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**FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE MEETING**

**March 4, 2021  
12:15 PM to 2:00 PM  
OKT N142**

***Present: Tim Newman, Kwaku Gyasi, Mike Banish, Kader Frendi, Carmen Scholz, Jeff Weimer, Carolyn Sanders, Emil Jovanov***

***Present via Zoom: Laird Burns, Paul Whitehead***

***Guest: Ex-Officio: Provost Christine Curtis, President Darren Dawson***

- **Faculty Senate President Tim Newman called the meeting to order at 12:55 PM.**
- **Meeting Review**
  - **Bill 459 passed first reading and placed on faculty senate agenda.**
  - **Bill 454 passed first reading and placed on faculty senate agenda.**
  - **Bill 455 passed first reading and placed on faculty senate agenda.**
  - **Policy 03.01.06 voted to be placed on senate agenda.**
  - **Policy 03.01.07 voted to be placed on senate agenda.**
- **Administrative Reports**
  - **President Dawson**
    - The facilities report haven't changed since last week.
    - We are still pursuing the vaccines as hard as we can. The system thought they would be able to get vaccines transferred. The ADPH has to approve the transfer so they have sent that over to them.
      - Carmen – Thank you for the quick response on the lab hygiene plan protocol. I take it the faculty can relax for right now? Within the next six months we will clean up the problem.
      - President- We will let Bob Linquist work to clean the problem.
      - Paul – With the announcement of fall being returned to normal, will mask still be required?
      - President – We haven't commented on that. We will make a decision later.
      - Jeff – Your recent statement left open the idea that we would not be requiring mask after April.
      - President – We will release a statement following the state. I am sure we will require mask through the semester.
  - **Provost Curtis**
    - Our discussion about spring semester and prep for fall semester is the same as what the President has stated. We assume the same health and safety requirements remain through spring semester. They will continue to discuss the requirements with the task force. Charlie Taylor will call meetings as issues arise for summer and fall semesters. We will have to keep the website updated. My anticipation is we

will continue as we are through spring semester. I don't know for sure and don't know about summer for on campus.

- Class schedules are currently being prepared. We will be in the class full this fall. The rules for vaccinated individuals are listed here. I mentioned all this last time. There are rules for quarantine, visitor protocols. We will start student orientation in May. There will be camps on campus this summer. The dining protocols have kept them at lowest occupancy. Now they are able to operate like all other restaurants.
- We are coming back in full this fall with no social distancing. We don't know about mask at this point. We are silent until we get the ruling from the health and safety task force. I don't expect them to rule early. They will be watching the vaccine rollout.
  - Kader – You mentioned dining. Does this mean the return to self-service?
  - Provost – I don't think so. The only thing that is being relaxed as I understand it is the occupancy. Any social events the students have can have food but it is prepackaged.
- I wanted to let you know that there have been a large number of reappointments that have come through. RPT worked fine for all of them. Michele was able to load the responses and send back to the faculty. The system worked fine. The only thing was my delay time but nothing related to the university or system. The RPT was easy to follow and pull up exactly what was needed. I think the later set of reappointments are with the colleges and I will see them soon.
- Carmen asked a question last Thursday. The contractor had unplugged equipment and that has been fixed. There is continued work. In January, we started work. Some of the older equipment couldn't handle some of the newer cards. We are starting to place orders. John Tigerson has left. We will be working with ETL in the Provost Office to process the orders. There will be more disruption. I have to warn you. We will be replacing projectors. We will be placing sensors in the classroom. If no one is in there, the projectors will turn off. Carmen also asked about equipment being made available to the faculty. Since the library already has a media library for checkout. The equipment is going to the library so that it can be checked out. This will be made available to the faculty.
- Tim asked that the faculty senate be asked for Dean searches and compensation committees. The committee I have put together to find the best replacement for Dr. Marsha Adams. This is the list of individuals. I am accepting any feedback on this selection. The first meeting is set for tomorrow. We can always add if needed.
  - Jeff – Thank you for the update on the A/V work. As they begin to schedule those jobs for the rooms, can there be a notice posted a week in advance with a timeline for how long it will be out of commission?
  - Provost – Yes, that is an excellent idea. The leadership of the ETL has now changed. Michelle Green is the leader now. She is very aware of issues with the equipment. I am meeting with her early next week and will give her this request. I am sure they will do their best to accommodate your request. They are trying to get out ahead and be helpful.
  - Jeff – Since we know the schedules to the extent that they recommend an alternative room during that time.

