
FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE MEETING

**November 5, 2020
12:50 P.M. OKT N142**

Present: Jeff Weimer, Mike Banish, Tim Newman, Carmen Scholz, Kader Frendi, Kwaku Gyasi, Laird Burns, Carolyn Sanders

Absent: Emil Jovanov

Zoom Remote Participants: Ex-Officio: Provost Christine Curtis; Guest: President Darren Dawson, Paul Whitehead

➤ **Faculty Senate President Tim Newman called the meeting to order at 12:56 pm.**

➤ **Meeting Review:**

- Bill 445 sent Finance and Resource committee.
- Bill 454 sent to Personnel committee.
- Bill 455 passed first reading.
- Bill 456 passed first reading.
- Gift Acceptance Policy was voted to pass over.
- Policy and Procedures for Naming Opportunities at UAH was sent to Finance and Resource Committee.
- Guidelines for Fundraising Policy was sent to Finance and Resource Committee.

➤ **Administrative Reports**

- President Darren Dawson
 - We are in final stages of Morton Hall. Spragins is continuing and hoping to be completed February 2021. The Beville Cooling Center should be done by the end of the year. Shelby Center external renovation is set for March 2021. Bids have come in for Lab 341 and hope to begin this month. Phase III Greenway that remains on schedule for bidding in November. We are planning on taking stage three submittal to board in April 2021 for IT Data Center. We are also opening bids soon for Cyber Security Lab with hopes to finish by summer.
 - Tim and I have been working to set up meetings with Budget and Planning, Campus Planning, and Financial Aid committees.
 - Tim – We had talked in the past if it's possible to have another round of stimulus for infrastructure after the election, could we submit additional projects?
 - President – Yes. We anticipate there will be additional higher education. That money will be related to distance learning, COVID protocols. We anticipate another round of money. Provost and faculty have gotten together to list items that we could take care of. If we had a facility projects that would be completely different to stimulate construction, we have two projects ready to go. Other projects would be the renovation of central

residential halls by the CTC. That is probably a \$17M project. Lastly, an economic development project related to executive plaza.

- Tim – Two years ago there was talk about a Cyber School coming?
- President- Yes, they have a sight and I think demolition has started.
- Kader – Is the project for Shelby Center complete to run water away from the building?
- President – No, that is the renovation project. We will start construction on a French drain system on March 1. We are a ways away from getting back into that building.
- Laird – We want to share our appreciation with you on starting the score card on shared governance. You mentioned having faculty and some looking into money being invested into remote learning, do you know who those faculty are?
- Provost – First of all, we received notification about a month ago that we had from the state \$1.33M for remote learning. We had to buy it, have it on campus, and paid for by middle of December. All we could do is go to the experts working on the classrooms. Those could tell us what was needed. John Tigerson and his group put together a list of \$1.336M. I think they are outfitting small video rooms. I think all the bids are in. Maybe one will come next week. A lot of the reasons they know the problems is because of input from the faculty.
- Laird – Some have reminded me that we set up a committee last year to review salaries, they suggested that we ask if we request that information from you. What do we do to move forward? Do we use online data?
- President – Let me check with Todd. Laurel was putting together the historical data for the past five years.
- Laird – Five years would be fine.
- Provost Christine Curtis
 - We have one Dean search ongoing for College of Science. I received all the input from the faculty, President, Dean. I selected one candidate to move forward with. We are doing extra reference checks should be completed tomorrow. It is highly likely that we will move forward.
 - We completed three fifth year reviews last year. We are now starting again a fifth year review for Dean Greene.
 - I just received an email from Tim asking for some additional delays on policies. I certainly will grant them. We are all facing the same issues due to COVID. I understand the issue.
 - Commencement is moving forward. We have sent out the survey to the students. We have about 350-400 that have stated they will be there. We can have 240-260 there depending on the seat setup. We know we will have two ceremonies, likely three to four. Faculty can attend but you need a ticket.
 - I wanted to remind you of the fall schedule. The last day of in person classes is November 20th. We will have a week off for Thanksgiving. We combined fall break with Thanksgiving. There is one more week of class starting November 30.
 - Spring classes will start January 13th. There will not be a spring break.

