



SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

September 20, 2012

12:45 P.M. in SKH 369

Present: Richard Miller, Mitch Berbrier, David Neff, Timothy Newman, Wai Mok, Derrick Smith, Deborah Heikes, Ramon Cerro, Sherri Messimer, Ina Warboys, Vistasp Karbhari

Guests: Robert Altenkirch, Brent Wren

- Dr. Richard Miller reported that the President will try to be back by 2:00. We will do the other business first. Dr. Karbhari will join at 1:30.
- **Senate Reports:** Dr. Richard Miller reported he had nice a meeting with Dee Childs, the new CIO. She comes from LSU and has done alot of growing over the years and seems to have the right experience. Few things we talked about –stressed she wanted to maintain communication—willing to work on any strategic planning. Been here 4 weeks but has not set up weekly or monthly meeting—has not decided the best way to do that or what she is going to do. In the meantime Dr. Miller will serve as the liaison to her. If there are topics of concern let him know. She is on top of the wireless access issue. If faculty have issues he will take them to her and if she has issues for faculty he will bring them to you. Hope guests access will be in place soon. Dr. Richard Miller raised the issue of some departments that have no dedicated i.t. support—she was shocked by that. Different colleges and departments may have different needs. There should be dedicated i.t. support. Central computing facilities or infrastructure is another area for work. It is very expensive to do individually—fire control and environmental support. A campus wide back up system. Intranet 2 consortium using leverage to evaluate institutional solutions. Could take their stamp of approval and get campus wide backup system. Research computing support—investment in infrastructure for scholarly activity—not an investment here yet. She will look at this—requires millions of dollars. Wants to work with us on identifying faculty needs across campus from the i.t. point of view. Will ask Faculty and Student Development Committee to work with me and with her for figuring out what the needs are. Ultimately one of the things she wants is to identify a faculty member for 10% time in her office that is a liaison between the faculty and i.t. There are a number of positions left open—negotiated 3 positions in her interview. Three positions looking to hire: Chief information security officer,—collaborative person, faculty serve on this search, director of academic

technology—grow e learning, faculty serve on this search, director of network—may or may not want faculty on this search.

Library—August 31 Mitch Berbrier and I met with the Provost and we concluded that as a component of academic restructuring which is how we see this that one of things we tried to argue for is ranks and career paths for librarians and we made some linkage with those. The idea of going from Dean to Director—is that we have a single Library that is relatively modest. Deans of Libraries have multiple libraries they are supervising. Librarians have terminal degrees and there have been a loss because there is no career path. No library faculty meet the qualifications for Senate. We offered constructive criticism. The goal was to argue and motivate for a career path for librarians. This is politically a good thing to do. Implementation will wait for the selection of a new director. This delays things until after there is a new director. Dr. Tim Newman—I think the faculty in the library are our colleagues and we should represent them. The other angle is that all of us as researchers depend on materials being in the library when we need it and you don't always know what will be there. There was an unusual text in the library recently when my graduate student went there looking and it was there because one of the librarians realized it would be a valuable asset. Jack developed relationships with faculty and knew who was significant in the field because he knew who the movers and shakers are—they are specialist there and they get what we need—this would be an advantage of a career path as a tool to get good librarians and keep them. Dr. Richard Miller thinks the career path will happen. The President thinks we should have a structure for all lecturers. We tried to put this in the upper bound.

In the August 31 meeting we requested the Provost provide a proposal for the center for teaching excellence—we wanted to get the ball rolling there—start with his proposal that discussed issues, benefits, personnel, requirements and budget. Since it was initiated from the Provost Office we could go from there. We asked for a similar request for the analysis of the ombuds office.

There was an issue of a question of grades and Dr. Wren discussed a student complaint regarding + and – grading. This will go to Scholastic Affairs. Other schools do use this and when someone applies to another school (i.e. Medical School) they recalculate the GPA and it affects scholarships and fellowships. Deborah Heikes stated they did discuss this in the Committee and if someone wants to present a bill that is fine but the Committee did not see it going anywhere. The Committee does not see the need to draft a bill and if someone else wants to draft it that is fine and we may not hear anything. The Committee did not see it as an immediate issue. If it is not a bigger problem they don't think it is worth the Senates' time. It would take a long time to go through Senate. Dr. Richard Miller stated he will raise the issue in Senate and see what happens. Dr. Heikes stated there have only been a couple of complaints.

We talked to Dr. Wren about BETA issues. Dr. Ramon Cerro stated there has been no meeting since mid-August.

Dr. Richard Miller stated that at the last Faculty Senate Meeting I said I was going to form an ad hoc Research and Scholarship Committee. This will aid to engage faculty and the new interim VPR to raise good and bad issues that may be hurdles for doing work and have him solve or give them in a report to the permanent VPR and the President. If you have issues please let me know and I will set a meeting. I hope there will be a report by the end of the semester from the Committee. The Committee is Carmen Scholz, Joe Ng, Jason Cassibry, Eric Smith, Peggy Hays, Xuejing Xing.

