

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE  
JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE  
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MINUTES OF MEETING #503, 7 JANUARY, 2010  
APPROVED 28 JANUARY, 2010**

**Present:** BA: Gupta, Mok, Evans

*Absent with Proxy:* Bao

**LBAR:** Stewart, Rountree, Bollinger, Neff, Goebel, Johnson, Heikes, Reeves, Seemann, Sitaraman

*Absent with Proxy:* Kovacs

**ENGR:** Banish, Gaede, English, Milenkovic, Coe, Gholston, Wessling, Lin

*Absent with Proxy:* Anderson, Joiner, Cassibry

**LIB:** Vaughan

**NUR:** O'Keefe, Warboys, Ferguson

*Absent with Proxy:* Showalter

**SCI:** Boyd, Scholz, Zhang, Etzkorn, Newman, Ravindran, Wu, Miller, Lieu

*Absent with Proxy:* Mecikalski

Called to order by Senate President Dr. Etzkorn 12:45 p.m.

The Faculty Senate asked Dr. Williams to address the Censure Bill

**Dr. Williams**—Censure motion is a carefully worded document—may read some of the comments and responses for the sake of time

Better communication—work together and take proactive role

Addressed individual concerns in bill

Quoted from bill and addressed concerns with dates when information supplied.

Information emailed and available.

Bond issue information available.

No exclusion policy-- not a no exclusion policy and never was.

As of today half of requests been approved for medical, financial and other reasons and has requested more information on others. Waiting on more information

Explained December 3<sup>rd</sup> why material not provided but much material supplied before Censure motion.

All information supplied.

If more material Faculty Senate wishes will be glad to supply.

Thank you to Senate and to Faculty for working with me over last two years plus. Since I came we have traveled through the worst economic times most have ever experienced. Has not been easy. 27% reduction in state appropriations but working together we have preserved Academic part and sometimes at the expense of others. What we've accomplished included in letter of October 6 for 23 questions. Neither laid off or furloughed full time faculty members. Continued to hire top faculty and hired top notch for Business and will do same for Engineering. All 5 colleges have more faculty today than had two years ago. Increased from 305 to 313. Number of tenure track and tenured faculty up in same time period. Budgets larger than were two years ago. Substantial investments made in certain areas such as SSC and IT solutions. Reductions in areas other than academic colleges. Closings taken in areas other than colleges. Recruited best class in history of institution. All can be proud of efforts and

accomplishments and can look forward to continuing. This information—my response will be sent out to all.

Is there a contingency plan for failure to fill dorms, etc. Mr. Pinner addressed—there is some leeway in business plan and will be going to market with bonds and will know more then. Will decide what to do when we go to market. Will be no burden on other part of budget to make up loss but will be made up with profits from other years. Will not be made up by cuts from Academic side. Will come from housing operation.

Question of \$2.8M year deficit and what happens if coupled with drop in enrollment. There are 30 year bonds and we do not know the numbers yet so we don't know if we will have a deficit. Will evaluate all that every year. Do estimate every year of housing and student enrollment. Present in June and final in September. Starts in January. Evaluate regularly.

Dr. Williams was asked to speak to Shared Governance and effective communication.

His response was that the University is a complex organization. Academic Affairs is the heart of the university but supported by many other parts of university. Shared governance depends on what part talking about. When talking about students this is the leading role of faculty. Role for students through SGA and role of Deans through Provost. Other parts of university different share and different ways to do it. Research Council attempts to broaden discussion of research issues. Student Affairs—how active SGA is between staff and students. Advancement different degree. Staff Senate and students and faculty not so much in Advancement.

Communication—October 6 communication responding to Senate Executive Committee. Laid out issues there. Whoever discerns way to communicate what needed to those needed would be great.

