

Faculty Senate Minutes
8 September 2022

Call to order:

A regular meeting of the University of North Alabama's Faculty Senate convened via Zoom Video Conferencing at 3.30pm with President Stovall presiding.

I. Recognized Proxies and New Senators

Ravi Gollapalli for Leshan Kimbrough

Tosha -Paige Whitten for Betsy Heckert

Members in attendance

Alejandra Alvarado-Brizuela, Lisa Ann Blankinship, Tabitha Blasingame, Miranda Bowie, Greg Buckley, Dan Burton, Gabriela Carrasco, Justin Carter, Helen Coronel, Chris Cottingham, Anissa Graham, Einar Gudmundsson, Felicia Harris, Achini Herath, John Hodges, Andrea Hunt, Ann-Marie Irons, Lauren Killen, Kelly Latchaw, Ian Leoppky, Thomas Lukowicz, Jennifer Maddox, George Makowski, Janna Malone, John McGee, Bryan McHenry, Jessica Mitchell, Jason Price, Chris Purser, Craig Robertson, Lindsey Sherrill, Patrick Shremshock, Kevin Stoltz, Jessica Stovall, Angel Tomlinson, Jason Watson, Pete Williams, Gretchen Windt

Members not in attendance (without proxy)

Corey Cagle, Frank Diaz, Lisa Kirch, Rashaun Warren

II. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as distributed by Sen. Carter, 2nd by Sen. Williams. Motion passes.

III. Approval of minutes from the 5 May 2022 Meeting

Minutes approved as distributed by Sen. Robertson, 2nd by Sen. Williams. Motion passes.

IV Remarks from Dr. Ken Kitts, UNA President

- President Kitts absent from the meeting due to a schedule conflict. Dr. Laura Williams present to represent the administration. Dr. Kitts's comments are attached in full (Report to Faculty Senate Dr. Kitts – September 8, 2022).

V. Remarks from Dr. Ross Alexander, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

- Dr. Alexander absent from the meeting due to a schedule conflict. Dr. Laura Williams present to represent the administration. Dr. Alexander's comments are attached in full (Report to Faculty Senate).

VI. Remarks from Dr. Jessica Stovall, Faculty Senate President

- Sen. Makowski will serve as parliamentarian.
- Senators are asked to use the "hand raise" function in Zoom and to change their "names" to "Senator ___" as this helps to efficiently run meetings and ensure that everyone is recognized.

VII. Elections for Committee Vacancies

- Athletic Committee (2021-2024 Faculty At-Large): Dr. Scott Infanger elected.
- Institutional Review Board (2022-2025 Kinesiology Faculty): Dr. Chanh Kang elected by acclamation.
- Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee (2022-2025 Engineering and Industrial Professions Faculty): Dr. Sayeed Shohag elected by acclamation.
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (2020-2023 CASE Faculty): Dr. Claudia Vance elected.

VII. Reports

Standing Committees

- Faculty Affairs – Sen. Carter (Chair) – No report; Sen. Carter provided update of first meeting.
- Academic Affairs – Jill Simpson (Chair) – No report; Sen. Cottingham provided update of first meeting.
- Faculty Attitude Survey (FAS)– Stephanie Clark (Chair) – Sen. Purser provided an update on the 2022 FAS. Responses rates were low (24% decrease from 2021 FAS) due to late release of the FAS.
 - Presentation of the FAS Survey Results to Senate – Motion to accept and release the survey to the public and add to the website made by Sen. Carrasco and 2nd by Sen. Robertson. Motion passed (36Y: 0N: 0Abs)
- Faculty Handbook Oversight – Scott Infanger (Chair) – No report; Sen. Robertson provided update. Current version of the Faculty Handbook: August 2022

Other Committees

- Faculty Senate Constitution Review – Sen. Watson provided update. The committee will review the FS Constitution and will recommend changes such as updating when the election meeting is to occur and the collection of electronic votes. Any changes to FS Constitution will require approval by 2/3rd faculty. The FS Constitution is available on the Faculty Senate website.

