

Faculty Senate Minutes

9 September 2021

Call to order:

A regular meeting of the University of North Alabama's Faculty Senate convened via Zoom Video Conferencing at 3.30pm with President Watson presiding.

I. Recognized Proxies and New Senators

George Makowski for Ansley Quiros

Tim Loughrist for Chris Purser

Members in attendance

Lori Alford, Alejandra Alvarado-Brizuela, Rae Atencio, Lisa Ann Blankinship, Tabitha Blasingame, Greg Buckley, Dan Burton, Cory Cagle, Justin Carter, Lisa Clayton, Chris Cottingham, Frank Diaz, Litzy Galarza, Felicia Harris, Betsy Heckert, Achini Herath, John Hodges, Andrea Hunt, Ann-Marie Irons, Lisa Kirch, Christopher Klein, Ian Loeppky, Thomas Lukowicz, Jennifer Maddox, Janna Malone, John McGee, Jessica Mitchell, Prema Monteiro, Katie Owens-Murphy, Cheryl Price, Craig Robertson, Jason Price, Vincent Salpietro, Patrick Shremshock, Lindsey Sherrill, Sunhui Sim, Kevin Stoltz, Jessica Stovall, Jillian Stupiansky, Jason Watson, Laura Williams, Gretchen Windt

Members not in attendance (without proxy)

Lauren Killen, Pete Williams

II. Approval of the Agenda

Senator Stovall made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Senator Robertson. Motion approved.

III. Approval of minutes from the 6 May 2021 Meeting

Senator Monteiro made a motion to approve the minutes from the 6 May 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Senator Robertson. Motion approved.

IV Remarks from Dr. Ken Kitts, UNA President

President Kitts provided the following update:

- **Enrollment:**
 - Strong numbers; already in record territory six weeks before census; Provost Alexander will provide more detailed information in his report.
 - For now, will note this is welcome news in terms of our budget since 2/3 of all revenue is tied to enrollment.
- **Fall Activity in Montgomery:**
 - Special Session of the legislature likely for last week of October on redistricting; intriguing possibility of Florence moving into 4th Congressional District.
 - Also, possible special sessions on prison reform and/or lottery and gaming. Latter would be of direct interest to us as relates to distribution of new revenue.
 - Rep. Bill Poole moves from House to Finance Department; working to build good relationship with new WME Chair Danny Garrett and Vice Chair Joe Lovvorn.

- Year Five of Project 208: Stakes remain very high for UNA; special presentation being planned for next month for interested Faculty and Staff.
- **New Leadership in Athletics:**
 - Dr. Josh Looney began work as AD on September 1. Brief note on background.
 - Strong academic background and strong track record of academic performance at institutions he has served; committed to outreach across campus.
 - Note final year of transition to Div I and need to create new narrative for Athletics
- **Board of Trustees on Campus for Quarterly Meeting:**
 - Fortunate to have strong group of trustees who believe in shared governance and are champions for UNA in Project 208, leadership of new campaign, etc.
 - Proposed budget up for approval for FY 22 includes 3% COLA for all FT faculty and staff.
- **UNA's Reputation and Visibility:**
 - Annual USN&WR Rankings of colleges due out next week.
 - Dozens of organizations that purport to rank colleges; most are very suspect. USNWR is established and respected – good and broad gauge of how University's reputation is faring among peers across region and country
 - Top 20 for first time in 2019 at #19, then rise to #17 last year. Specific information embargoed at this point but stay tuned for good news!

V. Remarks from Dr. Ross Alexander, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Provost Alexander provided the following updates to the senate:

Enrollment

- **Record University enrollment** for Fall 2021—11th straight term
- Census date is October 29
 - Fall 2 new enrollees (+350-400 students)
- Closer to **9,000** than 8,500 for final Fall enrollment
- Over 9% increase to Freshman class
 - *Computing Excellence* scholars (double size of CSIS program and number of graduates)
 - Cole Honors College
 - Emphasis on **workforce-focused** programs that lead directly to job (CSIS, Nursing, Engineering, Business, but also Elementary Education, Social Work)
 - Targeted marketing, housing scholarships, meal plan scholarships, earlier packaging of financial aid
- Robust online graduate enrollment (one-third of student body)
 - Diversity of programmatic growth (across all colleges)
- Early College/Dual Enrollment gains—pathway to UNA matriculation as Freshman

