**Faculty Senate Minutes**

April 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 Killen presiding.

**I. Recognized Proxies**

Ms. Jackie Allen for Senator O’Neal

Dr. Victoria Casson for Senator Russell

Ms. Argie Campbell (absent) for Senator Tomlinson

Dr. Stacy Lee for Senator Hodges

**Members in attendance**

Wael Al Kouz, Alejandra Alvarado-Brizuela, Lisa Ann Blankinship, Miranda Bowie, Charles Brooks, Danny Burton, Corey Cagle, Gabriela Carrasco, Jian Chen, Helen Coronel, Chris Cottingham, Chris DaSambiagio-Moore, Frank Diaz, Terri Garrison, Anissa Graham, Leah Graham, Einar Gudmundsson, Ngartelbaye Guerngar, Achini Herath, Andrea Hunt, Ann-Marie Irons, Faith Kelley, Lauren Killen, Kelly Latchaw, Thomas Lukowicz, George Makowski, Brian McHenry, Stephanie Montgomery, Gary Padgett, Lindsey Sherrill, Marie Taylor, Christina Volz-Stomackin, Gretchen Windt

**Members not in attendance**

Justin Carter, Michael Conner, Jason Imbrogno, John McGee, Jennifer Pate, Robert Rausch, Angel Tomlinson, Wendy Wang

**II. Approval of the Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Senator Coronel; seconded by Senator L. Graham. No discussion. The agenda was approved as presented by raised hand [Y22: O0].

**III. Approval of Minutes from the March 14, 2024**

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Senator Carrasco; seconded by Senator Montgomery. No discussion. The agenda was approved by raised hand [Y21: O0]

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

President Kitts provided an update on the state budget. Funding options for a new Music and Fine Arts building will be explored. The Provost search has concluded with Dr. Brien Smith joining in June 2024; thanks given to Dr. Kinney in her role as interim for the past academic year. President Kitts explained how the campus leadership makes decisions on “closing” campus due to inclement weather events. The US Army ROTC program will be combining with Alabama A&M due to budgetary reason; details are still being worked through.

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

Provost Kinney was unable to attend.

**VI. Remarks from Dr. Jeff Ray, NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative**

Dr. Ray provided an update of the UNA athletics program with respect to number of student athletes, their academic progress, well-being, and travel schedules. Questions regarding student athletes and how these students can be supported by various campus members can be addressed to Dr. Ray.

**VII. Remarks from Ms. Minnette Ellis, Chief Diversity Officer**

Ms. Ellis addressed State Bill (SB) 129 and its impacts on the campus community. This is an ongoing process so updates will be forthcoming but much of UNA operations are expected to remain unchanged due to SB 129. It was noted that our DEI program falls outside of SB 129. Questions can be address to either Ms. Ellis or Mr. Cochran.

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

FS President Killen thanked everyone for serving as senators this year.

**IX. Reports**

a. Standing Committees

i. Faculty Affairs- no updates

ii. Academic Affairs- no updates

iii. Faculty Attitude Survey (FAS; Sen. Hunt)- FAS will be released in the next few weeks.

iv. Faculty Handbook Oversight (Sen. Blankinship) – Recommended Handbook revisions were submitted to FS President Killen on 4.3.24.

**X. Unfinished Business**

a. Modality of Faculty Senate meeting vote – A motion to vote on the modality of FS meetings was made by Sen. Montgomery, seconded by Senator A. Graham. No discussion. [Vote: 19 online only: 14 hybrid]. Faculty Senate will continue to meet on MS Teams beginning Fall 2024. (Note: Voting meeting, May 2, 2024 will be conducted online.)

**XI. New Business**

a. Elect Nominating Committee – Senators Al-Kouz, Alvarado-Brizuela, and Irons were nominated. Senator L. Graham made a motion to accept the nominations, seconded by Senator Montgomery. No opposed; approved by acclamation.

**XII. Information Items**

a. Handbook edits: Curriculum Committee – Regarding a nonvoting position for IDS, it has been recommended that this position move to CASE.

b. Copyright Policy – Tabled until September 2024 meeting.

c. Faculty Attitude Survey – It has been recommended that FAS administration by Institutional Research (Molly Mathis) rather than having Qualtrics administer due to high price when Institutional Research can accomplish the same outcome. Discussion. Movement of FAS to Institutional Research was supported by the Staff Senate.

d. Faculty Senate Emerging Leaders Program (COA: FS) – Motion to endorse this program was made by Senator L. Graham, seconded by Senator L. Graham. Discussion. [Vote: Y23: O0]

e. Shared Governance and other committee vacancies – FS President Killen sent out the list of current vacancies and requested senators to have nominations from their departments in to her by Tuesday, 4.30.24.

f. Summary of Business 2023-20224

* Shared Governance and University committee vacancies were filled.
* An ad-hoc committee to craft an AI statement to address AI usage by the campus community was convened.
* Faculty Handbook sections were reviewed/ revised/ approved for :
  + Credit Hour Policy
  + Mid-Tenure Review Process
  + Master of Architecture as terminal degree
* 2024 FAS would be releasing soon.

**XI. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 4:34pm.