

Faculty Senate Minutes

January 16, 2025

Call to order:

A regular meeting of the University of North Alabama's Faculty Senate convened via MS Teams Video Conferencing at 3:30pm with President Hunt presiding.

I. Recognized Proxies

Dr. Sabrina Stanley for Sen. Kelley
Ms. Jacqueline Allen for Sen. O'Neal
Dr. Ian Loepky for Sen. Volz-Stomackin
Dr. Mark Lawrence for Sen. Cagle
Mr. Thomas Pratt for Sen. Gudmundsson

Members in attendance

Wael Al-Kouz, Lisa Ann Blankinship, Sidney Blaylock, Miranda Bowie, Charles Brooks, Keli Brothers, Danny Burton, Justin Carter, Gabriela Carrasco, Jian Chen, Freda Coleman-Reed, Helen Coronel, James DaSambiagio-Moore, Frank Diaz, Ravi Gollapalli, Anissa Graham, Leah Graham, Mark Greer, John Hodges, Rebecca Hopkins, Andrea Hunt, Jason Imbrogno, Ann-Marie Irons, Lauren Killen, Kelly Latchaw, Tom Lukowicz, George Makowski, Jason McCann, Stephanie Montgomery, Andrea Nate, Gary Padgett, Andrew Potter, Chris Purser, Robert Rausch, Suzanne Reese Mills, Beverly Russell, Justin Scott, Angel Tomlinson, Darlene Townsend, Gretchen Windt, Ping Zhao

Members not in attendance

Wendy Wang

II. Recognize guests

Dr. Felicia Harris, Dr. Brian Morgan, Dr. Michelle Nelson, Ms. Tammy Rhodes, Ms. Lori Wright

III. Approval of the Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Sen. Proxy Pratt and seconded by Sen. Montgomery. Motion was approved by raised hand (28Y: 0N). Motion passes.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from December 5, 2024

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Sen. Purser and seconded by Sen. Carrasco. Motion was approved by raised hand (33Y:0N). Motion passes.

V. Remarks from Dr. Ken Kitts, President

Dr. Kitts noted changes in government leadership at the federal, state, and city level during 2025. These changes may impact funding for higher education along with decreased tax revenue to support the ETF budget.
The new weather guidance system was employed in the recent snow event. Guidance is shared with faculty, staff, and students.

2030 will mark UNA's bicentennial. Dr. Kitts will form a committee to plan for several events leading up to 2030 to celebrate this important anniversary for UNA.

VI. Remarks from EVPAA/ Provost Smith

Provost Smith welcomed faculty back for the Spring 2025 semester and provided updates on national searches for the CASE Dean and Director of Library Services. Additionally, several faculty positions were released at the end of last semester and searches have begun, with one search already concluding in a successful outcome.

Provost Smith shared a summary of the current WICHE (Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education) which predicts that 2025 will be the peak year for high school graduate numbers before beginning a decline until year 2041. The South is not expected to be impacted by this decline as much as other parts of the nation. Student retention remains an important goal for UNA.

VII. Remarks from Faculty Senate President Hunt

FS President Hunt provided updates on:

- ACT/ SAT recommendations – this is before SGEC at their next meeting and will then go to SG Academic and Student Affairs Committee
- Dr. Jason Watson is currently working to fix a glitch with the VoteUNA software
- Ad hoc committees for the Senate Survey and Faculty Handbook are currently working
- Mr. Evan Thornton will host two remaining meetings for budgetary concerns and questions. Faculty are encouraged to go and to ask questions.
- A nominating committee will be formed later this term to elect the AY2025/2026 officers. Please consider serving in a position or on the nominating committee.

VIII. Reports

a. Standing Committees

i. Faculty Affairs (Sen. Hodges) – No updates

- 1) Parental leave policy – FS President Hunt noted that the current policy in the Faculty Handbook differs from that in the Employee handbook. HR is working to provide a merged policy (HR:: FA subcommittee::FS).
- 2) Senior lecturer promotion
- 3) Travel and per diem – Notes that Alabama state law has parameters for faculty meals during travel.
- 4) Section 3.2.2. of the Faculty Handbook – Gathering information.
 - a. Clarification on credit hour and contact hour calculations
 - b. Under-load or overload in one semester affecting faculty teaching load in the next semester

ii. Academic Affairs (Chris Klein) – No updates

- 1) Issues accessing Google Drive

iii. Faculty Attitude Survey (Michael Floren) – A call for questions will be forthcoming.

iv. Faculty Handbook Edit Oversight (Sen. Blankinship) – Meeting in two weeks to review edits before bringing edits to FS.

IX. Unfinished Business

None

X. New Business

None

XI. Information Items

None

X. Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn at 3:56pm by Sen. Brothers and seconded by Sen. Scott. Vote by raised hand (35Y:0N). Motion passes.