- Carmen – Talking about fall semester, freshman and sophomore courses will have online section, then you said no remote sections. Are you saying in classroom and separate online class?
- Carmen- I understand that the online courses we have had in the past will continue online and not tagged on to the ones that teach, but separate?
- Kader – Is that in order to minimize QEPO requirements?
- Provost – It has nothing to do with QEPO. We are just trying to help our students. There are lots of ways we can help a student. It may be that the student could take that course next semester and another this semester and it work out. I don't know the accommodation but individual to the student.
- Paul – The faculty that did dedicate the time to QEPO training, I had a colleague state that he wants the class to stay online due to all his efforts to get it online.
- Provost – We want to have full campus activity. We want it to be a vibrant on campus experience. We want to give students flexibility. To keep enrollment, we have to. There are some courses that we have put online that the faculty find are better taught online. We are not trying to tell the faculty, Chair or Deans how to teach the course. We don't want everything online. Individual courses are decided by the faculty, Chair, and Dean.
- Carolyn – I want to thank you for your attention to the issue over the projectors. Our music building classroom I am on our third projector. I was told there weren't really inventory and they put a few together. Another class lost their projector and they worked diligently to get another one. My concern is in the fall, when classes are at the premium that could be a problem. I don't know how to teach romantic opera without the students seeing it. I am hoping for the fall there will be an extra projector in inventory.
- Provost – There were 100 projectors ordered. Reason being, they are quickly failing. As bad as the pandemic has been, it has allowed us to save money and do this.
- Mike – On charger health check, will you take the suggestion of placing a box if you have taken the vaccine?
- Provost – That is coming. I am not sure exactly what it will say. If it ask if you were vaccinated that could be hard if you are between shots.
- Mike – Do we have any plans to require students to vaccinate?
- Provost – I asked about a month ago. The answer is no. We cannot require a vaccine if it isn't totally completed approved by the FDA. These were approved on an experimental basis. We don't require flu shots.
- Mike – Do you have any explanation on the canvas situation yesterday? It locked down yesterday during the 3 o'clock classes. It was overwhelmed.
- Provost – I haven't heard about it until now. How long did it last?
- Mike – I am not sure but I think everyone just left class.
- Kader – My chair reported in our meeting that the graduated classes will be taught mainly online in our college. Are you aware of this? They need to be QEPO certified. These are the easiest to teach on campus because they are the smallest. I objected to that but I wanted to ask.

- Provost – I heard some will be going online, not the majority. One thing we noticed that we didn't project is our graduate enrollment went up this spring. Our international students went down. We had a greater increase than last spring. We think it was because our graduate students could get classes online.
- Kader – I think the GRE waiver is one part of it.
- Provost - Alabama as a university is proposing going GRE free. I put that before the graduate council to consider. They will allow individual units to allow it.
- Kader – My main objection to this is the challenge that is given in class.
- Provost – I am not taking away. You need to get with your Chair and Dean. I don't determine what is online that is decided at the department and college level.
- Jeff – One thing that has concerned me in the discussion with online is the distinction of offering remote. Remote is they go at their own pace. Online still means that the instructor sets the pace and requirements of the course. The students must make the accommodation with the faculty member. The professor shouldn't give over to the student's request. Please make the absolute statement that we aren't setting remote classes anymore. The student shouldn't set the pace and that is my real concern.
- Provost – We have had a number of online sections for three or four years now due to student request. Also to increase our schedule flexibility to keep students. They have left because they can't get courses as they need them. We have made an effort to increase the flexibility by creating these online courses. We will continue those classes. In our multi-section classes, it will be remote not online. For the upper division and lower division smaller courses that we have been teaching hybrid and remote, we won't have remote sections. We have one college that is teaching everything this spring, they have a few students that really need an accommodation. They have been able to accommodate these students. Talking with the Deans, they don't want to have remote sections. I understand, but we will have to accommodate these students. It will be up to the student to ask for the accommodation.

