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**FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE MEETING**

**June 30, 2021  
12:50 PM to 2:20 PM  
OKT N142**

***Present: Tim Newman, Kwaku Gyasi, Carmen Scholz, Jeff Weimer, Azita Amiri, Laird Burns, Carolyn Sanders, Mike Banish***

***Absent: Emil Jovanov, Kader Frendi***

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

- **Faculty Senate President Tim Newman called the meeting to order at 12:55 PM.**
- **Meeting Review:**
  - **BETA Policy passed to be deferred and sent out to senate membership.**
  - **Service Animal Policy voted to be placed on senate agenda.**
  - **Bill 462 & 463 voted to be placed on senate agenda.**
- **Administrative Report**
  - **President Dawson**
    - **2021 Campus Facility Reports – The roundabout is being repaved. Cyber Security Lab is scheduled to be completed by fall semester. Shelby Center should be done by October. Greenway III had to be reworked but it is scheduled to start this month. Hopefully that will be completed in the fall semester. We have a number of roof replacement projects going on. We are still scheduled to do the Executive Plaza demo. The city will be helping us with that. It is scheduled for November to accommodate their schedule. We are working with the system office to put together a request for proposals to do part of the plaza. The idea is for us to not put any money into the project and turn those into ground leases. This could bring substantial revenue to the university. Spragins interior renovation will start in January. The idea is to have more events there as well. Shelby interior phase II will be completed by March 2022. We have some additional priority projects. We are looking at remodeling the vacated area in AHSS. We are planning out how we will do that area. We will remodel the Beville Center now that the Corps has moved out. We would like to place engineering there for more class space. We are continuing vaccination schedule here on campus. I want to publicly acknowledge Christine Curtis and all her service here at the university. She will be retiring August 1<sup>st</sup>. There are many more things she has done than the announcement listed. We are thankful she was here during the difficult time of the pandemic.**
      - **Tim – I want to thank the Provost for her service as well especially with SACS. President Dawson I wanted to ask about Executive Plaza. Will all buildings be removed or will the front remain?**

- President – Most of the front will remain. We will leave the Counseling Center. We may move counseling remote during spring to get CTC ready for fall. I anticipate them to start late.
- Tim – Is the plan to remove all the drives there too?
- President – I think they will take that out and recycle the asphalt. The city may be able to help us with the pavement after we decide what will go in there.
- Laird – Thank you Provost Curtis despite the fact we all have difference of opinions, you have been the hardest working on campus. President – On the ground leases, you can have the right to take it back at some time. Are we going to have something similar to that?
- President – Yes, we will be using the same templates as UA. That is one of the advantages of being a part of the system. We will be using the same content the board has approved.
- Laird – Shelby Center, did they just put drains around it to the pond?
- President – It is a French drain technology. They are very positive about the results this can bring. They did a lot of testing before they started this. They feel they have solved the problem.
- Laird – BOT in person in the fall?
- President – Yes.
- Carolyn – There has been a lot of discussion about Executive Plaza. As far as revenue, will the focus be student specific or revenue generating?
- President – It will be campus focused. The first priority will be apartments. We have 400 on a waiting list for housing. We would like to bring in food service amenities. We also discussed a possible hotel if the revenue was generated high. We could hold conferences there. Maybe we could also think about a neighborhood grocery store.
- Mike – I know the library has a little research space there. They have worked out what to do with their space?
- President – Yes, we will find storage space for their items. What causes this to appear slow is we have to get everything we do vetted by the system. Some think we don't communicate things very well, that isn't the case. I have wanted to share things before and I can't. There are pros and cons to being the system. The pandemic showed the pros but there are cons. We have been instructed about the library issue to not say anything. I wanted to tell you but they don't want us too. There won't be a statement today. I want to use this as an example to prove that I am being told not tell you. I work for the Chancellor and his pleasure. Everyone handled everything well.
- Laird – There is a rumor that the Registrar's Office may move to Student Services.
- President – That may happen in time.
- Laird – We will be involved in the discussion?
- President – Yes.
- Mike – Any move of the Registrar's Office, we would like to have the opinions of several people.
- President – Absolutely, but that isn't the focus right now.

