

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

April 11, 2019

Call to order:

A regular meeting of the Faculty Senate of the University of North Alabama convened in room 330 of the Gunn University Commons on April 11, 2019 at 3:30pm. with President Infanger presiding.

I. Presentation from Schneider Electric:

Mr. Todd Smith, a representative from Schneider Electric, made a brief presentation to the Faculty Senate and discussed an energy savings contract between UNA and Schneider Electric. This contract aims to address multiple strategies all designed to produce costs savings for UNA that would otherwise go into conventional utilities costs. Ideally, money saved from campus-wide efficiency improvements (e.g., windows, lighting, building sealing, centralized control of energy usage, etc.) could amount to approximately one million dollars annually (currently UNA spends approximately four million annually on utilities). Financial savings can then address other priorities at UNA.

II. Proxies:

President Infanger recognized the following proxies:

Karla Zelaya for Katie Owens-Murphy (Department of English).

Members in attendance:

Trudy Abel, Aaron Benson, Tabitha Blasingame, Chandler Bridges, Cory Cagle, Lisa Clayton, Amanda Coffman, Sarah Franklin, Leah Graham, Daniel Hallock, Felecia Harris, John Hodges, Scott Infanger, Ian Loeppky, Thomas Lukowicz, Glenn Marvin, Rachel McKelvey, Janet McMullen, Katie Owens-Murphy, Eric O'Neal, Gary Padgett, Cheryl Price, Ansley Quiros, Lee Renfroe, Terry Richardson, Craig Robertson, Jessica Stovall, Jillian Stupiansky, Mark Terwilliger, Brian Thompson, Jason Watson, Laura Williams, Pete Williams, Rachel Winston and Ryan Zayac. President Kitts and Dr. Kimberly Greenway also attended.

Members not in attendance (without proxy): Trudy Abel (Department of Elementary Education), Chandler Bridges (Department of Entertainment Industry), Tim Butler (Department of Management and Marketing), John Hodges (Department of Social Work), Brian Thompson (Department of Physics and Earth Science), and Pete Williams (Department of Economics and Finance).

III. Approval of agenda:

President Infanger requested the Senate review and accept an amended agenda for the April 11th meeting as there was no report from the Faculty Affairs Committee related to revised proposals for Section 2.5.3 of the Faculty Handbook (Section VII of the Agenda).

Senator Richardson moved to approve the amended agenda and Senator Zayac seconded the motion. The Faculty Senate approved the amended agenda.

IV. Approval of minutes:

The minutes from the March 14th Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

V. Remarks from President Kitts:

President Kitts began his remarks by discussion Spring, 19 enrollment data. Both student enrollment and CHP production are up over Spring, 18 by 3.2%. The Spring, 19 student headcount is a new record of 7,053.

The higher education budgetary process for fiscal year 2020 is ongoing with deliberations in the Senate likely conforming to Governor Ivy's recommendations. This bodes well for UNA as we might see an 8.5% increase in new money (approximately 2.5 million dollars). We expect closure on FY 20 budgetary matters by late May or early June.

President Kitts then turned his attention to efforts to strengthen student media at UNA and reengage with the College Media Association (CMA). A Student Media Task Force has been empaneled and is active. Members of the task force include: Ms. Stephanie Montgomery, Dr. Leah Graham, Dr. Sarah Franklin, Dr. Tim Butler, Ms. Jennifer Pate, Dr. Sara Lynn Baird and Dr. Butler Cain. The task force will work with an out-of-state consultant to develop strategies.

Relatedly, the President discussed UNA's new Media Contact Statement. A draft statement, modeled after media contact statement from other organization, including the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), has been developed. It reads as follows: *It is the University of North Alabama's long-standing position and practice to have a constructive relationship with reporters and provide them with accurate information. Please direct all media inquiries to the Director of Communications and Marketing, media@una.edu, 256-765-4392.* President Kitts and the EC welcome feedback on the draft statement.

