

Faculty Senate Minutes
November 14, 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

Ms. Pam Kelley for Senator Hodges
Mr. Patrick Shremshock for Senator O'Neal
Dr. Barry Cumbie for Senator Carter

Members in attendance

Wael Al-Kouz, Lisa Ann Blankinship, Sidney Blaylock, Miranda Bowie, Charles Brooks, Keli Brothers, Danny Burton, Corey Cagle, Gabriela Carrasco, Jian Chen, Freda Coleman-Reed, Helen Coronel, James DaSambaggio-Moore, Frank Diaz, Ravi Gollapalli, Anissa Graham, Leah Graham, Mark Greer, Einar Gudmundsson, Rebecca Hopkins, Andrea Hunt, Jason Imbrogno, Ann-Marie Irons, Faith Kelley, Lauren Killen, Kelly Latchaw, Tom Lukowicz, George Makowski, Andrea Nate, Gary Padgett, 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

Jason McCann, Stephanie Montgomery, Andrew Potter

II. Recognize guests

Ms. Candace Arnold, Ms. Hope Buckley, Ms. Butler, Dr. Gregory Carnes, Dr. Amy Crews, Dr. Lorie Johnson, Dr. Chris Klein, Dr. John LeMay, Dr. Rickey McCreless, Ms. Tammy Rhodes, Ms. Leigh Stanfield, Ms. Jennifer Thornton

III. Approval of the Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Sen. Coleman-Reed and seconded by Sen. Bowie. Motion was approved by raised hand (27Y: 1N). Motion passes.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from October 10, 2024

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Sen. L. Graham and seconded by Sen. Proxy Shremshock. Motion was approved by raised hand (32Y:0N). Motion passes.

V. Remarks from President Kitts

President Kitts provided updates to the Faculty Senate:

- Pres. Kitts commented on the turnout at the Budget meeting held 11.13.24 and noted that the Budget meeting was the start of a conversation. The conversation will continue in a series of Coffee with the CFO beginning at 7:30am on 11.25.24.
- Pres. Kitts will continue to meet with representatives and committee members in Montgomery regarding funding for the FY2026 budget.

- A reminder that November begins Alabama’s second tornado season was made. The University has recently adopted a color code system rather than “Hy-Flex” to match the National Weather Service. The policy is located on the University’s Policies, Guidelines, and University Statements website.
- The Alabama Supreme Court will meet on UNA’s campus in early April to hear oral arguments.
- Winter Commencement ceremonies will be held on Friday, 12.13.24 for ACONHP and COEHS (speaker Dr. Sharon Holley, alumna and director of the nurse-midwife program at UAB). Ceremonies for CASE and SCOBT will be held on Saturday, 12.14.24 with speaker Kerry Underwood, alumnus and Representative for Alabama House District 3.

VI. Remarks from EVPAA/ Provost Smith

Provost Smith has now met with all colleges and some departments.

He notes that Fall enrollment (10,631 students) shows a 1% growth.

Graduate rates are 40% for 4-year gradation and 57% for 6-year graduation.

Both Education and Nursing perform very well on their respective licensing exams post-graduation.

VII. Remarks from Faculty Senate President Hunt

- Thanks for attending the Budget meeting. 123 questions were submitted before the meeting and an additional 28 during the meeting.
- The Faculty Senate Constitution Ad Hoc committee has met and is currently reviewing received questions
- Senators Nate, Wang, and Carrasco have formed the Faculty Senate Survey committee and are currently working on survey questions.
- Staff Senate President Jeremy Martin is currently reviewing questions related to health benefits. Please reach out to him if you have questions/ concerns related to this matter.
- Alumni relations is hosting a celebration on Monday, 11.18.24 at 11:30am to celebrate the lives of Leo III, Una, and the Howards.
- There are 20 faculty seats at each graduation ceremony. How these seats are divided among faculty is decided by each College.
- Our next faculty meeting is Thursday, 12.5.24 at 3:30pm.

VIII. Reports

a. Standing Committees

i. Faculty Affairs (Sen. Scott)

- 1) Parental leave policy – Currently gather info as this policy varies by department/ college and has only been used a few times.
- 2) Senior lecturer promotion – Gathering info.
- 3) Travel and per diem – Sen. Hodges is working with the Business office, no update at this time.
- 4) UTP Committee clarification – The committee recommends that faculty serving on a higher level recuse themselves if they voted at a lower level. Motion to accept made by Sen. Makowski, 2nd by Sen.

Carrasco. Discussion. The committee membership is made up of 9 people so if one person recuses themselves it could produce an even vote. Recusing should occur at either department level or UTP level rather than having a double vote. Vote by raised hand (34Y:5N).

Motion passes.

- 5) Section 3.2.2. of the Faculty Handbook – Gathering information.
 - a. Clarification on credit hour and contact hour calculations
 - b. Under-load or overload in one semester affecting faculty teaching load in the next semester
- ii. Academic Affairs – Items are reported on in IX. Unfinished Business
- iii. Faculty Attitude Survey – The committee is reviewing data from the 2024FAS and currently editing questions for the 2025FAS.
- iv. Faculty Handbook Edit Oversight (Sen. Blankinship) – No updates.

IX. Unfinished Business

- a. Proposed Revision to Section 5.1 – Zero Credit Hour Policy – Motion to accept the proposal made by Sen. Carrasco, 2nd by Sen. L. Graham. Discussion. Vote by raised hand (33Y:1N:0Abs). Motion passes.
- b. Proposed Revisions to the Policies for Grants and Sponsored Programs (Division of Grants and Sponsored Programs: COAD: FS) – Current cap is 33% with a proposal to increase to a 50% cap. This cap can be increased if needed. Motion to accept the increase to 50% cap made by Sen. Scott, 2nd Sen. Makowski. Vote by raised hands (38Y:1N) Motion passes.

X. New Business

- a. Revised Free Speech and Assembly Policy (Policy Environment Task Force) – On 7.30.24, the Executive Council approved an interim policy until it could be approved through the shared governance process and by the Board of Trustees; revised policy approved by the Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) Committee on 9.24.24. Motion to accept the policy made by Sen. Makowski, 2nd Sen. Scott. Discussion. Motion to pass by acclamation by Sen. L. Graham. None opposed by raised hand. Motion passes.
- b. Proposal for an AI Policy and Guidelines document – Motion to consider proposal made by Sen. Carrasco, 2nd Sen. A. Graham. Discussion. Sen. A. Graham answered questions related to the proposed policy as she served on the committee. Sen. L. Graham asked to table the discussion until December 2024 meeting, 2nd Sen. A. Graham.
- c. Issues accessing Google Drive – Motion to accept for discussion made by Sen. Carrasco, 2nd by Sen. Scott. Sen. Proxy Cumbie noted that a network change occurring around 10.7.24 has removed access to Google Suite and limited wifi calling on campus for mobile devices. Sen. Burton asks that the concern be referred to Academic Affairs to investigate the issue. 2nd Sen. L. Graham. Vote by raised hand (34Y:0N). Motion passes.

XI. Information Items

- a. ACT scores for admission – FS Pres. Hunt is currently discussing this with Provost Smith.
- b. Faculty Senate Emerging Leaders Program (Sen. Killen) – The program will run Jan. to Dec. and applications will soon be accepted.

XII. Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn at 4:46pm by Sen. Bowie and seconded by Sen. A. Graham.
Motion passes by acclamation.