Dr. Richard Miller reported he went to the Board Meeting – there is not a lot to report, there was an approval for bonds, etc. UA and UAB had 14 named or endowed professorships at the meeting and UAH had none—this is a problem. There is a new System position—Director of Risk Management—this is to assist with efficiency and productivity so that best practices can be shared among campuses. I had a discussion with other faculty there—they loved Chancellor Witt when he was on their campus and now—they respected him. They shared that if we have a fear of bias, then you don't know him. They think he will be good for the System. Issues—there were 3 sections in the minutes—conferences and symposia, student and faculty accomplishments—UAH had 11 items, 3 from Liberal Arts, had 9 from Nursing, 3 from Engineering, 3 from Business, 2 from Science. This is done quarterly—we know full well these numbers do not represent the faculty and student accomplishments. The Deans asks Chairs and the Chairs ask faculty. This is a problem. It is a communication problem. Research—there were 21 items related to research centers. There were 15 items for nonaffiliated faculty and 12 were from Chemistry. This is false. I will talk to the Provost and President and get criteria for obtaining these.

➤ **Committees:**

Governance and Operations: Dr. Sherri Messimer—we met a couple of times and we are in the process of attempting to get out a ballot for the Student Advisory Committee. We received 19 nominations—Dr. Jeet Gupta said this was too many and we should pair it down. All agreed that you cannot do that. You have to go with the nominations you have and develop a ballot. The ballot can go out tomorrow.

Dr. Karbhari came into the meeting at this point—(1:30 p.m.)

Dr. Richard Miller asked if all were amenable to halt to get the Provost and Provost Junior (Dr. Wren) to report. All agreed.

➤ **Provost**—President Altenkirch sends his apologies—he is at Northeast Community College for a groundbreaking.

The frozen enrollment numbers show enrollment to be flat 7636 up by 7 from last year. There are 5882 undergraduates, we are up at the graduate level and down at the undergraduate level. We are going into FTE now. Full time are at about 76% for undergraduates and graduates are at about 38 or 39%. We will get exact numbers soon. Ray Pinner and Chih Loo are looking at

models for incentives. If we give incentives how do we make up the loss? Will it work? We are looking at the information now. Dr. Richard Miller asked if this is something we want to try—can we implement it or do we have to go to the Board. If we approach it as scholarship we can do it. Otherwise we have to go to the Board. We have to figure out how to do it. We are simultaneously working with Calhoun and Northeast to sign MOUs to make it easier for them to come over here and finish. The ones ahead now are Nursing. Engineering and business are next. We will be working on this for all colleges as we go forward. There was a question from Dr. Tim Newman regarding whether there are some places in Tennessee that pay in-state tuition. Dr. Karbhari responded that there are several counties in Tennessee that pay in-state tuition. It depends on the distance from here and what the Universities there offer. We are talking to all community colleges and we are looking closely at those that give us more and the type of students we want. Dr. Richard Miller stated that one thing people said regarding the agreements with students is: are they doing the general education courses at the community college. It may also be an issue of them matriculating here and still taking courses there. Dr. Karbhari responded that we are looking at the population that does not get admission here and are at a higher level there in courses. We might induce them from the beginning to look at themselves to be UAHuntsville students. We will not give them an incentive to go back.

At the ACHE meeting last week the BS in Economics and Computational Analysis and the Masters of Education in Differential Instruction was approved and will go to the Board in November for final approval and be in place in Fall 2013. We are hoping to have the cognate in Public History and the certificate in Foreign Languages and Global Engagement on the agenda for the Board meeting.

We are looking at diplomas and showing the degree and major. We hope to have it in place this year. Right now we are looking at the font size and if we can get it to the printer in time.

We are looking at robes for students and faculty and having more options available. We had one meeting and we will have another one next week and we hope to have information for the Grad Finale.

Chad Tyndale was hired for the Risk Management position at the System.

Alan Constant was hired as the Director of the Student Success Center—he joined on Tuesday.

Dr. Karbhari reported he met with the Search Committee for the Director of International Engagement—the Committee was not happy so we have extended the Search. Dr. Karbhari distributed a new recruiting piece from admissions—it is a travel piece used by the admissions recruiters. This is one that will be used for the next recruitment cycle.

Dr. Altenkirch entered the meeting at the point (2:00 p.m.)

Dr. Tim Newman commented that there was a book in the Bookstore that listed the 377 colleges you should attend and we are not in it. UA and UAB are there. Why are we not in it and can

anything be done to get us in it? Dr. Altenkirch commented that if it is the Princeton Review we have to lobby to get in. It is kind of tongue and cheek and the information could be old. He stated we will do some lobbying to see if we can get in.