The President concluded his remarks by discussing the need for additional security (e.g., cameras and gates) at the President's home on the UNA campus. Recent incidents have given rise to concerns regarding privacy and security for the home's occupants.

VI. Remarks from Faculty Senate President Scott Infanger

President Infanger began his comments by encouraging Senators to remind their colleagues to participate in the ongoing Faculty Attitude Survey.

President Infanger then discussed an upcoming Lunch and Learn (April 23rd) for faculty/staff to learn more about SONOCENT software. This software is designed to assist students who experience difficulty taking class notes. Such students are at increased risk of academic failure. SONOCENT is note-taking technology based on class recordings which allow student to revisit lectures so as to reinforce understanding. Faculty may have genuine and valid concerns regarding how this technology and the recordings may affect them.

He concluded his remarks by discussing attempts to beta test a new application to assist the Faculty Senate in voting.

VII. Standing Committee Reports

A. Faculty Affairs Committee

1. Combined revision proposals to FH Section 2.5.3

This item was removed from the April 11th meeting agenda

VIII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business

IX. New Business

A. Election of Faculty Senate Nominating Committee

The Faculty Senate Nominating Committee works to identify nominees for the next academic year to fill the following positions: Faculty Senate President-Elect, Faculty Senate Secretary, and two Faculty Senate Executive Committee Board Members.

Senator Graham was nominated for position 1 and elected by acclamation.
Senator Coffman was nominated for position 2 and elected by acclamation.
Senator Zayac was nominated for position 3 and elected by acclamation.

B. Proposal to Alter Existing Freshman Commuter Parking Policy

See Appendix A.

Senator Franklin moved to discuss the proposal and Senator Stovall seconded the motion.

Ms. Kayla Walton, a UNA SGA Senator and originator of the proposal, was invited to discuss the proposal.

Discussion on this proposal focused on a number of ideas such as why designated parking was even needed, whether UNA had sufficient spaces to absorb an influx of new commuters, and whether having more cars on campus would mean an increased likelihood of faculty parking spots being taken by students.

Senator McMullen made a motion to send the policy to the Parking and Traffic Committee for further study. Senator Richardson seconded the motion.

After further discussion, an amendment to initial was made to send the policy back to the Parking and Traffic Committee for further review and to develop a survey of graduate and undergraduate students related to this issue.

Senator McMullen called the question. A vote was taken with 10 votes in favor of the amended motion, 8 votes in opposition, and 12 abstentions.

An additional motion was made to amend the amended motion so the survey would be sent to all parking permit holders.

Senator Richardson moved to call the question with Senator Robertson seconding the motion.

A vote was taken with 19 votes in favor of the amended motion, 1 vote in opposition and 8 abstentions.

C. Proposal to Establish a Standing Faculty Handbook Edit Oversight Committee

See Appendix B.

If accepted, the Faculty Handbook Edit Oversight Committee would be the fourth Standing Committee of the Faculty Senate.

Senator Franklin moved to accept the proposal and Senator Richardson seconded the motion.

There was no discussion.

The proposal to establish the Faculty Handbook Edit Oversight Committee as a Faculty Senate Standing Committee passed.

D. Resolution regarding Shared Governance Committee statements

See Appendix C.

Senator Graham made the motion to consider, informally, the proposed resolution. Senator Franklin seconded the motion.

Discussion concerning this proposal was largely focused on whether it would have negative effects on speech across faculty, staff, and committee lines. Other comments expressed the need for such a resolution so as to confirm the primacy of the Student Government Association, the Staff Senate, and the Faculty Senate as the primary approving bodies for university policy. In short, the discussion was oriented around the need for further study to carefully examine language employed in the resolution to ensure it would not limit free speech.

Senator Robertson moved to accept the resolution and Senator Richardson seconded the motion.

After further discussion, a secondary motion was made to move the proposed resolution to the Faculty Senate's Faculty Affairs Committee. Senator McGee made the motion which was seconded by Senator Graham.