- Facilities have made the offer to put up plexiglass around your lecterns in the classroom. Put in a ticket.
- ACT Optional Admission Pilot, material has went to the board of trustees. Press release is ready to go. I haven't seen it. I don't know if it has been sent out.
 - President – The press release is on the webpage.
- I updated the expectation and enforcement notice for employees. It has been changed now.
- Faculty have to get their grades in by December 15th. Students have a window to change their grade to pass or withdraw. For each course, they will see their grade and can make the change. If they don't choose anything, by default, there is no change. We are making it very clear in our first communication to them. A "P" does not mean they will automatically progress to the next course. Most courses require a "C". If they have a "P" or "D", they do not progress. A report will be provided to colleges and chairs letting them know who has the appropriate grade. We did a full survey to show how many students used a pass/withdraw last semester. The first report was wrong. Once the issues were corrected, they reviewed all the grades. Of all the 37,000 grades, not quite 5,000 were changed. 80% of the 5,000 were passes and 20% were withdrawals.
 - Kader – I have in my syllabus highlighted that if we go to pass/withdrawal, a "D" will go to an "F". In engineering, that grade wouldn't be applicable for passing.
 - Provost – If they receive a "D", they can opt for a pass.
 - Carmen – After the students change their grade, is there a way the faculty can see the original grade they received to know if they can move forward?
 - Provost – They will have the information. Every student will need to be checked to ensure they made the required grade for their course.
 - Laird – You mentioned graduation. We don't want to be a burden on the population problem. Any feedback?
 - Provost – It appears there will be plenty of seats. There should be plenty of room in tier one and two for faculty. There were either three or four seats in a group. A faculty member will take up four seats. I am going to leave it to the faculty member. I think there will be enough room. If we run out of tickets, we will let you know. I also don't want to say anything that will make faculty think I am demanding they are there. I think it is a personal decision for the faculty to make going into a large arena with a large crowd.
 - Jeff – Our staff would go into Argos and look back into grades, will we see P or W or the grade originally given?
 - Provost – I don't know the exact answer. I will have to go back and get that answer.
 - Kwaku – If a student has an "F", are the students allowed to withdraw?
 - Provost – Yes.

- Kader – Does this “W” count against how many they are allowed? Or are they forgiven? I know in my department, we only allow so many “W”.
- Provost – Are you saying that your department only allows your student to withdrawal a certain amount of times?
- Kader – Yes, either three or five.
- Provost - I would think it would count. I will have to check.
- Mike – Kader is referring to is something I haven’t heard in a decade. There was a policy that came down through administration stating the student could withdraw a certain amount of times.
- Provost – Let me check. We have a withdraw policy that has been reviewed 2014-2015 and is up for review now. That brings up another point that I need to mention. There are a number of policies that we are required to review every five years. I will probably work with Tim and Carmen to show you the changes. If they aren’t substantive, we will go ahead and make the change. If there are modifications, we will let the senate see.
- Mike – I am going to go back to the penalties for faculty. You sent out an announcement that the healthcheck site wasn’t functioning properly. We were wondering personnel if any faculty received warnings due to the system not working. If the faculty did receive warnings, can those be removed?
- Provost – Yes, we did remove those. We ask that they are reminded. I realized that emails were being sent. They are back in force now. There have been two this week.
- Mike – There were no warnings sent out due to the mistake in the system?
- Provost – No. If anyone knows there is an issue, please let us know.
- We have been thinking how we can approve the enrollment of our graduate programs, especially the professional graduate program. President Dawson has mentioned thinking differently on how we go about admissions. We are going to try something new. It is a focused effort. We are going to move three positions into Graduate Admissions Office. The Graduate Admissions Office will focus on eight to twelve master’s programs for enhanced marketing. We are going to do this experimentally and we hope that it is a success. We are trying to bring in more students and revenue. We will change the Dean of Graduate School and International Services into a new Associate Provost position. They will manage and administer the Graduate School, International Programs, Study Abroad, and Academic Integrity for undergraduate and graduate students.
 - Tim – I had asked if we changed graduate admissions around, I received positive response. I wanted to let you know that.
 - Provost – We need to make it clear that graduate admissions is the responsibility of the admissions office but also the department. We need to be engaged if students want to talk or email with a faculty member. We all have to do our part.
 - Carmen – I am asking for an automated email to be sent out letting them know about the change.

