

2021-2022 Faculty Life Committee Faculty Senate Report

Co-Chairs: Heather Elliott & Ruth Ann Hall

As the Co-chairs of the Faculty Life Committee of the UA Faculty Senate, we and our committee members have accomplished several things during the 2021-2022 academic year. Fortunately, some of our projects were a work-in-progress from previous academic years and we were able to pick up where others had left off. Our main accomplishments were the following:

1. We successfully finalized and oversaw the proposal for paid parental leave for faculty and staff at the University, and the proposal was presented to the University administration. This proposal was approved by the Board of Trustees before the end of the 2021 academic year.
2. Resume existing research, as well as conduct additional innovative research, to propose the expansion of childcare/daycare options on campus. The proposal recognizes that possible expansion of the University's Child Development Resource Center cannot meet the urgent needs our campus has in this area. Accordingly, we have also investigated the prospects for less-expensive University-sponsored daycare and for daycare run for the University by a private daycare company. This is still a work-in-progress.
3. Heather Elliott drafted a statement on the crisis in Ukraine indicating the deep concern for the safety of the people of Ukraine, and support for members of the University of Alabama family and alumni who have extended family members in the Ukraine.

We are fortunate to have the support of Christine Barnett, Robert Baxter and Delphine Harris in our quest for expanding childcare on campus, as well as other members of the Professional Staff Assembly, and the Faculty & Staff Benefits Committee.

Our committee met with Dean Hlebowitsh on October 15, 2022, at 211 Carmichael Hall to discuss the expansion of childcare on campus.

Aside from these activities, we also tried to address concerns by faculty over restrictions on parking on game day, and the negative experiences due to certain parking decks being taken over by the athletic department. Our goal is to represent the faculty, when necessary, to the administration or the faculty senate, and to address their concerns to the best of our ability. Hopefully, the Faculty Life committee can continue to address the existing plans and concerns of faculty in the coming academic year, and move forward to bring in and implement new plans and ideas for improving faculty life.