

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
December 8, 2005

The Faculty Senate of the University of North Alabama met December 8, 2005 in the Faculty/Staff Commons of the University Center at 3:30 p.m.

President Adams called the meeting to order and recognized Dr. Jerry Ferry, proxy for Senator Holley from Accounting.

President Cale and Vice-President Newson were present.

The following senators were present: Adams, Adler, Atkinson, Bates, Blose, Brewton, Bruce, Bunn, Fennell, Flowers, Ford, Gaston, Gossett, Green, Hallock, Leonard, Loew, Makowski, Martin, McDaniel, Myhan, Robinson, Roden, Takeuchi, Thorne, Turner, Wallace, Ward, Webb, and Williams.

The following senators were absent without proxy: Brown, Cai, Crisler, Davidson, Gaunder, Hunter-Mintz, Price, Richardson, and Rock.

Senator Flowers moved the adoption of the agenda. Senator Thorne seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Martin moved the approval of the November 17, 2005 minutes. Senator Green seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

President Cale reported that the Board of Trustees meeting will be held in the Faculty/Staff Commons. He also reported that the research universities are breaking away from the other institutions in the budget request for the Educational Trust Fund. He stated that spring enrollment is going well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Adams reported that Higher Education Day is set for March 2, 2006 in Montgomery. The University normally sends a bus with interested students. It is important that we send a large number since the governmental and legislative officials will be at the UNA meeting. He urged faculty not to plan an exam for that date. We need a strong showing to convince our legislators of our concerns. President Cale is taking a resolution to the Board of Trustees to declare this day Higher Education Day.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Committee Reports: none.
- B. Shared Governance Committee reports:
 - 1. Senator Makowski reported that the Shared Governance Committee is working with the science chairs concerning the new Science Building. They are also

- working with a compromise with the students concerning the Readmissions Committee.
2. Senator Blose reported that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee is awaiting further action on the attendance and withdrawal policy.
 3. Senator Adams reported that the Senate Executive Committee will report in January or February concerning the Tenure/Promotion Policy questions.
 4. Senator Blose reported that the Strategic Planning and Budget Committee is working on the Mission/Vision Statement. They are also working on requests for the nontechnical fee money.
- C. Senator Webb reported that the Vice President for Student Affairs Search Committee had received approximately thirty applicants and was conducting telephone interviews. Senator Blose reported that the Assistant Vice-President for Advancement Search Committee has a small but good pool of applicants and was also conducting telephone interviews.
- D. The resolution from the Academic Affairs Committee concerning the Attendance Policy was discussed. The University Catalog was quoted from page 51: "Each student is directly responsible to the individual professor for absences and for making up work missed. Particular policies and procedures on absences and makeup work are established for each class, are announced by the professor at the beginning of the term, and for excessive absences, may provide for appropriate penalties including reduction in grades or ultimate dismissal from class with a failing grade." Concern was expressed that if a faculty sets the attendance policy and gives a grade of F due to lack of attendance and then decisions are made for promotion and tenure based on the number of F's given. President Adams stated that the Senate Executive Committee is looking at that very issue. The resolution failed with a vote of 8-17. Senator Flowers moved that the attendance policy be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee to bring back language to discuss.
- E. Senator Makowski moved that the resolutions concerning the Withdrawal Policy and the Attendance Policy be referred back to the Academic Affairs Committee in order to coordinate and reconcile the wording of the two issues in the catalog. Senator Thorne seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- F. Vice-President Newson reported that he expected to work with the Faculty Affairs Committee with plans for developing a method of funding for the implementation of a Faculty Development Leave Policy. Other committees such as the Strategic Planning and Budget Committee should be consulted. Senator Makowski stated that the Faculty Affairs Committee has worked on a good policy which should be given to other committees to consider. Dr. Brent Elliot reported that he had received feedback and was looking at making more changes. President Adams reported that he had received concerns related to no mechanism for the plan if it makes an impact on a program and for allowing a department chair or dean to defer due to program impact. Senator Makowski urged these concerns could be addressed as it is sent to the Faculty/Staff Welfare Committee. Senator

Makowski moved the approval and forwarding of this policy to the Faculty/Staff Welfare Committee. Senator Webb seconded. The motion passed 27-0-1.

- G. Senator Loew presented a report from the ADA Task Force (See Attachment A). She stated that they need one more representative from nursing. Senator Blöse moved that approval of the policy as amended. Senator Makowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. President Adams needs to form a pool of faculty for the Grievance and Due Process Panels. He will solicit volunteers.
- B. A request from the Council of Academic Deans was presented.

“Recognizing that accrediting agencies require universities to demonstrate student learning outcomes, the Council of Academic Deans encourages the Faculty Senate to survey an array of Carnegie I public universities in the state, the region, and the nation to ascertain their expectations of effective teaching as stated in their faculty handbooks and other official documents provided to faculty members. The Council requests that the universities surveyed include some ranked in the top tier of Southern master’s level universities by *U. S. News and World Report*. The Council requests that copies of documents collected in the survey be shared with the Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Provost for distribution to deans and department chairs.”

Dr. Newson, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, stated that the sole criteria currently used to determine teaching effectiveness is student evaluation. Senator Robinson moved to refer the issue of methods of evaluating teaching effectiveness to the Senate Executive Committee. Senator Flowers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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