➤ **Officer/Committee Reports**

- Tim Newman, President
  - I did find out the BOT meeting will not be in Huntsville in April but Tuscaloosa.
  - I heard some discomfort with our certification from our part timers.
  - Many have mentioned they are missing spring break. I am as well. It is going to be tough to the end of the semester. Encourage everyone to hang in there.
  - We had a late bill come in, bill 459. The copies are on the table not in the emailed packet.
  - A&M were able to get some vaccines. I am hopeful since they have, we will.
  - I was contacted this morning that we need to send a name forward for the NFR. We need a reviewer for that. I can't wait until the senate meeting.
    - Paul – Does the name have to be a senator?

- Tim – No. We need to send someone forward that has street cred for research. We don't want a junior faculty. It isn't restricted to academic research.
- Paul – I was going to put my name forward but since you want senior faculty, I do not qualify.
- Carmen – I am not interested but will do it again.
- Tim – I have done it and it is fun. It is a great opportunity to get a heads up on campus. Send me an email if you think of someone. I will hold until noon to hear.
- Carolyn – What is the number proposals roughly you review?
- Tim – There are only eight. Some years we have had up to 40.
- Lastly I would like to task you to do is prepare a small summary of what your committee has done this year. I know that you have worked. Let's get an executive summary to be put in the minutes. It will leave a legacy and good thing to stand on for future years. Some of you have done a whole lot of work this year. Let's get this documented and lets people know the work involved.
- Carmen Scholz, President Elect
  - The ad hoc committee on the ombudsperson section to be added has met several times. We are finally ready to present this bill.
- Laird Burns, Past President
  - No report.
- Carolyn Sanders, Ombudsperson
  - No report. I am working on three cases.
- Kader Frendi, Governance and Operations Committee Chair
  - We are working on elections. We have a special meeting called for tomorrow on Zoom to discuss Bill 458.
- Paul Whitehead, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair
  - We are cleaning up the forms for catalog changes.
- Jeff Weimer, Finance and Resources Committee Chair
  - We are reviewing RCEU proposals and hope to have final report within the next week.
- Emil Jovanov, Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs Committee Chair
  - No report.
- Kwaku Gyasi, Faculty and Student Development Committee Chair
  - No report. We have been tasked to come up with suggestions on how the faculty can be more productive. The committee members want to know what came from the documented submitted.
    - Tim – I think we should discuss that here in FSEC. Please help me remember to get that on the agenda for next meeting. I dropped the ball on that and my apologies.
    - Mike – Do you have that electronically? Can you send that to us by Sunday night? Can Kwaku send that?
    - Tim – That would be fine, I can't do it by Sunday.
- Mike Banish, Parliamentarian
  - No report.
- Mike Banish, Personnel Committee Chair

- I was hoping that we would have Chapter 7 to you but you will have it next time as well as a response to Chapter 9.

➤ **University Committee Reports**

- Kader – The Benefit Committee met yesterday. There are no major changes to the benefits. There was discussion on COVID benefits. In addition for the need of training for employee and tuition assistance policy. It was a wide discussion away from the agenda.
- Mike – Financial Aid met as well. We approved income levels for the second CARES Act. New data came in and we discussed that. The checks should be going out soon to the students.