- Provost – As graduate coordinator you wanted to be kept abreast of all the applications coming in?
- Carmen – Yes.
- Paul – This is related to student COVID testing. We have had a number of positives in our department. We had a student go to student services to be tested, they wouldn't test because he wasn't showing symptoms. He went to the hospital and tested. He went to Executive Plaza and was denied. He did test positive. He has been told that he is on probation due to violating ethics on not telling health services. I probably would have told him exactly what he did.
- President- I would have to ask Amber exactly what happened. I don't understand why it happened.
- Paul – The student said he could only be tested if showing symptoms at health services. He went to the drive up, and mentioned having a headache, but didn't test. We have had a few more positives following that student as well. He is being told one thing and punished for another. To avoid this in the future, what's the guidance on what to tell the students?
- President – I need to talk with Amber and Kristi. I don't think we will test just to test without symptoms. I don't understand what happened at Executive Plaza.
- Kader – On the graduate school side, I was thinking about the possibility of investigation the GRE Optional like ACT Optional. Most of the time we hear they don't want to take this.
- Provost – We have been GRE optional in many programs for a while now. It is dependent on the program.
- Kader – We have programs that do require the GRE?
- Provost – Yes. It is a faculty decision for that particular degree.

➤ **Officer/Committee Reports**

- Tim Newman, President
 - **Governance** and Operations completed the ballots for the Beta ... and Campus Planning.
 - **Looking at Campus** Planning, faculty handbook has a reference to priority and ... I am thinking it was folded into Campus and Planning. Does anyone remember that?
 - Carolyn – Yes, I do.
 - Tim - If that is the case, we need to modify our documents to reflect that.
 - For Research Council, we need four names to send forward. At the next senate meeting, we will do that then.
 - I want to let you know that Gloria Green that they need a faculty representative for I thought about this for a while. The first person I thought of was Carmen Scholz and sent that forward.
 - Carmen and I met with President and Provost and discussed issues. We discussed faculty workload, Canvas issues, salary concerns, and units that need revitalization. I gave Carolyn's name for the police committee.
 - At the last senate meeting, we did get a lot done. However, there is still a lot left. Some of these have been pending for quite a while. We want to make sure that we get through these. I think most are straight forward.

- Mike – I thought that we had requested the adequate programs for signatures. If so, that is on hold until we receive an answer back.
- There are four policies pending and Chapter 6 revision. From my own perspective, I would like to see these clear our books.
- I want to remind you that we have other items too. We have pending bills 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 445, and 449. In addition, we put policy 02.01.52 on hold in regard to summer school.
 - Laird – The Provost suggested that we put a cap.
- There are a huge number of bills. I am in strong view that those policies should be at the top.
 - Carolyn – Decisions get made early for summer school, that policy could impact those.
 - Tim – We have to do that this calendar year.
- I want to call your attention to Bill 445. We passed first reading and it was sent to senate. Since they haven't done anything about it, we can recall that. You have to have had voted in positive favor in FSEC. I was one but it isn't best for me to make the motion.
 - Mike – I motion. Kader Frendi seconds.
 - Tim – All in favor of redoing the first reading. Ayes carry. Senate Bill 445 is back for reconsideration. We can send it to committee and decide it is dead.
 - Mike – I think Jeff's committee. I motion. Kader seconds.
 - Tim – All in favor. Ayes carry.
- Carmen Scholz, President Elect
 - I have received a number of bills. I have nothing else to report.
- Carolyn Sanders, Ombudsperson
 - No report.
- Mike Banish, Parliamentarian
 - No report.
- Laird Burns, Past President
 - No report.
- Kwaku Gyasi, Faculty and Student Development Committee Chair
 - ...
- Emil Jovanov, Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs Committee Chair
 - No report.
- Kader Frendi, Governance and Operations Committee Chair
 - We are reviewing the manual and handbook to make sure the committees are matching. We will need to make an election again.
- Jeff Weimer, Finance and Resources Committee Chair
 - I am pleased to say that the RCEU Program is open to faculty for proposals. We will have the student applications until the first week of spring semester. Then we will allow faculty a week or two to interview the students. I am pleased that we have good support from so many. I just brought that policy forward to the committee and expedite comments.
- Mike Banish, Personnel Committee Chair
 - I received my answer in regards to health check. It seems that we need some consistency. We have started to dive in Chapter 7.

