**Faculty Senate Minutes**

March 14, 2024

**Call to order:**

A regular meeting of the University of North Alabama’s Faculty Senate convened via MS Teams Video Conferencing and in SET 133 at 3.30pm with President Killen presiding.

**I. Recognized Proxies**

Senator Makowski for Senator Burton

Dr. Vicki Howell for Senator Kelley

Ms. Jackie Allen for Senator O’Neal

**Members in attendance**

Wael Al Kouz, Jackie Allen, Alejandra Alvarado-Brizuela, Lisa Ann Blankinship, Miranda Bowie, Charles Brooks, Corey Cagle, Gabriela Carrasco, Justin Carter, Jian Chen, Helen Coronel, Chris Cottingham, Chris DaSambiagio-Moore, Frank Diaz, Terri Garrison, Anissa Graham, Leah Graham, Einar Gudmundsson, Ngartelbaye Guerngar, Achini Herath, John Hodges, Andrea Hunt, Jason Imbrogno, Ann-Marie Irons, Faith Kelley, Lauren Killen, Kelly Latchaw, Thomas Lukowicz, George Makowski, John McGee, Brian McHenry, Stephanie Montgomery, Gary Padgett, Jennifer Pate, Beverly Russell, Lindsey Sherrill, Angel Tomlinson, Christina Volz-Stomackin, Gretchen Windt

**Members not in attendance**

Michael Conner, Robert Rausch, Marie Taylor, and Wendy Wang

**II. Approval of the Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Senator A. Graham; seconded by Senator Makowski. No discussion. The agenda was approved as presented by raised hand [Y25: O0].

**III. Approval of Minutes from the February 8, 2024**

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Senator A. Graham; seconded by Senator Bowie. No discussion. The agenda was approved by acclamation.

**IV. Remarks from Dr. Ken Kitts, President**

President Kitts addressed SB129/ DEI Bill, the CHOOSE ACT (effective 2025), the Gaming Bill, and the ETF budget. UNA is well set for the DEI changes that are expected to pass in SB129. President Biden has signed FY24 spending bill that earmarks $13million for the new Engineering/ STEM building. President Kitts address COLAs in that Alabama state budget does not provide COLAs, funding for COLAs come from University budgets, and that even without COLAs 40% of the campus community receives pay increase from rank adjustments (promotion), merit pay (faculty, staff), and move to midpoint. SACSCOC reaffirmation completed in December. The campus community is now encouraged to focus on the QEP- *Preparing the Pride: Experiential and Work-Based Learning.*

**V. Remarks from Dr. Katie Kinney, Provost/EVPAA**

Provost Kinney commented that Academic Affair recently attended an AI conference; many other institutions are currently developing AI policies as is UNA. Dr. Shohag and his student group will attend the ASME semifinals. COBT will graduate their first D. BA in finance in May 2024. ACONHP has recently hosted a community baby shower in Ohio. Kilby will take three student teams to Dallas, TX for a robotics competition. Enrollment for Fall 2024 is steady. Provost Kinney wishes everyone an enjoyable Spring Break.

**VI. Remarks from Dr. Lauren Killen, Faculty Senate President**

President Killen provided reminders for Light the Fountain, Lions under the Light, and thanked everyone for their service.

**VII. Reports**

a. Standing Committees

i. Faculty Affairs- no updates

ii. Academic Affairs- no updates

iii. Faculty Attitude Survey (FAS; Sen. Hunt)- The FAS should launch after Spring Break

iv. Faculty Handbook Oversight (Sen. Blankinship) – Handbook revisions should be to President Killen close to April 3, 2024.

**VIII. Unfinished Business**

a. None

**IX. New Business**

a. Parental Leave Policy – President Killen requested feedback from senators on the policy. A question was asked as to changes in the final version of the policy approved by the Board of Trustees. Changes in approved policy: Two calendar years (completed) are required rather than the one year that was proposed in version of the policy voted on in AY2022/2023. (Communicated by President Killen in email sent to all senators on 3.14.24 at 6.32pm.)

**X. Information Items**

a. Update on Copyright Policy questions and concerns – Questions are still being reviewed by the external attorney. Update will be provided ASAP.

b. Update on AI Policy (Sen. McGee) – ACHE recently hosted a conference on AI. Everyone is basically at the same point in developing their policies.

c. Nominating Committee – Three people are requested to serve on the nominating committee for upcoming May elections. Please email President Killen if willing to serve.

**XI. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn was made by Senator A. Graham and seconded by Senator Chen. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:04pm.