

Faculty Senate Minutes

October 10, 2024

Call to order:

A regular meeting of the University of North Alabama's Faculty Senate convened via MS Teams Video Conferencing at 3:30pm with President Hunt presiding.

I. Recognized Proxies

Mr. Jason McCall for Sen. Blaylock

Mr. Patrick Shremshock for Senator O'Neal

Members in attendance

Wael Al-Kouz, Lisa Ann Blankinship, Miranda Bowie, Charles Brooks, Keli Brothers, Danny Burton, Corey Cagle, Gabriela Carrasco, Justin Carter, Jian Chen, Freda Coleman-Reed, Helen Coronel, James DaSambiagio-Moore, Frank Diaz, Anissa Graham, Leah Graham, Mark Greer, Einar Gudmundsson, John Hodges, Rebecca Hopkins, Andrea Hunt, Jason Imbrogno, Ann-Marie Irons, Faith Kelley, Lauren Killen, Kelly Latchaw, Tom Lukowicz, Stephanie Montgomery, Andrea Nate, Gary Padgett, Andrew Potter, Chris Purser, Robert Rausch, Suzanne Reese Mills, Beverly Russell, Justin Scott, Angel Tomlinson, Darlene Townsend, Christina Volz-Stomackin, Wendy Wang, Gretchen Windt, Ping Zhao

Members not in attendance

Michael Conner

Members with proxies not in attendance

Dr. Heejoon Park for Ravi Gollapalli

Dr. Matthew Schoenbachler for Senator Makowski

II. Recognize guests

Dr. Doug Barrett, Dr. Gregory Carnes, Dr. Stephanie Coker, Dr. Amy Crews, Dr. Suzanne Duvall, Dr. Michael Floren, Dr. Sarah Franklin, Dr. Matthew Green, Dr. Cameron Gren, Dr. Felecia Harris, Dr. Scott Infanger, Dr. Chris Klein, Dr. Stacy Lee, Ms. Jennifer Maddox, Ms. Janna Malone, Dr. Matthew Price, Ms. Leigh Thompson, Dr. Claudia Vance, Mr. John Paul White, Ms. Lori Wright

III. Approval of the Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Sen. Carrasco and seconded by Sen. Carter. Motion was approved by raised hand (29Y: 0N).

IV. Approval of the Minutes from May, 2, 2024

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Sen. A. Graham and seconded by Sen. Brothers. Motion was approved by raised hand (33Y:0N).

V. Remarks from President Kitts

President Kitts provided updates to the Faculty Senate:

- Pres. Kitts will submit a recommendation for the formation of a work group for the Fine Arts building and possible renovations/ replacement of current facilities.
- UNA has been nationally recognized by U.S. News and World Report Rankings for 2024 as #12 in Public Regional Universities in the South and #11 in Best Colleges for Veterans and Honor Roll for Great Colleges to Work at by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*
- A meeting with VP Thornton and VP White and the Parking and Traffic Committee was recommended to address parking concerns on campus.
- Members of the Special Committee on Live Lions has been published in the Digest. Survey regarding opinions on live lions on campus has been released.
- Information was provided on the purpose, mission, and membership of the UNA Board of Trustees.

VI. Remarks from EVPAA/ Provost Smith

Provost Smith provided an update on the keys of excellence:

- Faculty development and attracting good faculty
- Community engagement to meet regional needs
- Student training and placement to meet regional needs
- Scholarship should be focused and intentional

Ms. Minnette Ellis serves as the Executive Director for University Priorities and helps to coordinate implementation of the strategic plan.

President Kitts and EVPAA Provost Smith answered questions from faculty senators regarding the summer pay grant cap, plans for the new Music and Fine Arts building and timeline, faculty line items and budgetary concerns. Metrics do exist to determine when rehiring can occur. Revenues from tuition alone do not cover all faculty and staff expenses and UNA is still the lowest funded school in Alabama but Project 208 is closing the gap on state funding.

VII. Remarks from Faculty Senate President Hunt

- FS President Hunt has reached out to Dr. Alvarado-Brizuela, chair of the Parking and Traffic Committee.
- SGEC continues its review of committee charges.
- FS President Hunt plans to create two ad hoc committee:
 - Ad Hoc Committee on the Constitution
 - Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Handbook Inquiries

VIII. Reports

a. Standing Committees

- i. Faculty Affairs (Sen. Hodges) – Committee is currently investigating how the parental leave, senior lecturer reappointment, and transition from lecturer to tenure track (Nursing) would look at departmental/ college levels.
- ii. Academic Affairs – no report
- iii. Faculty Attitude Survey – The committee has met.
- iv. Faculty Handbook Edit Oversight (Sen. Blankinship) – Motion to address graduation attendance was made by Sen. Carrasco, 2nd by Sen. Killen.

Discussion reflected that faculty attendance limits due to venue location seating limitations. FS President Hunt will look into seating limits.

XI. Unfinished Business

a. Update on Copyright Policy – A motion to approve revised policy was made by Sen Carter, 2nd by Sen. Carrasco. Vote (34Y:0N:1Abs). Motion passes.

b. Proposed Revision to Section 5.1 – Zero Credit Hour Policy – Background information provided by FS President Hunt included that the Zero Credit Hour Policy is a SACS requirement. Discussion. Sen. Carrasco motioned to send the policy to Academic Affairs Committee for further review. Seconded by Sen. Brothers. Vote (35Y:0N:0Abs). Motion passes.

c. Travel and per diem – Sen. Carter motions that this issue be sent to Faculty Affairs Committee for further review. Seconded by Sen. L. Graham. Vote (33Y:0N:2Abs). Motion passes.

d. ACT scores for admissions – Sen. A. Graham made a motion to discuss this issue. Seconded by Sen. Killen. Discussion. Sen. Carrasco made motion to send to Academic Affairs. Seconded by Sen. Carter. Vote (35Y:0N:0Abs). Motion passes.

X. New Business

- a. Proposed Revisions to the Policies for Grants and Sponsored Programs (proposed by the Division of Grants and Sponsored Programs, approved by COAD on 9.16.24) – A motion to open to discussion was made by Sen. Montgomery with a second by Sen. Coronel. Discussion. A motion to remove the summer pay cap from grants and return the policy to Grants and Sponsored Programs was made by Sen. Lukowicz, seconded by Sen. Potter (35Y:0N:0Abs). Motion passes.
- b. UTP Committee clarification -UTP has asked for clarification on UTP members serving on both departmental and University level committees. Sen. Carter made a motion to send this to Faculty Affairs. Motion seconded by Sen. Burton. Vote (35Y:0N:0Abs). Motion passes.
- c. Section 3.2.2 of the Faculty Handbook
 - i. Clarification on credit hour and contact hour calculations
 - ii. Under-load or overload in one semester affecting faculty teaching load in the next semester.

A motion to consider was made by Sen. A. Graham and seconded by Sen. Proxy McCall. Discussion. Sen. Carrasco made a motion to send the item to Faculty Affairs. Motion seconded by Sen. Cater. Vote (30Y:0N:5Abs). Motion passes.

XI. Information Items

- a. Faculty Senate Survey – at least one more volunteer is needed
- b. Creation of an Ad Hoc Committee on the Constitution
- c. Creation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Handbook Inquiries

XII. Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn at 5:05pm by Sen. Carrasco and seconded by Sen. A. Graham. Vote. (35Y:0N:0Abs)