- Carolyn – Where is the Title IX policy?
 - Tim – It has been returned with the proviso that the senate is okay with it on a short term basis. Then in March, we want it reviewed. We were concerned there would be issues with standards.
- Bill 454:
 - Tim – This was submitted by a faculty member. Is there anyone that wishes to move to first reading or move to committee?
 - Carmen – I suggest we send this to committee because it pertains to changes with Chapter 7.
 - Tim – There is a motion to send to Personnel Committee. Kader Frendi seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry.
- Bill 455:
 - Tim – This was submitted by a faculty member. This refers to a change in Chapter 4.
 - Kader – I move to send to Personnel.
 - Tim – Is there a second? Carmen seconds.
 - Carolyn – Is there not a more efficient way to resolve this? Does it need to go back to committee? With respect to my colleague.
 - Mike – It would go to me. I agree with Carolyn.
 - Tim – All in favor of going to personnel. The motion is denied.
 - Mike – I move that it be adopted at first reading. Jeff seconds.
 - Tim – All in favor of sending to senate. Ayes carry by majority.
- Bill 456:
 - Tim – Is there a motion to send to committee or senate?
 - Mike – The committee that Carolyn is serving on what?
 - Tim – It is an ad hoc committee to analyze practices of UAH Police Department. My understanding this bill is a permanent.
 - Carolyn – My committee is called advisory council.
 - Mike – I move that we adopt this on first reading. Carolyn seconds.
 - Tim - All in favor. Ayes carry.
 - Mike – I would like to motion that we limit the debate to five minutes. I don't know if we can do that?
 - Tim – There is an order to set time limits on the agenda.
- Bill 457:
 - Tim – This is submitted from a faculty member. Is there a statement to be made before motion?
 - Carmen – I want to add that this was received 10/29.
 - Kader – I move to send to Faculty and Student Development. Carmen seconds.
 - Kwaku – Where was the faculty member?
 - Carmen – I think China.
 - Tim – At some point in the past there was a request to the FSEC to address the issue. My recommendation is to review the public review.
 - Provost – It occurred in 2015. There was a lot of discussion in FSEC meeting in 2015 and it was recorded.
 - Kader – It was in the fall.
 - Carmen – This is very complicated. It stems from personal issues to general issues. Personal isn't an issue for the senate. Please be aware of that.
 - Jeff – I think given the weight of this. I suggest it goes to Personnel as well. I motion to amend.

- Tim – All in favor. Ayes carry. This will be sent to two committees. All in favor to sending to Personnel and Faculty and Student Development. Ayes carry.
 - Motion to pass over Gift Acceptance
- Policy and Procedures for Naming Opportunities at UAH
 - Mike motions to extend five minutes. Ayes carry.
 - Tim – I have one concern about this.
 - Mike – Motion to send to Finance and Kader seconds.
 - Tim – On the fellowship there is concept for a distinguished fellowship. There is a difference in the dollar amount. We need to list what makes it distinguished. All in favor of sending to Finance and Resources. All in favor. Ayes carry unanimously with abstentions.
- Guidelines for Fundraising
 - Carmen – Motions to send to Finance. Carolyn seconds.
 - Tim – This seems quite board. This eliminates Go Fund Me. I ask for clarification on that. It appears it has to go through University Advancement.
 - Carolyn – In my department, we rely on donors. There is some language in there that I hope personnel will focus on.
 - Jeff – Send those comments to me via email.
 - Tim – All in favor of sending to committee. Ayes carry.
- Agenda:
 - Tim – I would suggest that we include last meeting items in the same order. All in favor. Ayes carry.
 - Mike – I would suggest that the Policy Department Advisory Committee be moved up. Jeff seconds.
 - Tim – All in favor. Ayes carry.
- Motion to adjourn Kader Frendi. Mike Banish seconds. Ayes carry. Meeting adjourned at 2:32 PM.