IX. Unfinished Business

- None

X. New Business

- Proposal for Faculty Handbook Revisions: Transcript Requirements (SGEC: FS) – The policy has already been updated, the vote is only to change the wording in the FS Handbook. Discussion occurred about the order of policy revisions. Motion to move to Old Business and vote at October 2022 meeting.
- Review of Policies for Policy Environment Task Force (SGEC: FS) – Pres. Stovall provided Task Force information and charge. Motion to for Faculty Affairs Committee to review the policies made by Sen. Watson, 2nd by Sen. Makowski was amended after discussion to Motion to send the Review of Policies for Policy Environmental Task Force to the Faculty Affairs Committee (Policies Concerning Adjunct Faculty, Promotion

Policy, and Workload Policy) and the Academic Affairs Committee (Graduate Faculty Selection Policy and Nepotism Policy) for review. Sen. Watson accepted the amendment and the amended policy was voted on (33Y: 0N: 1Abs).

XI. Information Items

- None

XII. Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn proposed by Sen. Carrasco and 2nd by Sen. Shremshock. Meeting adjourned at 4.31pm.

REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE
DR. KITTS – SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

Colleagues:

My recent President's Communique, shared with campus on September 2, contained many important updates on topics ranging from fall enrollment to governmental relations, and from the state's education budget to our SACS reaffirmation effort. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to review that document carefully. I am always happy to answer questions or expand on any of the topics covered therein.

One important theme you will hear me emphasize this year is that our growth as a University must be seen in qualitative as well as quantitative terms. Our collective success in generating consistently good enrollment outcomes is impressive, but I never want our growth to be understood as a numbers game or to overshadow the many other positive developments on our campus.

As our faculty colleagues, you are setting a new standard for excellence in teaching, research, and service – and thank you for that! Our dedicated staff members are providing an exceptional campus experience for our students through programming that compliments the academic enterprise. And our students are doing their part by taking advantage of all that UNA has to offer and by adding luster to our reputation through individual and group achievements.

As I note in the communique, there are markers of excellence all around us at UNA. (We will have great news to share next week that will underscore this point!) It is important that we take the time to acknowledge these qualitative milestones and to honor individual and program-level achievements even as we celebrate new enrollment records.

On a related note, I want to emphasize that the record enrollment increases we are experiencing are being very well-managed by Provost Alexander and his team. I moved enrollment management under the Division of Academic Affairs years ago (it used to be a separate division at the University) for the express purpose of strengthening the ties between the faculty, academic support offices, and the offices that deal with recruitment of new students. The resulting synergy has given rise to a Smart Growth strategy that continues to pay dividends for UNA.

Smart Growth both acknowledges and protects our historic identity as a campus where we get to know one another and where students receive a highly personalized educational experience. It emphasizes modest and manageable increases in the campus-based population of students. Simultaneously, it allows for faster expansion in the online, graduate, and site-based international sectors of enrollment that contribute significantly to our overall headcount and credit hour production. As a strategy, Smart Growth is working beautifully. It keeps us growing in ways that support our mission, keep us financially stable, and make sense for UNA.

Thank you for your attention to the communique and to these additional comments. Provost Alexander and I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting in October.

Report to the Faculty Senate

September 8, 2022

Dr. Ross Alexander, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Enrollment

Fall 2022 marks the 14th consecutive term of record enrollment at UNA, with increases across every type of student constituency—on-campus, online, graduate, undergraduate, Freshman, transfers, international, and adult. Official University census occurs on Friday, October 28 to accommodate Fall 2 term starts, but I can confidently predict a final tally of well above 10,000 students, a 15% rate-of-growth compared to Fall 2021. This enrollment success lies in stark contrast to other universities in the state and region, and in light of significant demographic challenges in a volatile and chaotic enrollment environment.

Simply, the UNA brand is strong and we should all celebrate this success. Most notably, it has been achieved through intentional pursuit of the “smart growth” strategy that neither over-invests nor under-invests in any single approach. Rather, it engenders growth across all modalities and levels in a diversified and targeted manner. Most importantly, it begins and ends with great teaching, and faculty members who can engage graduate and undergraduate students online and on-campus. It is also important to remember that while we sustain progress on *Project 208*, continued growth is vital to our institutional financial health, as well as our reputational value. Students, parents, policymakers, and donors are drawn to a healthy, vibrant, and growing university that accomplishes it the right way.