Availability greater now but does not mean read and used appropriately. Have tried in many different ways to communicate with all. Have attended meetings of all groups and invited to come to Lowe House. Tried to communicate. Said would value suggestions from Faculty Senate of how would improve and would meet with small groups, individuals, etc. who contact to speak to. Would be happy to address or talk with any group who wishes to speak to. Provided extraordinary amount of information from President's office, Provost Karbhari's Office and Ray Pinner's office. Would value feedback and what other information needed.

Some expressed frustration that we would like to know what can we survive—can we survive drop in students and how much. Don't know what Governor will do to budget. Tuition is one piece in \$160M budget.

Is there a provision in the bond policy to have this policy? Not issued bonds yet. Expectation but nothing in legal documents that lock into policy for any period of time.

Explained reasons for decisions and reasons for policy.

Distinguish selves from other universities. Student life needs improvement. We are doing what can to increase enrollment and improve recruitment and retention. Ways to attract and keep to unique experience here. Significant evidence that retention rates increase when students live on campus. Graduate adults and that does not take place in classroom but everywhere—dorms, teams, etc. Issue is requirement—impression with policy is not open arms for nearby students. Some finding it insulting that have to ask for exclusion/exemption. Difference between encouraging and requiring.

Follow up with issues of open doors and getting in buildings, etc. ordering equipment, etc. issues going on for years. Solving problems. Assistance to alleviate frustrations.

Acknowledge infrastructure is thin. Presented data at town meeting last spring. If we charge same for what we do as Tuscaloosa would have brought in \$11M. We are facing challenges in infra structure and providing support for Academic Affairs. In further cutting areas outside academic part have done

nothing to help situation. Do not know what will happen with budget. We do have contingencies but cannot predict when do not know what will happen.

There was a statement made that there is a difference between information and communication— Asking for accountability in response that gets to detail that tells where things come from and how doing things.

Communication is exchange of views on information. Development of the Mission Statement and Budgets were mentioned. Dr. William responded that the Mission statement came from group of faculty, staff and students. Budgets are the responsibility of certain people in certain areas.

**Dr. Kharbhari**—reported we have been successful to recruit a Dean of Business—Caron St. John joining us the first of March

Search for Dean of Engineering is ongoing.

Take a walk in Wilson Hall—the remodel is done and the building is open, it is an outstanding facilities.

Received report from Bob Furgason—emailed to all yesterday with position on web where it is placed.

Met with Deans yesterday and they will talk to faculty in colleges and take it from there.

**Minutes**—Dr. Gupta moved seconded by Dr. Rountree to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved with 1 abstention.

**Executive Committee Report**—Dr. Gupta moved seconded by Dr. Rountree to accept the Executive Committee Report.

### **Committee Reports**

Scholastic Affairs—met with Provost to discuss scheduling software. Plan to meet with Janet Waller. Faculty and Student Development-New Chair of this Committee Ina Warboys reported this is the first time we've seen each other—we will report on email policy next week

Curriculum-no report.

Personnel – no report.

Finance and Resources-no report.

**Senate Bill 331**—Comments: Statement that Business plan supplied Oct 29—not understanding—received something in writing in the last month from Ray Pinner saying not available.

Dec. 2 parking: ways to reduce parking cost?

Read article in newspaper –read statement—similar residency requirements statement in article.

Distributed information on universities with policies and none found with such a policy as ours—only one has such a policy. Policy developed over 8-9 year period statement-does not match what John Maxon said. Retention statement-faculty should be part of policy for that. No faculty part of setting this policy.

Comment: The Censure motion is a confrontational motion—in all instances keep channels open—keep diplomacy open. Like to propose forming small working group to bridge gap –nominate few members to join with dialogue. Engagement in small numbers to facilitate communication.

Call the question-- Dr. Gaede moved, seconded by Dr. Heikes

Vote for call the question: 21 in favor, 5 opposed, 5 abstaining

Vote on Censure Motion-secret ballot vote: 20 votes no, 18 votes yes,—bill fails.

Dr. Wessling moved seconded by Dr. Gupta to adjourn 2:05 p.m.