Senator McMullen called the question and a vote was taken. The secondary motion was approved and the resolution will be sent to the Faculty Affairs Committee for further study.

E. Free Speech and Assembly Policy Proposal

See Appendix D.

A motion to accept the policy was made by Senator McGee and seconded by Senator Renfroe.

The Free Speech and Assembly Policy Proposal was approved.

X. Information Items

A. Recognize Senators whose terms expire this year (April 30)

The Senators were thanked for their service to the Faculty Senate and the University. Replacements for the Senators should be forwarded to President Infanger.

B. May Faculty Senate election meeting will be held on May 2.

XI. Adjourn

The Faculty Senate's meeting adjourned at 5:46pm.

Appendix A

Proposal to alter the existing Freshman Commuter Parking Policy



MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Amber Paulk, Chair, Shared Governance Executive

Committee From: Dr. Whitney O'Neal, Chair, Parking and Traffic

Committee

Date: March 1, 2019

Enclosed with this memorandum is a proposal from the Parking and Traffic Committee for a revised Freshman Commuter Parking Policy. This proposal was approved by a unanimous vote of the committee and is provided for consideration by the Shared Governance Executive Committee.



MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Amber Paulk, Chair, Shared Governance Executive

Committee From: Dr. Whitney O'Neal, Chair, Parking and Traffic

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Date: March 1, 2019

Enclosed with this memorandum is a proposal from the Parking and Traffic Committee for a revised Freshman Commuter Parking Policy. This proposal was approved by a unanimous vote of the committee and is provided for consideration by the Shared Governance Executive Committee.

The current UNA transit (Freshman Commuter) policy states that "The University requires all freshman commuters to park off campus and utilize the University bus system. We offer several park and ride lots to board the buses to campus. Your only other option is to park off campus on the city streets."

The Parking and Traffic Committee proposes that we allow Freshman Commuters to park on campus in the same parking lots as all other student commuters. Therefore, the Freshman Commuter policy would be eliminated and all student commuters would abide by the Commuter policy which states that they "park in designated WHITE zone spaces only."

Appendix B

Proposal to establish a standing Faculty Handbook Edit Oversight Committee

Based on the bylaws set forth in the Faculty Senate Constitution, Article VI. Section D. which states:

The Senate shall: [...] (2) establish such Senate committees as it deems desirable [...]

I submit to the Senate the following proposal to establish a fifth standing committee to serve the Faculty Senate as the Faculty Handbook Edit Oversight Committee, which will be appointed in the same manner and serve for the same length of time as the other four standing committees already established in the Faculty Senate Constitution.

The charge of this committee will read:

e. Faculty Handbook Edit Oversight Committee -- this committee shall consist of three members including a Chairperson; its duties shall consist of coordinating and reconciling all edits to the Faculty Handbook as approved by the Faculty Senate and through the shared governance process with the appropriate administrative assistant assigned this responsibility by the VPAA/Provost. This committee will reconcile all edits made to the Faculty Handbook during the academic year with the existing official Faculty Handbook and approve an updated, official Faculty Handbook as published by the Office of the VPAA/Provost by May 31 of each year.

If approved by the Faculty Senate, in accordance with Article VIII, Section B. this new committee will be listed as Article VI. Section G. Subsection 1-e. The current VIII; B, 1-e will become 1-f and the current 1-f will become 1-g.