FY22 Budget

- Planned 3% COLA for all employees (approx. \$2,000,000)
- Promotions (faculty and staff), move-to-midpoint for staff, position re-classifications, salary adjustments for faculty and staff, etc... (approx. \$1,000,000)

- New positions (almost all in Academics) (approx. \$1,500,000)
- Increases in scholarships (“standard” scholarships, “Computing Excellence,” “New Start,” international students, learning agreement partners, eSports, Bass Fishing, performance, etc...) (approx. \$3,000,000)
 - **Total: \$7,500,000**
- Open positions for FY22 (many fewer in Academics compared to FY21), miscellaneous cost mitigations strategies (CARES Act funds), etc...will offset approx. \$3,200,000
 - FY22 budget presented to BOT will contain a **\$4,300,000 deficit**

Academic Updates

Fall 2021 New Programs

- 1) Ph.D. in Exercise Science and Health Promotions (COEHS)
- 2) M.S. in Instructional Technology and Design (COEHS)
- 3) B.B.A. in Data Analytics (COBT)

New Programs in Development (next 18-24 months)

- 1) M.S. in Healthcare Management (online) (COBT)
- 2) Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) (online) (ACONHP)
- 3) MSN—Mental Health concentration (online) (ACONHP)
- 4) B.S. in Respiratory Care (ACONHP)
- 5) A.A.S. in Mechatronics (CASE)
- 6) A.A.S. in Culinary Arts (CASE)
- 7) A.A.S. in Hospitality Events Management (CASE)
- 8) Several micro-credentials across all colleges

Capital Projects

- **Computer Science and Mathematics Building** (October start; Summer 2023 completion)
- **Music Building** renovation and expansion (planning and design ongoing; 18-24-month completion timeline)
- LaGrange demolition; new residence hall for **Cole Honors College** (LaFayette renovations and international student use)
- **Human Performance Lab** completed
- Renovations to **541 W. College Street** for COBT use ongoing (Spring 2022 completion)
- **One-Stop Center** in Gunn Commons (Registrar, Student Accounts, Financial Aid) (Sept. 13 completion)—1st floor Gunn Commons during 2021-22 academic year

Miscellaneous

- Chinese Ministry of Education has given “preliminary approval” for the **Guizhou University-University of North Alabama International College of Engineering and Technology**, our collaboration with Guizhou University
 - **B.S. in Engineering Technology**
 - **M.S. in Applied Manufacturing Engineering**
 - **B.S. in Occupational Health Sciences**

- **B.S. in Sustainability**
- Final approval expected in approximately one month
- First cohorts of students in Fall 2022
- UNA faculty travel to China beginning in Fall 2023
- **OER Initiative** outpacing expectations and goals (Prof. Pate, Mr. McGee, and faculty leaders)

VI. Remarks from Dr. Jason Watson, Faculty Senate President

- President Watson asks that senators email his direct email (jwatson5@una.edu) rather than using the faculty senate president email address (facultysenatepres@una.edu).
- Due to the continued Covid-19 pandemic, faculty senate will meet via Zoom for the Fall 2021 semester.
- When possible, President Watson would like to vote of items that generate low or no discussion the same day that the items are brought forward rather than tabling the vote until the following month. Any items that need a delayed vote will be delayed to the following month's meeting.
- Senator McGee will be running the voting software for this year.

VII. Share Governance Committee Vacancy Elections

- Graphics Standards and Web Communications Committee (2021-2024 Faculty-At-Large)
 - Motion to close nomination by Senator Monteiro with a second by Senator Robertson. Mr. Daniel Leonar dos de Souza elected.
- Graphics Standards and Web Communications Committee (2019-2022 COEHS Faculty)
 - No nominations from COEHS so moved to Old Business and COEHS faculty asked to find a COEHS faculty to serve.
- Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee (2020-20223 Faculty-At-Large)
 - Motion to close nominations by Senator Malone and seconded by Senator L. Williams. Dr. Gary L. Padgett elected.
- Multicultural Advisory Committee (2020-2023 Nursing Faculty)
 - Motion to accept single nomination by Senator Blankinship and seconded by Dr. Alvarado-Brizuela. Ms. Vickie Green elected.
- Academic and Student Affairs Committee (2029-2022 COEHS Faculty)
 - No nominations from COEHS so moved to Old Business and COEHS faculty asked to find a COEHS faculty to serve.

