

Faculty Senate Minutes

February 13, 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

Ms. Jacqueline Allen for Sen. O'Neal

Dr. Erin Johnson for Sen. Cagle

Dr. Ian Loeppky for Sen. Volz-Stomackin

Dr. Pete Williams for Sen. Imbrogno

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, Frank Diaz, Ravi Gollapalli, Anissa Graham, Leah Graham, Mark Greer, Einar Gudmundsson, John Hodges, Rebecca Hopkins, Andrea Hunt, Faith Kelley, Lauren Killen, Kelly Latchaw, Tom Lukowicz, George Makowski, Stephanie Montgomery, Andrea Nate, Gary Padgett, Andrew Potter, Chris Purser, Robert Rausch, Suzanne Reese Mills, Beverly Russell, Justin Scott, Darlene Townsend, Wendy Wang, Gretchen Windt, Ping Zhao

Members not in attendance

James DaSambiagio-Moore, Ann-Marie Irons, Jason McCann, Angel Tomlinson

II. Recognize guests

Dr. Chris Klein, Joice Katiane Mendes Beck Lacruz, Dr. Michelle Nelson, Dr. Collin Philipps, Ms. Lori Wright

III. Approval of the Agenda

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

IV. Approval of the Minutes from January 16, 2025

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Sen. Carter and seconded by Sen. Montgomery. Motion was approved by raised hand (35Y:0N). Motion passes.

V. Remarks from Dr. Ken Kitts, President

President Kitts provided updates to the Faculty Senate:

- State budget recommended net increase of \$2.7 for UNA but one-time funding is down (\$10 - \$15 million) and is expected to remain low in the future. While the proposed budget would allow for a COLA, it would not provide for recurring expenses nor is the State budget finalized at this point.
- A high number of Federal actions are occurring including a limit of NIH indirect support which may lead to State budget changes in favor of R1 institutions. Other federal actions have targeted DEI and federal grants. The EC is closely monitoring these issues and will

communicate changes to impacted units. General communications will be made when the campus is affected. President Kitts encourages faculty to remain calm and demonstrate calm before students.

- SGEAC has been asked to extend the Special Committee on Live Lions. The committee has met with President Kitts.

VI. Remarks from EVPAA/ Provost Smith

Provost Smith provided updates:

- ACONHP is participating as an apprenticeship sponsor for nursing
- Four students (CASE and COHES) are Fulbright semifinalists
- Enrollment is up by 2.75% from Spring 2024
- QEP has 31 new course approvals
- SCOB The Big Idea presentation will occur at the end of the Spring 2025 semester
- The Cole Honors College is trying to better capture their students' research

VII. Remarks from Faculty Senate President Hunt

FS President Hunt provided updates on:

- The Gen Ed Taskforce is completing a review of learning outcomes for gen ed courses
- The ACT/SAT test optional recommendation was voted on by the Shared Governance EC on 2.3.25 to be sent to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee for further review.
- Shared Governance EC will meet on 2.17.25 to discuss the charges and feedback from each of the Shared Governance Committees.
- SGA and the Parking & Traffic Committee have provided results of an on-campus parking survey to Pres. Kitts.
- Dr. Watson is continuing to work on the VoteUNA software.
- Sens. Wang, Nate, and Carrasco are working on a Faculty Senator survey to be released later this term.
- A nomination committee will need to be formed in April 2025 for Faculty Senate Officers and EC. Please contact FS President Hunt if you are interested in serving on this committee.
- The April 2025 meeting will be the last meeting for senators who are rotating off of Senate this year (AY 2024/2025).

VIII. Reports

- a. Standing Committees
 - i. Faculty Affairs – Covered in Unfinished Business.
 - ii. Academic Affairs – Covered in Unfinished Business.
 - iii. Faculty Attitude Survey – Please submit any new ideas/ questions to Dr. Floren. The committee is working on questions at present with plans to distribute the survey for review on or around 3.14.25.
 - iv. Faculty Handbook Edit Oversight
 - 1) Section 2.5 – Covered in IX. Unfinished Business item c.
 - 2) Section 2.6.2 – Covered in IX. Unfinished Business item c.

- 3) Section 2.6.4 – Covered in IX. Unfinished Business item e.
- 4) Section 3.2.3 – Editorial changes to the Office Hour policy.
Motion to accept made by Sen. Bowie and seconded by Sen. Killen.
No discussion. Vote: 37Y:1N. Motion passes.
- 5) Section 3.2.4 – Department chair appointment. Motion to accept for discussion made by Sen. Makowski with second by Sen. Montgomery. Discussion. Sen. Makowski withdraws his motion. Sen. Carrasco motions to table discussion with second by Sen. Makowski.
Vote to table: 37Y:0N. Motion tabled until March 13, 2025 meeting.
- 6) Section 3.3.3 – Moved to March 13, 2025 agenda.
- 7) Section 5.1 – Moved to March 13, 2025 agenda.
- 8) Section 7.1 – Moved to March 13, 2025 agenda.
- 9) Section 5.11 – Moved to March 13, 2025 agenda.
- 10) Section 6.4 – Moved to March 13, 2025 agenda.

IX. Unfinished Business

- a. Parental Leave Policy – Moved to March 13, 2025 meeting.
- b. Travel and per diem (FS: FA Standing Committee) – Moved to March 13, 2025 meeting.
- c. Senior Lecturer Promotion (FHEO Sanding Committee: FA Standing Committee: FS) – Guidance for Senior Lecturer reappointment process (Section 2.5.2) and for transition of Lecturer or Senior Lecturer to Assistant Professor. A motion to accept was made by Sen. Carrasco and seconded by Sen. Proxy Williams. Discussion. Sen. Carrasco amended her motion to send to FA Standing Committee. Seconded by Sen. Scott. Vote: 36Y:0N. Motion passes and items will be sent to FA Standing Committee.
- d. Faculty Handbook Section 3.2.2 (FS: FA Standing Committee) – Clarification on credit hour and contact hour and under-load/ overload in one semester affecting teaching load the following semester. A motion to approve the item was made by Sen. Makowski with second by Sen. Killen. Discussion. Sen. Makowski amended his motion – send item to FA Standing Committee. Seconded by Sen. Scott. Vote: 36Y:0N. Motion passes and item will be sent to FA Standing Committee. Please send any comments to FS Pres. Hunt.
- e. Proposed Faculty Handbook Revisions – Responsibility of the Peer Promotion and/or Tenure Committee (UTP Committee: FS: FA Standing Committee: SGE) - Motion to accept made by Sen. Makowski with second by Sen. Carrasco. No discussion. Vote: 36Y: 1N to approve the recommendation that UTP members vote at one level (departmental/ chair/ UTP).
- f. Recommendations regarding issues with accessing Google Drive (FS: AA Standing Committee) – Motion to approve the recommendation was made by Sen. Carter with a second by Sen. Carrasco. No discussion. Vote: 35Y:0N. Motion approved and the recommendation will be sent to IT.

X. New Business

- a. Vote for Bicentennial Planning Committee – Motion to approve the slate as amended made by Sen. L. Graham with a second by Sen. Carrasco. Discussion. Vote: 37Y:0N. This list will be forwarded to the Deans for their nomination/ approval.

XI. Information Items

None

XII. Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn at 4:58pm by Sen. L. Graham and seconded by Sen. Killen. Vote by raised hand (35Y:0N). Motion passes; meeting adjourned.