

Faculty Senate Minutes
April 10, 2025

Call to order:

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

I. Recognized Proxies

Dr. Justin Joseph for Sen. Purser
Dr. Will Brewer for Sen. Coronel
Mr. Thomas Pratt for Sen. Gudmundsson
Dr. Larry Bates for Sen. Carrasco
Ms. Monica Hester for Sen. Russell
Ms. Jacqueline Allen for Sen. O'Neal
Dr. Ian Loepky for Sen. Volz-Stomackin

Members in attendance

Wael Al-Kouz, Lisa Ann Blankinship, Sidney Blaylock, Miranda Bowie, Charles Brooks, Danny Burton, Corey Cagle, Jian Chen, Freda Coleman-Reed, James DaSambagio-Moore, Frank Diaz, Ravi Gollapalli, Anissa Graham, Leah Graham, Mark Greer, John Hodges, Rebecca Hopkins, Andrea Hunt, Jason Imbrogno, Ann-Marie Irons, Faith Kelley, Lauren Killen, Kelly Latchaw, Tom Lukowicz, George Makowski, Jason McCann, Stephanie Montgomery, Andrea Nate, Gary Padgett, Andrew Potter, Robert Rausch, Suzanne Reese Mills, Justin Scott, Angel Tomlinson, Darlene Townsend, Wendy Wang, Gretchen Windt, Ping Zhao

Members not in attendance

Keli Brothers, Justin Carter

II. Recognize guests

Ms. Argie Campbell, Courtney Dillard, Ms. Monica Hester, Dr. Eric O'Neal, German Melgar Roca, Dr. Jeff Ray, Dr. Christina Volz-Stomackin

III. Approval of the Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Sen. L. Graham and seconded by Sen. Scott. The motion was approved by raised hand (35Y). The motion passed.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from March 13, 2025

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Sen. Scott and seconded by Sen. Montgomery. The motion was approved by raised hand (34Y). The motion passed.

V. Remarks from Dr. Ken Kitts, President

President Kitts provided updates to the Faculty Senate:

- A \$1.5 million one-time (FY26) increase was proposed by State Senate FTE Committee.
- Current proposed State budget allocation for FY26: \$2.7 million.
- The University's budget is determined by the state budget, enrollment, and tuition/ fees.
- A COLA will be recommended to the Board of Trustees (BoT) for AY25/26.

- Greater priority will be given to hiring new/ replacement faculty in the AY25/26 budget.
- Recent meetings in Washington, DC with Rep. Aderholt, Sen. Britt, and Sen. Tuberville produced opportunities to express University needs (ex. Music and Fine Arts) and increased college athletics regulation (Dr. Looney)
- May Commencement will host 6 ceremonies – 2 on Friday, May 9, 2025 (speaker: Dr. Ed Nichols, Superintendent of Madison City Schools) and 4 on Saturday, May, 10, 2025 (speaker: Judge Sybil Cleveland-Pennywell, senior municipal judge in Huntsville).
- Mr. Max Gee (age 89) has recently completed requirements for his certificate in Religious Studies at UNA.
- *USA Today* has listed Florence as #1 in its list of the “Ten Best Small College Towns” (*USA Today*, 4.10.25)

VI. Remarks from EVPAA/ Provost Smith

Provost Smith provided updates:

- CASE – Cameron Cantrell will be completing a Fulbright to Austria next year and Jayden Edwards will serve as a summer intern in Rep. Aderholt’s office
- ACONHP held a research event on Thursday, April, 10, 2025 and will host the Alabama State Nursing conference (April 16-17, 2025)
- COHES – 71 new teachers will be pinned in May
 - Kilby has 3 teams that will go to the national robotics competition in May and the school has recently completed a successful fundraising project for new playground equipment.
- University-wide – Updated web designs and a brand study have recently launched with the goal of increasing community and perspective student engagement.

