renfroe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Proposal to revise the Academic Calendar to reflect a week off at Thanksgiving, eliminate Fall Break, and begin classes a day earlier:**

Senator Statom moved to postpone consideration of the proposal for at least a month to allow for discussions within our departments and to gather data related to accreditation requirements and the impact on Monday only classes as well as the Monday/Wednesday classes. Senator Franklin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Proposed addendum to the current Travel Policy regarding lodging:**

Senator Statom moved the approval of the proposed addendum with the removal of the last sentence in the block “An exception may be made for graduate students who are both students and employees, pending approval from the appropriate Dean and/or Vice President.” and the replacement with the proposed addition “Exceptions may be granted in special circumstances with approval of the appropriate College Dean or Vice-President.”. Senator Harris seconded. The motion passed.

**Information Items:**

**Proposal for Freshman Military Commute Parking:**

Senator Infanger moved approval. Senator Stovall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Revised Graphics Standards:**

Bryan Rachal shared the new Graphics Standards and reported that a rebranding of the website will occur in January.

Senator Statom moved the meeting be adjourned. Senator Roden seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.