➤ **Agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting**

- Tim – We need to get the agenda set. I have the list of bills and policies that we have. We have three policies that are time sensitive to us. Academic Misconduct just came back recently. It is in the archive. The redline version of the policy that came was almost be entirely redlines. I am sure you want to see that. Brett Wren said he would look for it or produce one to see with redlines. You may want to wait on that or not. We have BETA. I am waiting for the redline version of BETA. On pending bills, we have several in committees. Some have been with committee for a while. I think we need to discuss what to do with them.
  - Mike – I would like to say that you would push on getting the BETA Policy redlines back. That is an important policy on campus. There is no excuse for us not having redlines on that one. Considering the efforts we have to go through to provide redlines, I feel there is a double standard. I make a motion on 459, 454, and 455.
  - Tim – I heard motion to approve on first reading Bill 459. Is there a second? Kader seconds.
  - Carolyn – As Tim pointed out, there already was an ombudsperson description of Chapter 4. We pulled that out and reworked it to make it more specific. The faculty member should be a rank of associate professor or higher. We thought the faculty senate would decide based on applications two nominees. We explain in the bill how they will be selected. The two highest nominees will be presented to the Provost. We specified the time of the position. We included a course release and a stipend of \$10K. We felt a two year term was important. Some cases can last longer than one academic year. We did allow the person to reapply. This person would be required to undergo training through the International Ombudsperson Association. I hope that we make this a priority for our next academic year.
  - Tim – All in favor of placing on faculty senate agenda. Ayes carry. Passes first reading.
  - Mike – I would like to add Bill 454 and 455.
  - Tim – I will only recognize for one, Bill 454.
  - Mike – There are a few clean up changes.
  - Tim – Is there a second to the motion? Carmen seconds. Were there any other committees to look at this? Any other discussion. All in favor of Bill 454. Ayes carry. Passes first reading.
  - Mike – I make a motion for Bill 455.
  - Tim – There is a motion to approve Bill 455. Jeff seconds the motion.

- Kader – The ombudsperson position is in Chapter 4. There is a bill on that and a bill here. We will vote on this and Chapter 4.
- Tim – This is a member submission. This was submitted well before we passed the recent change to Chapter 4. We need to make sure that these are still the sections.
- Kader – Isn't the ordering passing the bill on ombudsperson then Chapter 4?
- Mike – We took ombudsperson out of Chapter 4.
- Tim – There are two versions of four right now. We have to make certain everything is in sync.
- Carmen – This passed first reading in November.
- Tim – No, we sent to committee.
- Mike – Let's pass it and integrate it.
- Tim – All in favor of passing on first reading and adding to agenda. Ayes carry.
- Mike – I would like to make a motion for 03.01.06 on the agenda. Kader seconds.
- Tim – All in favor of placing 03.01.06 on agenda. Ayes carry.
- Mike – I motion to place 03.01.07 to agenda. Kader seconds.
- Tim – I know we have work to do on this one.
- Provost – I talked with Mike Huff about open flames. I felt our interpretation was not correct. Since he wrote the policy, he said that the open flames is supposed to be directed to the outside groups that use the facilities for free speech. It doesn't have anything to do with the current functions of the use of facilities. If a group from the community come in to use the Chan Auditorium, they can't have open flame. If Carmen wants to do a demonstration with open flame, she can because it is part of her work.
- Tim – The way it is worded doesn't carry that.
- Mike – The problem is the opening statement. This policy does not apply to normal academic and research activities of the University.
- Tim – Motion to send this forward with sentence added. Kwaku seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry. You will be voting to send it to senate to approve with this sentence.
- Mike – The open flames amendment will not be included?
- Tim – Right.
- Mike – I make a motion to remove amendment to line 14. Kwaku seconds. Ayes carry.
- Tim – All in favor of placing on agenda with amendment. Ayes carry.
- Emil – I can prepare a report from Research Council for next week.

➤ Motion to adjourn 2:23 PM.