- Provost – IT needs a lot of financial support. We are having a lot of trouble hiring because salaries aren't high enough. I don't think it needs to be fixed. There are hardworking people there and highly qualified.
  - President – It has definitely been underfunded over the past several years.
  - Provost – It is inappropriate to say they need to be fixed. Malcolm has done a phenomenal job. They have been extremely supportive of the faculty. In terms of the Registrar's Office, they are in charge of Degree Works.
  - Carolyn – I would like to echo your sentiments about IT. I worked in class and all my interactions were top notch. I did take away that they were understaffed.
  - President – They are under resourced as well. We are hoping working with a consultant and added resources will help.
  - Provost – The Academic Technology group is under staffed. There are only three that work the classrooms. They aren't in IT.
  - Carmen – Where are we with the Police Chief?
  - President – The new chief should be on campus after the 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Provost Christine Curtis
    - We have three candidates on campus for Associate Provost. One is under tenure so that will take a little while. I hope to make the phone call directly to the candidate in the next day or so. The Dean of College of Nursing search is moving forward. There are three finalist. We think they will be on campus in July. Karen Trip has agreed to serve as interim Dean of Nursing. I am finishing up the fifth year review. It takes three different written documents. Dr. Dawson has mentioned that July 1, OIT will be transferring to Todd Barre. We will have a consult firm. It is a four stage review. They review four different times. College of Professional Studies is without a Dean at this point. Jason Greene has agreed to serve as interim Dean. Hanover has completed research for us. There was debrief yesterday. Honors College Dean will supervise the Director of Undergraduate Research. David Cook has done an excellent job. Brent Wren is retiring tomorrow. The board and ACHE has approved the PhD in Chemistry pending SACS approval. We are down about 5% in enrollment. We know we will have a few more College Academy students. We know that the sophomores and continuing freshman are down. We are still down and working extremely hard for enrollment. There is concern of not having enough students on campus. We did lose out of state tuition during the pandemic. 46 out of 185 are out of state full online. We do have fully online programs. A number of the part time students are working full time. In a few cases, some students have called asking for a fully online schedule. There are a few that can't come. At the end of spring semester, there was a drastic number of unenrolled students from spring. We set up a communication campaign. After a while, Student Affairs decided to join in. All of the students have been contacted one way or the other. A campaign has been started to reach these students. We are down to 73% not being enrolled. We have increased the number but not by enough. Starting tomorrow, there will be statements on WLRH. We are trying to figure out ways to reach our students. I wondered how many students we didn't get from spring to fall or the year before. We were at the same percent difference. I think we have an opportunity to build bridges with these students. Build the bridges early, start in the fall. This is the

reason our graduation rate is not where it should be. You can't just do it in the summer. You have to start in the spring.

- Laird – Some years ago with a former Dean, we updated the Business School brochures. My children had just recently chose other universities. The brochures were created by an older generation. That doesn't help us recruit 17-19 year olds. We don't look at focus groups.
- Provost – We had one or two advisors in many of our colleges for all the students. You can't really watch them full time with 700 – 800 students. Fortunately, the colleges have increased their advising staff. They have been hiring outreach and retention people that are youthful. It is making a difference. There is so much more work to be done. All I know to do is to keep working.
- Carmen – We have gone this route in several directions. I come from the large classroom background. If you have 200 in class, you cannot connect with each one. Something needs to be said for small classes. When we had a GTA teaching, we had more students going on their own because they felt more comfortable in that setting.
- Provost – You have the opportunity to put those key ideas in the strategic plans in the colleges. You have the authorship in that. Class size is a key thing.
- Carolyn – I have felt as long as I have been here UAH has done a major job in missing the boat. We fail to help the students determine their interest. Not everyone is cut out to be an engineer. I know the issue is losing students at the junior year. That is a tough year. If you don't feel passionate about your major that is a key opportunity for students to drop off. I learned the average undergrad changes their degree three times. We don't plan and work with students in regard to this. How well did we know ourselves when we graduated high school? We expect these students to commit themselves and they aren't ready.
- Laird – Having taught benchmarking, I think we can implement pieces with fewer resources.
- Tim – I have looked at fall enrollment numbers. First time full time and part time is down more than others. I am wondering is it possible in 19-20 did we have more orientation sessions?
- Provost – There is more going on here. In fall 2019, we had normal orientation. We do have those this year just smaller groups. In 2020, we had online orientations. There was a push because of the pandemic to register the students early. They registered in May typically in 2020. The majority had registered early. Before orientation started this year, 600 had already enrolled. We have increased by 300 in the orientation. As of fall 2017 or 2018, the freshman enrollment pattern changed. They registered at orientation. Due to so many students at orientation, there were frustrated people. They changed the ways to pre-registration. All the students have the opportunity once admitted to register before orientation.
- Jeff – Christine, I join the others in thanking you for your service. Increasing out of state students stands out the most to me. I thank you for the interactions we have had on the RCEU program. I want to use that as a

question. There are two transitions happening here. David Cook is moving to Honor's College and you are transition/retiring. RCEU has always gone to the Provost College for one part and Honor's College separately. As you are transitioning out, I would appreciate any words of wisdom to those transitioning in for my side and others coming in.

- Mike – I have a question about is losing students. How many did we lose at the end of sophomore year are in trouble academically with scholarships? Do we have numbers on those?
- Provost – This is several years' old data, but we worked with Student Service and the numbers hurt so badly. The coordinator working with us stated if you would make contact with your students three times a semester, you wouldn't have this issue. We lose students due to scholarships, major changes, transfer to another university. We are losing students for so many different reasons. Everyone has to work on it.

