

Faculty Senate Minutes
March 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. Korinne Bable for Sen. Brothers
Dr. Michael Floren for Sen. Imbrogno

Members in attendance

Wael Al-Kouz, Lisa Ann Blankinship, Sidney Blaylock, Miranda Bowie, Charles Brooks, Danny Burton, Corey Cagle, Justin Carter, Gabriela Carrasco, Jian Chen, Freda Coleman-Reed, Helen Coronel, James DaSambiagio-Moore, Frank Diaz, Ravi Gollapalli, Anissa Graham, Leah Graham, Mark Greer, Einar Gudmundsson, John Hodges, Rebecca Hopkins, Andrea Hunt, Ann-Marie Irons, Faith Kelley, 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, Justin Scott, Angel Tomlinson, Darlene Townsend, Christina Volz-Stomackin, Wendy Wang, Gretchen Windt, Ping Zhao

Members not in attendance

Beverly Russell

II. Recognize guests

Ms. Shequanda Jenkins, Ms. Tammy Rhodes, Ms. Lori Wright

III. Approval of the Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Sen. Proxy Floren and seconded by Sen. Montgomery. The motion was approved by raised hand (20Y: 0N). The motion passed.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from February 13, 2025

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Sen. L. Graham and seconded by Sen. Scott. The motion was approved by raised hand (36Y:0N). The motion passed.

V. Remarks from Dr. Ken Kitts, President

President Kitts provided updates to the Faculty Senate:

- The State budget will come before the Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee by the end of March.
- A new bill (Move on When Ready Act or SB196) would allow eligible high school juniors and seniors to take free classes at local community colleges while still in high school. Funding for this bill would utilize money from the State's education budget thus reducing potential funding for four-year universities.

- The WICHE report noted that there will be an expected 2% increase in high school graduates in the South over the next 20 years but a PARCA study showed an expected decline of high school graduates continuing to college.
- The Shine On, Gold Campaign is currently at 70% funded (\$87 million).
- The U.S. Department of Education has begun a reduction in staff process. At this point, there is no impact for Pell Grants or federal student loans.
- Light the Fountain has been rescheduled to Tuesday, March 18, 2025 due to inclement weather.

VI. Remarks from EVPAA/ Provost Smith

Provost Smith provided updates and successes from each College:

- The Music and Fine Arts Workgroup continues their work related to the new Music and Fine Arts building.
- The CASE Dean's search should bring candidates to campus in April.
- ACONHP hosted a well-attended career fair on February 20, 2025.
- On February 27th, CASE hosted the George Lindsey Film Festival.
- SCOTB has received a \$750,000 Innovate Alabama grant
- QEP has distributed a first round of student awards.
- The Delores and Weldon Cole Honors College will be hosting Jazz on the Porch on April 30, 2025 and participating in Keep Shoals Beautiful and Rebuild Tuscumbia service projects.
- Spring census date is March 19, 2025. Enrollment numbers are expected to break records. Applications for Fall 2025 are also up compared to Fall 2024 numbers.

VII. Remarks from Faculty Senate President Hunt

FS President Hunt provided updates on:

- Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management would like more info regarding the ACT/SAT recommendations. FS President Hunt is working with SS President Martin, Dr. Chris Klein, and Dr. Amber Paulk's team.
- Software access (ex. Google suite) – An email was sent to ITS (no response) and ETS (will address in new faculty orientation) regarding access to software.
- An informal Senator discussion was held on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 in the GUC loft. Procedure for moving items through Senate and informal discussion on items occurred. Another meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, 2025 at 3pm in Wesleyan. (These meeting are optional; please attend if you are able.)
- Sens. Wang, Carrasco, and Nate have released a senator survey. Please take a moment to complete the survey.
- VPFA Thornton will hold an informal budget meeting covering the AY 2025/2026 budget at Caffe Dellucci on April 9, 2025 at 3pm.
- FS President Hunt is working on an incoming Faculty Senate President guide

VIII. Reports

- a. Standing Committees

- i. Faculty Affairs (Sen. Hodges) – Updates should be available in the April meeting for the Parental leave policy, Senior lecturer promotion guidance, Travel and per diem processes, and Section 3.2.2 of the Faculty Handbook (clarification on credit hour and contact hour calculations and Under-load or overload in one semester affecting faculty teaching load in the next semester)
- ii. Academic Affairs – No items
- iii. Faculty Attitude Survey (Sen. Proxy Floren) – A final review of questions will occur on Friday, March 14, 2025 with an expected deployment date for the FAS around Spring Break. Dr. Floren has met with Dr. Mathis to review survey anonymity. The setting which could potentially link IP addresses has been turned off so the FAS should truly be anonymous.
- iv. Faculty Handbook Edit Oversight – Feedback for Section 6.4 has been submitted to committee chair Looser; updates expected for the April meeting. The committee is currently working on comments provided for Section 3.2.4. Dr. Looser and FS President Hunt will meet on Monday, March 17, 2025 to discuss items.

IX. Unfinished Business

None.

X. New Business

a. Section 3.3.3 Curriculum Development – Dr. Mathis (Institutional Research) and Dr. Johnson (SACS Liaison) have provided updates to this section. A motion to approve was made by Sen. Carter with second by Sen. Killen. Discussion. Sen. Carter withdrew his motion and made a new motion to edit the proposed changes and reevaluate at the April meeting. Seconded by Sen. Makowski. Vote: 37Y: 0N. Please send any additional feedback on this item to FS President Hunt.

b. Section 5.1 Credit Hour Policy – Culinary provided feedback that they also have lab classes to be included in the policy. Sen. Carter motioned to approve the submitted edits. Seconded by Sen. Carrasco. Discussion. Sen. Carter withdrew his motion. Sen. Makowski moved to table item with second by Sen. L. Graham. Vote: 31Y: 0N. Motion tabled. FS President Hunt will contact Culinary; any other departments that are missing from this section are asked to contact FS President Hunt.

c. Section 5.7 Evaluations and Assignments – Motion to approve added language was made by Sen. Bowie and seconded by Sen. Killen. Discussion. Sen. Bowie amended her motion with the deletion of the word “coordinator”. Sen. Makowski seconded. Vote: 37Y:0N The motion passed.

Section 5.11 Term Grade Reports - Edits for this section impact Early College. A motion to approve edits was made by Sen. Purser and seconded by Sen. A. Graham. Discussion. Sen. Purser removed his motion. Sen. A. Graham made a motion to accept edit of “completed” and add additional edit of “submitted” rather than “returned”. Seconded by Sen. Montgomery. Vote: 35Y:0N. The motion passed.

XI. Information Items

- Mrs. Renee' Vandiver will be sending more handbook edits for the April meeting.
- SGEC is continuing to review SG committee charges.

XII. Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn by Sen. Bowie and seconded by Sen. L. Graham. Vote by raised hand (35Y:0N). The motion passed; the meeting adjourned at 4:36pm.