At the same time, it is vitally important that we discuss UNA’s growth as both quantitative (enrollment), as well as qualitative—with several noteworthy distinctions of academic ascendancy and excellence, including:

- Launch of doctoral programs;
- Record retention and graduation rates each of the last three years;
- Over 10% of the undergraduate student body as members of the Cole Honors College (750+)
- UNA’s distinction as a high producer of students winning national and international awards and fellowships (e.g. Fulbright);
- The best academic profile in institutional history for incoming Freshmen (ACT scores, high school g.p.a.);
- National and international accreditations for many academic programs in all academic colleges (e.g. AACSB, ABET, CCNE, CACREP, CSWE, NASAD, NASM, and others);
- All-time highest regional and national rankings for the University (*USNWR*) and specific academic degree programs;
- Several endowed professorships, including new lines;
- Near 100% job placement rates for graduates from several degree programs (e.g. Nursing, Teacher Education, Computing, Accounting, Social Work)

Academic and University Updates

This Fall, we celebrate the launch of the *Guizhou University-University of North Alabama International College of Engineering and Technology* on the campus of Guizhou University (GU) in Guiyang, China. This innovative partnership features UNA undergraduate degree programs in Sustainability, Occupational Health Sciences, and Engineering. I am pleased to report that 202 students have begun pursuit of their UNA and GU undergraduate degrees (students receive both), with another 30 beginning the M.S. in Applied Manufacturing Engineering in Spring 2023. In addition, this semester UNA launched a collaboration with Huizhou University in Guangzhou, China for Early Childhood Education, with 48 students enrolled. I congratulate and commend all faculty members and administrators who invested untold amounts of time, energy, and effort to launch these programs and partnerships.

The University will launch no new academic programs in the Fall semester, but several new programs will launch in Spring 2023, including:

- Doctor of Nursing Practice—DNP (ACONHP) (online)—UNA’s third doctoral program, and first fully-online;
- Mental Health Practitioner track in the MSN (ACONHP) (online);
- Master of Health Administration—MHA (COBT) (online);
- Joel R. Anderson BBA in Innovation and Entrepreneurship (COBT) (f2f);
- A fully online version of the B.S. in Sport and Recreation Management (COEHS).

Looking forward to Fall 2023, UNA will launch several new programs, including:

- B.S. in Respiratory Care (ACONHP) (f2f);
- B.S. in Engineering Technology, Power Generation option (CASE) (f2f);
- A.S. in Mechatronics; A.S. in Culinary Arts; A.S. in Hospitality and Events Management (CASE) (f2f)—UNA’s first three Associate’s degrees.

Several academic capital projects are recently-completed, nearing completion, underway and meeting planned timelines, including:

- Computing and Mathematics Building w/Founders Hill renovation (Spring 2024);
- Gunn Commons first floor renovation (One Stop relocation) (mid-September);
- 541 W. College St. building for COBT Office of Regional Engagement, the Joel R. Anderson Generator, and the Executive Classroom (completed);
- Phase 3 of the McKinney Center to accommodate the move of Culinary Arts from East Campus (Summer 2023);
- We also hope to secure additional funding this year, above what is already committed from governmental sources, for an eventual Engineering Building to accommodate our tremendous growth in that suite of programs.

This year marks UNA’s decennial SACSCOC re-affirmation of accreditation process. We submitted our Reaffirmation Compliance Certification Self-Study Report on September 1st. An off-site review will occur in November, followed by an on-site review in March, and a final decision in June. Scores of faculty, staff, and administrators have worked diligently for over two years on this effort and deserve recognition and praise. We all look forward to a successful outcome.

Finally, I look forward to a productive year working with Dr. Stovall, FSEC, and the Faculty Senate. Thank you and Roar Lions!!!

Faithfully submitted,

Dr. Ross Alexander

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