➤ **Officer/Committee Reports**

- Tim Newman, President
  - I talked with the President, I think he spoke to those issues. I want to underscore what the President said about board approval. That is an operating change that we have had from other administrations. It is surprising to me the degree of vetting. I want to let you know that the Provost informed me yesterday the bylaws have been at the System Office. There was a board meeting three weeks ago.
- Carmen Scholz, President-Elect
  - I attend the FDP meeting. They have said the issue is foreign relations. There are a bunch of scientist from different countries that publish a review paper. The Chinese person put on the bottom of his paper acknowledging the Chinese funding agency. The US person got in trouble for not stating that information. I think this will be in the research world soon.
- Laird Burns, Past President
  - I want to make a point that ever since I was President, they have been discussing the BETA issue. I think we should have some updates on that. On retention, I would caution us that we need to seek what are the best practices. We aren't looking outside the box and seeing what others are doing.
    - Carolyn – I know where you are coming from. I respectively disagree, I was fully supported by UAH to go to a conference and come back to apply them. I understand what you are saying but I want to make sure we understand that it is happening.
    - Tim – I think our first year outreach to students has come a long way.
- Mike Banish, Parliamentarian
  - No report.
- Carolyn Sanders, Ombudsperson
  - No report.
- Azita Amiri, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair
  - No report.
- Jeff Weimer, Finance and Resources Committee Chair
  - No report.
- Kwaku Gyasi, Faculty and Student Development Committee Chair
  - No report.
- Mike Banish, Personnel Committee Chair

- We will have a new chair in the fall. I would request that you and Carmen set up a committee to look at what we are doing to make contact with students who are doing poorly. I think we need to make sure there is some faculty presence on it.
- Bill 463
  - Tim – You need to decide if you want it on the agenda for Thursday. We were supposed to do 462 as well last meeting. You need to decide what we will do with that.
- BETA Policy
  - Tim – What is your pleasure here?
    - Jeff – What are the options?
    - Tim – You could say you aren't ready to look at it and I can ask for it. You can defer and say you don't want to look at it next week. You can send it to senate next week.
    - Mike – I would like to make a motion that the BETA Policy be released to Faculty Senate and we will have it as an item of discussion at the first meeting in August.
    - Carolyn – I second.
    - Carmen – Why not next week?
    - Mike – They need time to think about it.
    - Tim- You need to keep in mind the 90 day window. We haven't set our senate agenda yet. It cannot wait until September. The staff senate and SGA have already acted, it is just waiting on us. There are some agitation that we haven't acted.
    - Jeff – The 90 days applies since the faculty aren't present during the summer.
    - Laird – Yes.
    - Carolyn – I am curious how involved are faculty going to be in this over the summer?
    - Mike – This is their chance. We can say read it or don't complain.
    - Tim – August 18<sup>th</sup> is the first date of classes. This FSEC, not the new, could meet the week before August 12<sup>th</sup>. Then senate could meet the second day of class. The new FSEC could meet the second day of class, then FS meet August 26<sup>th</sup>.
    - Carmen – I prefer this FSEC meets August 12<sup>th</sup>. I am not convinced the senators will spend a great deal of time on this. My suggestion is we meet in August.
    - Laird – If we are going to pass this, we need to send this to the new senate as well. You will have up to 50% new people and that poses a challenge. The only issue I am concerned with this is the calendar. I don't see a lot of changes with this report.
    - Tim – The first year or two this was in place, we received summary reports, but not in several years.
    - Carolyn – It is a complex policy. Other entities have passed it. I don't know that this warrants the delay.
    - Tim – Of those here, are you available August 12<sup>th</sup>? I don't know the reporting date. I know some have travel planned.
    - Carmen – We officially report on the 11<sup>th</sup>.
    - Jeff – I will be back.
    - Tim – Any other discussion on the motion to defer?
    - Mike – I want it sent out to new and old and not placed on the agenda and note you will vote in August.
    - Tim – I don't know that you can place it on the August agenda at this time. So, the current motion is basically to defer it for now and send it out to senate membership. Let's vote. All in favor. 1 nay. Ayes carry.
- Policy 03.01.02 Service Animals
  - Kwaku moves to place on senate agenda next week. Carmen seconds.

- Carmen – It was sent to me and I called Christine. No animals allowed in Chemistry labs.
  - Tim – There are public walkways that go through our campus. The public can walk a pet on. To say the students can't walk a dog on those walkways seems like a discriminatory action. I understand no pets in the dorm. This blanket statement seems peculiar on the service animal policy.
  - Laird – I don't think a blanket statement should be there in the service animal policy.
  - Carolyn – I agree with that statement, students should be able to walk their pets here.
  - Carmen – I think this is sloppy writing to the fact of no pets in the dorms.
  - Jeff – I think we will have an amendment to that language before then.
  - Tim – Let's vote on placing this on the agenda. On the vote, the ayes carry.
  - Tim – We need to decide on Bill 462. Is there a motion? Mike moves to place back on agenda. Carolyn seconds. Let's vote now. On the vote, the ayes carry.
  - Tim – We also need to decide on Bill 463. Is there a motion?
    - Mike moves to place on agenda. Carmen seconds.
    - Tim – Let's vote now. On the vote, the ayes carry.
- Meeting adjourned 2:24 PM.