VII. Remarks from Faculty Senate President Hunt

FS President Hunt provided updates on:

- The Academic and Student Affairs committee will meet later this month to review the ACT/SAT test optional policy.
- An *ad hoc* committee formed of past FS presidents is continuing to review the FS constitution.
- Shared Governance has been working to review Shared Governance (SG) committees.
- FS President Hunt is working the Dr. Jason Watson regarding voting software for the upcoming May (voting) meeting.
- The FAS is currently live – please complete it and encourage others to complete it.
- Thank you for completing the Faculty Senate survey.
- Thank you to outgoing senators.

VIII. Reports

- a. Standing Committees
 - i. Faculty Affairs – Sen. Hodges provided information (no recommendation) on the Travel and *per diem* processes. Travel and *per diem* are governed by the State. If meals are supplied by a conference, faculty cannot claim *per diem*

unless there are extenuating circumstances (e.g. dietary restrictions). It is encouraged, especially for junior faculty, that departments pay up front travel costs using departmental p cards when possible.

- ii. Academic Affairs – No report
- iii. Faculty Attitude Survey – No report
- iv. Faculty Handbook Edit Oversight – No report

IX. Unfinished Business

- a. Birth Recovery and Parental leave policy (approved by BoT, Spring 2023)
 - i. HR edits to the Faculty Handbook to merge policies (reviewed by FHEOC and FA) – A motion to approve the integrated policies was made by Sen. Blankinship with a second by Sen. Scott. Discussion. Vote: 35Y:1N. Motion passes.
 - ii. Recommendation for the Faculty/Staff Welfare Committee to review the implementation of the Birth Recovery and Parental Leave Policy for consistent application across Colleges and Departments including the development of a compensation plan for other departmental faculty who cover courses for the faculty member on leave. A motion to approve was made by Sen. Makowski with a second by Sen. Latchaw. Vote: 38Y. Motion passes.
- b. Senior Lecturer Promotion (FHEOC::FS::FA::FS on 2.13.25)
 - i. Sections 2.5, 2.6.3, and 2.6.4 – A motion to approve the editorial changes was made by Sen. Bowie with second from Sen. Scott. No discussion. Vote: 36Y. Motion approved.
 - ii. FHEOC recommends adding a section regarding promotion to Senior Lecturer and reappointment to Senior Lecturer. – A motion to form an *ad hoc* committee was made by Sen. Proxy Joseph with second by Sen. L. Graham. Discussion. Vote: 35Y. Motion approved.
- c. Contact Hours and Overloads (FS::FA::FS on 2.13.25)
 - i. Recommendation to form an *ad hoc* committee to focus on contact and credit hour differences. This work would be completed during Summer 2025. – Motion to approve was made by Sen. A. Graham with second by Sen. L. Graham. No discussion. Vote: 38Y. Motion passes.
- d. Section 3.2.4 Departmental Chairperson – Appointment, Workload, and Supplement. (FHEOC::FS on 2.13.25) – A motion was made to approve by Sen. Montgomery with second by Sen. Scott. Discussion. Sen. Montgomery amended her motion to return this item to FHEOC for more suggested wording that reflects FS discussion. The updated motion was seconded by Sen. L. Graham. Vote: 37Y. Motion passes. Item will be returned to FHEOC.
- e. Section 3.3.3 Curriculum Development (FHEOC, edits by OIR and Dr. L. Johnson::FS on 2.13.25) – Motion to approve the edits was made by Sen. L. Graham with second by Sen. Nate. Discussion brought up editorial changes. Sen. L. Graham amended her motion to approve with edits. Sen. Makowski seconded. Vote: 35Y. Motion passes.

X. New Business

a. Nominations Committee – Sens. Russell, Latchaw, and L. Graham volunteered to serve on the nominations committee. Motion to approve the nominations was made by Sen. Makowski with second by Sen. A. Graham. Vote: 37Y. Motion passes.

XI. Information Items

None.

XII. Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn by Sen. A. Graham with second by Sen. Proxy Joseph. Vote: 31Y. Motion passes; meeting adjourned at 4:48pm.