

## **Faculty Senate Minutes**

September 11, 2025

### **Call to order:**

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

### **Members in attendance**

Jackie Allen, Lisa Ann Blankinship, Sidney Blaylock, Miranda Bowie, Charles Brooks, Keli Brothers, Danny Burton, Corey Cagle, Justin Carter, Freda Coleman-Reed, James DaSambiagio-Moore, Jenny Dawson, Ravi Gollapalli, Anissa Graham, Leah Graham, Einar Gudmundsson, John Hodges, Rebecca Hopkins, Andrea Hunt, Jason Imbrogno, Lorie Johnson, Kelly Latchaw, Mark Linder, Melanie Looser, Tom Lukowicz, Ashley Molina, Andrea Nate, Brent Olive, Steven Puckett, Chris Purser, Candice Quinn, Suzanne Reese Mills, Robert Rausch, Beverly Russell, Matthew Schoenbachler, Justin Scott, Darlene Townsend, Gretchen Windt, Ping Zhao, Rui Zhou

### **Members not in attendance**

Argie Campbell, Stephanie Montgomery

### **I. Recognized Proxies**

Dr. Sabrina Stanley for Sen. Padgett

Dr. Jian Chen for Sen. Pretes

MSG Tyler Marks (absent) for Sen. McCann

### **II. Recognize guests**

Ms. Payten Perry

### **III. Approval of the Agenda**

A motion to approve the agenda by acclamation was made by FS President Carter. Approved.

### **IV. Approval of the Minutes from May 1, 2025**

A motion to approve the minutes by acclamation was made by FS President Carter. Approved.

### **V. Remarks from Dr. Ken Kitts, President**

- The Board of Trustees is currently on campus for their quarterly meeting (9.11.25-9.12.25). FY26 budget will be reviewed at this meeting.
- Currently there are no vacant positions being held.
- Pres. Kitts has requested a COLA for faculty and staff in FY26 budget.
- Location elections (8.26.25) produced greater turn over with a new Florence City Council (November) and four new mayors within the Quad Cities. Impacts of local elections:
  - Town and Gown relations
  - Pine Street safety upgrades
  - Stadium partnership
- Alabama state elections – 2026 will be a major year for state level elections.

- UNA was appointed to the highest level for the Opportunity Colleges and Universities: Higher Access, Higher Earnings (Carnegie Foundation, American Council on Education)

## **VI. Remarks from Dr. Brien Smith, Provost/ EVPAA**

- Provost Smith was detained at a BOT meeting and will provide updates at the end of Faculty Senate. Motion to amend the agenda was made by Sen. L. Graham, seconded by Sen. Hunt. [Vote: 34Y: 0N]

## **VII. Remarks from Dr. Justin Carter, Faculty Senate President**

- An ad hoc group for ACT score review met over the summer.
- Faculty Attitude Survey Committee is currently drafting a report to submit to Faculty Senate.

## **VIII. Reports**

- a. Standing Committees
  - i. Faculty Affairs (Sen. Hodges) – Meeting on 9.15.25
  - ii. Academic Affairs – no report
  - iii. Faculty Attitude Survey – no report
  - iv. Faculty Handbook Oversight Committee (Sen. Lukowicz) – no report
- b. Ad hoc committees
  - i. Credit Hour Policy (Sen. Hunt) – The committee met over the summer and is currently collecting data.

## **IX. Unfinished Business**

None.

## **X. New Business**

- a. Shared Governance Committee Vacancies
  - i. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee – replacement for Dr. Vicki Howell (COEHS) – Dr. Mary Ann Parker and Mr. Thomas Pratt were nominated. Motion to move voting to electronic ballot made by Sen. Linder. Motion withdrawn as no motion was needed per Parliamentarian L. Graham. Voting for this position will be conducted by email.
  - ii. Academic and Student Affairs Committee – replacement for Dr. Nikki Davenport (ACONHP) – Dr. LaKeva Harris elected. [Vote: 32Y: 0N]
  - iii. Institutional Review Board – nomination needed for Kinesiology representative (2025-2028 term) – Dr. Lee Renfroe elected by acclamation.
- b. Approval of Handbook edit from COAD and the Committee on Senior Lecturers'
  - i. 1. Organization and Administration – Editorial changes made in sections 1.2 and 1.3. Motion to approve was made by Sen. Scott, seconded by Sen. Nate. [Vote: 27Y:0N]. Motion passes.

- ii. 2.2 Non-Discrimination, 2.3 Nepotism – Motion to approve was made by Sen. Scott, seconded by Sen. L. Graham. Discussion. Motion withdrawn. Tabled with a request for permeant language and functional links.
- iii. 2.4 Faculty Search and Selection Procedures – A motion to accept was made by Sen. Puckett, seconded by Sen. Blaylock. Discussion. Motion withdrawn. Second motion made by Sen. Lukowicz, seconded by Sen. Bowie to send back for edits and non-functional links. [Vote: 34Y:0N]
- iv. 2.5 Types of Appointments – Motion to approve as presented made by Sen. Hunt, seconded by Sen. Scott. No discussion. [Vote: 33Y:0N] Motion passes.
- v. 2.6.4 Procedure for Promotion and/or Tenure – Motion to approve made by Sen. Hunt, seconded by Sen. Looser. Discussion. Friendly amendment to update link to Sec. 2.6.5 rather than Sect. 2.6.4. [Vote: 32Y:1N] Approved as edited.
- vi. 2.7.3 Campus Clearance – Motion to approve by Sen. Scott, seconded by Sen. Bowie. No discussion. [Vote: 32Y:0N] Motion passes.
- vii. 2.10 Faculty Records & 2.11 Application of Handbook – Motion to approve was made by Sen. Scott, seconded by Sen. Lukowicz. No discussion. [Vote: 35Y:0N] Motion passes.
- viii. 3.2.4 Department Chairperson – Motion to approve was made by Sen. Scott, seconded by Sen. Townsend. Discussion. Motion withdrawn. New motion to table until updates are available with a request to provide a summary of comments to originating body was made by Sen. L. Graham, seconded by Sen. Hunt. [Vote: 32Y:0N]
- ix. 3.12 Leave of Absence – Motion to approve was made by Sen. Scott, seconded by Sen. Hunt. No discussion. [Vote: 32Y:0N]. Motion passes.
- x. 4.1.1. Full-Time Faculty – Motion to approve was made by Sen. Bowie, seconded by Sen. Scott. Discussion. [Vote: 31Y:0N]
- xi. Appendix 2.A – Motion to approve was made by Sen. Scott, seconded by Sen. Linder. Discussion. [Vote: 23Y:10N] Motion passes.
- xii. Appendix 2.E – Motion to approve was made by Sen. Hunt, seconded by Sen. Scott. [Vote: 30Y:0N] Motion passes

**VI. Remarks from Dr. Brien Smith, Provost/ EVPAA** [Moved from earlier in the agenda due to schedule conflict.]

- Enrollment is expected to be 10,600-10,800 by census date, demonstrating sustainable growth.
- Dr. Sarah Franklin, Associate Provost for Academic Excellence, is leading in establishing a Teaching and Learning Center which will expand on faculty research, OER, support with teaching excellence, and curriculum development.
- Dr. Matthew Price has been appointed as Director for Research Advancement, Compliance & Premier Awards.
- Dr. Hunter Waldman, current IRB chair, is working with Dr. Sarah Franklin on streamlining the IRB process. IRB now has monthly submission deadline.

## **XII. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Sen. A. Graham, seconded by Sen. L. Graham.  
Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.