VIII. Reports

Standing Committees

- Faculty Affairs – Proposal for Revisions to the Faculty Handbook Relative to the Selection Process for Department Chairs [Department of Visual Arts and Design (VAD) (F)] – Update posted until October 2021 meeting.
- Academic Affairs – Committee has not yet formed.
- Faculty Attitude Survey – Committee has not yet formed.
- Faculty Handbook Oversight – Committee has not yet formed.

IX. Old Business

- Proposal from the Technologies Advisory Committee for revisions to the Administrative Privileges and the Network Monitoring Policy (SGEC: FS/SS)
 - Motion to approve proposal as stated by Senator L. Williams and seconded by Senator Stovall. Vote to approve (Y:43/ N:0/ A:0)
- UNA Faculty Handbook updated with Bookmarks and Links (SGEC: FS)
 - Motion to approve as amended (discussion below) proposed by Senator Robertson and seconded by Senator Shremshock. Vote passes (Y:43/ N:0/ A:0).
 - Discussion: Corrections to wording proposed by Senator Maddox to clearly separate Collier Library and Information Services as ETS and the library are separate units (pg. 18/19) and to consistently use the title of University Librarian rather than Executive Director for Library (pg. 19).
 - Motion to append by Senator Maddox and seconded by Senator L. Williams.
 - Policy wording will be taken to Academic Affairs.
 - Senator Maddox proposed that Distance Learning and compensation change be discussed at October 2021 meeting.
- Proposal for Admissions Requirements Revisions (SGEC: ASA/FS/SGA)
 - Proposed changes would drop ATC requirement for Admissions.
 - Motion to approve by Senator Owens- Murphy and seconded by Senator Robertson. Vote passes (Y:36/ N:3/ A:1)
 - Discuss: Senator Stovall reported that Acuplacer (used by English) and ALEKS (used by Math) be included in application materials so that incoming students scores would be available for placement. Banner does not currently show placement exam score. Mr. Mitch Powell (Registrar) will create space in banner and require updates of all impacted courses as Acuplacer and ALEKS are recognized as official replacement tests. Senator Robertson asked who covers costs for Acuplacer and ALEKS. Ms. Julie Taylor (Admissions) and Mr. Powell said that most students cover the cost as these are low cost tests though perhaps scholarships could be offered for special cases. Senator Cottingham asked about biology placement exam with Ms. Taylor stating that it was to up each department to decide.
- Proposal for Scholastic Standards Revision to Academic Warning and Academic Probation (SGEC: ASA/FS/SGA)
 - Proposed change academic warning at 2.0 (for all students), probation (take less than 13hr), then suspension (for 1 semester) rather than currently used tier system which isn't followed by peer institutions.
 - Motion to approve made by Senator Stovall and seconded by Senator Monteiro. Vote to approve (Y:37/ N:1/ A:0).
 - Discussion: Mr. Powell addressed questions posed by Senators Owens-Murphy, Malone, Stoltz, Monteiro, Buckley, and Kirch to clarify active suspension (requires UNA105), the success of active suspension compared to suspension requiring students to not take classes for a semester, communication with students that they are on warning/ probation/ suspension, and second chance provision for returning students. Mr. Powell will provide numbers for active suspensions and probation as requested by Senator Kirch.

X. New Business

- Proposal for an Increase to the Department Chair Supplement (SGEC: FS)
 - Motion to approve proposal by Senator Alvarado-Brizuela and seconded by Senator Robertson. Vote to accept (Y:39, N:0, A:1).
 - Discussion by Senator Stovall as to when the increase would occur. The increase would occur next year.

XI. Information Items

- None

XII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn proposed by Senator Stovall and seconded by Senator Monteiro. Meeting adjourned at 5.13pm.