



**THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE  
JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE  
VOLUME XXV  
MINUTES OF MEETING #507, 22 APRIL, 2010  
APPROVED 13 MAY, 2010**

*Present:* Gupta, Bao, Stewart, Rountree, Kovacs, Bollinger, Neff, Gyasi, Johnson, Sanders, Hawk, Sitaraman, Banish, Gaede, English, Milenkovic, Coe, Gholston, Cassibry, Wessling, Lin, Vaughan, O'Keefe, Warboys, Boyd, Scholz, Zhang, Etzkorn, Newman, Ravindran, Wu, Miller, Lieu

*Absent with Proxy:* Mok, Evans, Seemann, Joiner, Showalter, Ferguson, Mecikalski, Heikes

*Absent without Proxy:* Anderson, Edmondson

President Williams reported the major issue right now is the budget. There is a budget on Governor's desk for signature. Two issues: The Education budget had a 7.5% cut from 09-10 which resulted in operating for 10-11 continued at level, which is what we are working with this year. We have emphasized the way out of the situation is recruitment and retention and research increase. Will take over \$80M this year. Increases in Advancement—up 60% over last year. Progress in right direction. Second issue is the PACT bill—on the Governor's Desk for signature. No tuition cap imposed on UA System and Auburn. Not restricted on level of tuition next year. Every other 4 year and 2 year institution received a legislative cap on tuition for many years. We will probably hear more about this. This will not improve relationships between institutions. The decision was not made by universities. This allows more freedom to set the budget for next year. Presentation of the budget will occur at the June Board meeting. Recent Board meeting was here where we presented the master plan that had been in development for over a year. The plan is on the web. It includes plans for expansion for parking, housing, and the student center. We will continue to look at the plan as we seek to grow the university. We will seek to have the maximum input.

In the immediate aftermath of Feb 12 we announced that we are well aware the crisis response communication did not work as it had for weather related incidents. Recently Witt Associates skilled in emergency communication were engaged by the System to evaluate what happened. They finished the evaluation and have a report and it will be presented to the Chancellor and the System. The Board will review it and we will receive it from the Board. When it is accepted we have asked that the company make a presentation to the campus and we can make our response to recommendations that come out of that report. Hope to make that after graduation so as many faculty, students and staff can have input.

There was some discussion of new academic space and that we have spent quite a bit in recent months on enhancing, expanding or improving academic space.

There was some discussion regarding the admitted day numbers down and what do we know. Last information from Rick Barth was that we are down a couple of percent over past years. There was an

immediate drop off after Feb 12 and then consistent climb after that and a level-off. Transfers are up and freshmen stagnate.

Provost Karbhari reported at the Board meeting recently the MSIAS passed final approval by the Board so we will start the program in the fall. He explained the degree and the departments involved.

There was a comment to Dr. Karbhari and Dr. Williams that some members of Senate received information from Counsel on the Realignment bill but no word from your office. Response: We will follow Counsel's advice.

Minutes of meeting 506 were approved, motion by Dr. Gupta, seconded by Ms. Vaughan with 1 abstention

Executive Committee Report is accepted—Motion by Dr. Wessling, seconded by Dr. Gupta with 1 opposed

### **Committees**

**Scholastic Affairs** –No Report

**Personnel**-No Report

**Finance and Resources:** –Dr. Stewart reported that Questions were sent about the bond issue-communications from Ray Pinner received on that. Original Plan when construction started—downsides payment before building occupied and have to roll into payment. Delayed bond issue—\$140,000 in interest saved, paying for construction with reserve. Delayed to save—Approved by board \$27.3M plus cost of issuance, cost \$29.2M. Food services provide \$2.5M. Dr. Stewart reported that after recent meetings he reluctantly believes administration is not working with Senate in good faith so he is resigning the position as Chair effective immediately.

There were quotes from financial reports and the University's reserves and assets and where did the money come from. There was a request for help from the Senate regarding issues of renovations and maintenance in Roberts Hall as promised. There was a suggestion to look at documents from the Board Property Committee. Would like Finance and Resources Committee to work on this. Plan for follow-up on these things discussed here. Document specifics and ask the Administration to explain how they can build a reserve and deny raises and positions. The request was to ask Administration to come straight away and respond.

There was discussion regarding the problems, how to respond, what the focus should be, what does this body want and how to accomplish the goals. The Senate has to try to understand the situation first on own. Look at the whole picture.

There was a suggestion that a Bill is the way to proceed with this—it is important to leave a trail

Dr. English volunteered as Chair of Finance and Resources for the remainder of this year.

Discussion continued: We need shared governance. Go back to bylaws and increase power. We have not set forth goals and strategic plan and what we want and our vision for the University. We could do it

and present it in an advisory sense. Should hear from faculty. We are scholarly leaders of the University. Present a vision of the faculty and the way to move forward with that vision. .

### **Suspended discussion**

**Emergency bills to floor by Dr. English—Senate Membership Exceptions** Bill was moved by Dr. Rountree and seconded by Dr. Newman—objection by Dr. Gupta –we are looking at the Bylaws for now and coming with an emergency bill at the end of the year without a chance to look at it and think about it is premature. Taking two directors positions exempt. Premature and not in the best interest of the Senate. There was discussion regarding the reporting issue etc. Assuming these positions are higher than a Chair position. This is Just for now. Dr. Banish, seconded by Dr. Rountree called the question 19 favor, 2 against, 5 abstaining

Bill vote—20 in favor, 5 against, 5 abstaining  
The bill passed at first reading

Dr. Sanders explained the Director position situation.

Objection clarified as on principle.

**Benefits for victims Bill.** Moved by Dr. Gupta, seconded by Dr. Wessling. Consensus. Friendly amendment lines, 25 and 26 take out “paid ultimate price” “and to families of those who were injured or killed”. Why limited to those 3. List 6 people. Accepted. Call the question moved by Dr. Rountree, seconded by Dr. Banish by consensus

Bill Vote—Unanimous, passed at first reading.

### **Committees:**

Discussion Continued.

Governance and Operations come up with vision statement for Senate. Vision statement for university as seen by the faculty.

Invite trustees to come talk. Need to have coherent plan to talk about. Ad hoc Committee –Dr. Banish moved and seconded by Dr. Rountree. 8 against, 21 in favor. Forming ad hoc Committee to form plan. Gaede Rountree, Miller Banish, Sanders, Scholz, Sitaraman, Hawk. Dr. Hawk will bring together. Committee and decide whether to bring in other people. Coordinate effort to involve all faculty so there is a response to the needs of faculty. Not decisions by Committee. Strategic plan. Vision about true shared governance and then strategic plan. Report first meeting of fall semester.

Mission bigger picture—what do we want. More input. Want voices to be heard. Speak with one voice. Vision of where university is going. What is involved in moving forward-what is the mission of the faculty and how it fits with the University. Game plan. Action plan. Faculty concerns that we need to advance in a systematic way.

**Governance and Operations**-Dr. Gupta reported the Elections for Senators were conducted and is complete. The Committee will send preference request for Committees for next year’s Senate tomorrow.

Call for nominations for President-Elect and Ombudsperson. This all needs to be complete by the end of the month. Bylaws section one, two, and three have been worked on and we will get a draft to the Executive Committee in the next few weeks.

**Curriculum**-approved 5 courses

**Faculty and Student Development:** Committee will work on a survey to address issues of faculty retention.

Dr. Gaede moved and seconded by Dr. Gupta to adjourn.

13 for 6 against. Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.