Appendix C

Resolution regarding Shared Governance Committee Statements

Resolution on Statements Provided by Shared Governance System Committees

WHEREAS, the three main constituencies of stakeholders of the University are the Faculty, Staff, and Students; and

WHEREAS, the three constituencies have their own respective governing bodies in the Faculty Senate, the Staff Senate, and the Student Government Association (SGA) that operate under constitutions and bylaws adopted and approved by those constituent groups; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate and Student Government Association serve as the sole representative bodies and voice for each of their respective constituents; and

WHEREAS, the Shared Governance System at UNA was created for the legitimate involvement of the three main constituent bodies in the planning and decision-making processes of the University; and

WHEREAS, the Shared Governance System at UNA is used as a means of university management in which each of the three main constituents in the university community participates in policy and decision making in the areas of strategic and budget planning, faculty and staff welfare, selection and retention of academic and administrative officers, campus planning and development, and organizational accountability; and

WHEREAS, the role of Shared Governance is to ensure that UNA jointly involves faculty, staff, students, and administration in the development of university policies; and

WHEREAS, the Shared Governance Committees, including the Shared Governance Executive Committee, are advisory and not governing bodies or committees; and

WHEREAS, the role of Shared Governance Committees, including the Shared Governance Executive Committee, is limited to the communication of deliberations and findings related to the development of university policies to the President, and after discussion with the President, to the university community; and

WHEREAS, the membership of all Shared Governance Committees is appointed by the President of the University and do not serve as representative bodies of the three main constituents; and

WHEREAS, the presidents of the respective senates are by-position members of the Shared Governance Executive Committee and serve at the will of their constituencies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That all Shared Governance Committees shall refrain from making any statement, public or private, either for or against any administrator, administrative body or administrative action or position; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the presidents of the faculty, staff, and student senates shall not sign any statement from a Shared Governance Committee without the express consenting vote of their respective senates; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the campus community, including the UNA Board of Trustees, be notified that any statement made by the Shared Governance Executive Committee or any other Shared Governance Committee outside the expressed role of the Shared Governance System, does not represent the campus community, its three governing bodies, or the constituents these bodies represent; and be it

DECLARED, That this resolution, once ratified by the three governing bodies, be added to the Shared Governance Document.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2019.

Signed:

_____ (Faculty Senate President)

_____ (Staff Senate President)

_____ (Student Government Association President)



Office of the Vice President for
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS and PROVOST

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Kevin L. Jacques, Chair
Academic and Student Affairs Committee

From: Dr. Amber L. Paulk, Chair AP
Shared Governance Executive Committee

Date: March 19, 2019

As you are aware, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approved a Free Speech and Assembly Policy proposal as a replacement of the Campus Speakers Policy. However, that proposal met with objection from the Faculty Senate. The Shared Governance Executive Committee determined that the differences were irreconcilable and returned the proposal to the Originator. Dr. Kimberly Greenway met with the Faculty Senate relative to its concerns and has proposed a revised policy for consideration. At its meeting yesterday, the Shared Governance Executive Committee determined all constituent groups should review this proposal, beginning with the ASA Committee followed by all three Senates. Therefore, please inform me of the outcome of this review with a copy to Renee' Vandiver. Thank you.

rv
Enclosures

March 7, 2019

Memorandum

To: Shared Governance Executive Committee

From: Dr. Kimberly A. Greenway
Vice President for Student Affairs

Re: Revised Free Speech and Assembly Policy

Please find attached a revised draft of the previously proposed UNA Free Speech and Assembly Policy to be considered as replacement of the current UNA [Campus Speakers Policy](#). This policy draft is revised from the previous draft submitted to the Shared Governance Executive Committee in October of 2015. The previous draft was approved by the Staff Senate and Student Government Association, but was not approved by the Faculty Senate.

After the Faculty Senate did not approve the previously drafted policy, I was invited to the February 14, 2019 Faculty Senate meeting to discuss the proposed policy and to answer questions. Some Faculty Senate members were specifically concerned that the phrase, "To dissent, to disagree with generally accepted truth and knowledge is acceptable" might be misinterpreted and used in promotion of personal far right or far left agendas.

Based on input expressed in the Faculty Senate meeting, the proposed policy was revised to exclude the noted phrase of concern and was reviewed by General Counsel, Amber Fite-Morgan. The exclusion of the phrase addresses the expressed concern but does not affect protection of free speech and does not change the spirit of the proposed policy.