Derrick Smith stated that some people are coming to him about parking and what are we doing about visitors and those who are parking at the fitness center who are members of the fitness center but unaffiliated the campus otherwise and they are getting tickets. Ina Warboys asked if there is any consideration for faculty or staff designated parking. We are starting the “Grab a Bike” program and will have stations at 7 points across campus. It is starting this semester and is free for students.

Richard Miller talked about the Board having the 3 sections with symposia, achievements and research and how it was very uneven. What is there does not reflect the achievements of the faculty or students. He stated I have never been asked to provide information. This is what the Board sees and they get a biased few of what is being done on campus. We need to find a way to advertise better the achievements of all across campus. Dr. Brent Wren stated as we approach the Board meeting, a note goes to the Colleges and Centers and asked them to submit information and they submit it and Carole compiles it. Dr. Richard Miller stated there is a communication issue somewhere. Maybe we can help do this through the Senate. Maybe we can lay out some guidelines on what achievements mean. Dr. Karbhari stated let’s sit down and figure out what we can do. We used some Faculty forms on line for a while and we will look at doing that again. We have a program we are looking at implementing called Digital Measures-Activity Insight—that will allow faculty to put all their information on line and update and it ties into all the things we do and need information for including Accreditation information. Dr. Miller stated we need to try to impress the Board.

- **President** —Dr. Altenkirch reported that we are working with the CIO on setting an Intranet. We will put stuff there that we don’t want the public to see. We could post things like the retirement documents there. It would be internal working documents. There will be a button next to the “Directory” where the “Banner” button is for the “Intranet”. The “Banner” button would eventually disappear. This will separate the public and private. We are going to consolidate the password issues when we go into the “intranet”—when we login there we are in. We will do a beta test. The Password issue will take a little longer.

Dr. Altenkirch reported we are making progress on the purchase of the University Place School. There were a few stumbles on the appraisal. The superintendent and I met and have a handshake deal and key members of the Board are okay with it and we are working on documents but it is not over yet. We want to get it all done in October with an Executive meeting of the Board. The Superintendent does not want to go into November. It is a strategic acquisition. I understand we have tried to get it for a number of years.

Dr. Altenkirch reported we are working with the Office of Sponsored Programs and the V.P.’s office pulling together reporting for management data and who is the fiscally responsible unit

and then the people (P.I.) responsible for the work. The data will show up in different places. These are awards and expenditures. This will give us a better picture of the distribution of work. The way we do it now makes it look like there is not much in the Colleges. We should have this done sometime this semester. WE are looking at distribution issues as well. The Interim VPR is looking at incentives and the distribution. There are different nuances on how it is distributed. The income is chopped unrelated to how it got here.

Construction is ongoing. I think on the parking there is one lot closed. This is not a tremendous loss. There was a question of “Do we have a solution for part time and volunteers”. The Police are aware of events, etc.

The Retirement Incentive Documents are out—there was one error that is being fixed. There was an inconsistency in the document and exhibit b. It is being fixed and will be re-sent and we will add a FAQ document. The FAQ document is an accumulation of questions that we got and we added some. We will know how many will take advantage by February 1. Dr. Ramon Cerro commented that the release form is scary. Dr. Altenkirch responded that he has worked on these at other places and he has a copy from others and if you compared them you would think ours is tame. The release is a legal document and has language that is not warm and fuzzy but language expected by the court and attorneys. All of them are pretty much the same. There was some discussion regarding the \$22,000 earnings limit for retirees but this is not part of the payments for the retirement incentive. Dr. Altenkirch stated you can come back immediately and earn up to \$22,000 in some part time role of teaching, etc. if you are not in a supervisory role. The question we are trying to address now is a Chair a supervisory role. Faculty can come back immediately. We know that.

- Quorum was lost at this point so no voting matters could be considered.
- Dr. Richard Miller talked about some new initiatives—He mentioned that the Governance and Operations Committee would bring a bill forth regarding the Faculty Appeals Committee restricting membership to tenured faculty—the bill would be from Dr. Jeet Gupta. Peggy Bower informed Dr. Miller that the Faculty Appeals Committee is already restricted to tenured faculty only.

Dr. Richard Miller talked about an annual review of the Senate Bylaws and restructuring the Committees of the Senate and the Executive Committee to bring it to something more relevant.

He will ask the Faculty and Student Development to assist with the CIO survey.

Personnel or Faculty and Student Development should look at the blurb on travel and covering classes. Faculty in general take a liberal view of covering their classes.

Some faculty have raised an issue or concern over what’s counted as scholarship but is actually a signing bonus. This was an agreement between John Horack and a department chair to supplement a GTA stipend with \$5000 from research. This would be money used for non-

research and could be putting us at risk. Other chairs were not notified that they can do the same thing. This was not applied to all students. This raised flags and the faculty came to me. I will task Finance with looking into this issue.

Let's get the Handbook and Bylaws out next week.