As such, please consider this as a formal request for appropriate action by the Shared Governance Executive Committee to move the revised draft policy forward as replacement of the existing Campus Speakers Policy. If appropriate, please also inform each reviewing body that Ms. Fite-Morgan and I will be glad to answer additional questions and/or attend meetings to discuss the proposed policy before it goes to a vote.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you need additional information.

KAG

FREE SPEECH AND ASSEMBLY POLICY

The University of North Alabama recognizes that in the community of scholars there are certain indisputable rights to freedom of inquiry, freedom of thought, and freedom of expression. The university encourages the search for truth and knowledge and does not abridge searchers' rights to reveal their findings, by both spoken and written word, even if in so doing they might find themselves at variance with their peers as well as the lay community. ~~To dissent, to disagree with generally accepted truth and knowledge is acceptable.~~ The university also stands for the right of all the university community to pursue their legitimate activities without interference, intimidation, coercion, or disruption. The university will protect the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition, and peaceful assembly and affirms all rights and freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States.

PROCEDURE

Reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions will be enforced. However, the enforcement will not depend, in any way, on the subject matter involved in an expressive activity. It is strongly suggested that all activities be registered with the appropriate office based on the building you are intending to reserve in advance in order to make adequate arrangements for safety and security and to insure the space desired is available. Information can be found at Office of University Center Operations and Event Management located in GUC 107.

The University of North Alabama provides forums for the expression of ideas and opinions, such as the following:

1. Traditional public forums include the university's public streets, sidewalks, parks, and similar common areas such as the grass and sidewalk around the Amphitheater. These areas are generally available for non-amplified expressive activity, planned or spontaneous, for the individual or small group at any time without the need for reservation or prior approval, unless the space is already scheduled.
2. Designated public forums include other parts of the campus that may become temporarily available for non-amplified expressive activity as designated by the university. Examples of designated forums include parking lots and athletic fields.
3. Non-public forums are areas that are not traditional public forums or designated public forums. These locations will be restricted to use for their intended purpose and are typically not available for public expressive activity. Examples include, but are not limited to, classrooms, residence halls, faculty and staff offices, academic buildings, administration buildings, medical treatment facilities, libraries, research and computer labs, and private residential housing on campus.
4. Additionally, security considerations may affect the availability of spaces that would otherwise be available.

Disruptive activities will not be allowed. The university has defined a disruptive activity as any action by an individual, group, or organization to impede, interrupt, interfere with or disturb the holding of classes, the conduct of the university business, or the authorized scheduled events and activities of any and all segments of the university. Furthermore, any activity that incites imminent lawless action or that triggers an automatic violent response will be considered disruptive. In addition to any potential criminal penalties, students engaging in disruptive activities will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct, and employees will be referred to Human Resources.

GUIDELINES

1. Registered university organizations and university departments may display signs and banners at designated locations on campus. For information regarding these designated locations, contact the Office of University Center Operations and Event Management located in GUC 107.
2. Literature can be distributed in public forums. However, the party distributing the literature is responsible for cleaning up any discarded paper and restoring the campus to its previous condition. Literature may not be distributed in non-public forums.
3. No amplification equipment may be used.
4. Use of campus land is on a temporary basis.
5. Flyers may be placed on open bulletin boards inside or outside university buildings.
6. No activity will be permitted that blocks access to university buildings, streets, sidewalks, or facilities, defaces property, injures individuals, unreasonably interferes with regular or authorized university activities or functions, or disrupts the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

REVIEW

The Vice President for Student Affairs is responsible for the review of this operating policy every four years or as needed.

Reviewed By:

Carrie Bowen, Director of Student Conduct; Amber Fite-Morgan, University Attorney; Dr. Kimberly Greenway, Acting Chief Student Affairs Officer (9-19-18); University Executive Council (9-24-18)

Vice President for Student Affairs; General Counsel (2-28-19)

APPROVED BY: