# FACULTY SENATE MEETING

**JANUARY 21, 2025**

**1008 Nursing**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Caryl Cooper, Jeffrey Lozier, Rachel Cajigas, Serena Blount, Ellary Draper, Laura Erin Watley, Christy Adams, Paulo Araujo, Matthew LaFevor, Diane Tober, Marysia Galbraith, Kim Colburn, Soledad Sanches Valdez, Sheila Black, Jenni Cox, Theodore Tomeny, Matthew Valasik, John Giggie, Rona Donahoe, Shanlin Pan, Margaret Peacock, Edith Szanto, Carl Hancock, Matthew Hudnall, Karen Epermanis, Shane Stinson, Jacob Humphries, Jennie Northam, Mallory Scogin, Dale Dickinson, Meenakshi Arora, Anneliese Bolland, Bharat Mehra, Dimitrios Latsis, Jihoon Kim, Cynthia Peacock, James Hardin, Stacy Surman, Nirmala Erevelles, Cailin Kerch, Nicole Swoszowski, Shreyas Rao, Qiang Huang, Mark Weaver, Sree Patiballa, Dawen Li, Babs Davis, Jeri Zemke, Maria Hernandez-Reif, Darren Surman, Gary Sullivan, Anil Mujumdar, Lindsey Lowry, Kim Parker, Kristi Acker, Connar Franklin, Brenda Smith, Carrie Turner, Stacy Alley, Ibrahim Cemen, Natasha Dimova, Renata Fuchs, Jessica Goethals, JoAnne Payne, Laura Rubio, Harold Selesky, Katie Grayson, Ruth Ann Hall, John Petrovic, Thang Dao, Xiaoyan Hong, Patrick Kung, Shameka Cody, Abby Horton, Robert Riter

**Absent with an Alternate:** Gayle Faught/Alessandro Montalbano, Susan Williams/Micah McKay, Courtney McGahey/Jennifer Humber, Brian Clark/Taylor Smith

**Absent:** Sharla Biefeld, Xabier Granja, Aislinn O’Donohoe Riley, Rebecca Totten, Tom Baker, Bryan Hochstein, R. Miller Wright, Allison Hooper, Weihua Su, Kim Boyle, Benjamin McMichael, Sarah Robinson, Amy Smith

**Guests:** None (Scheduled guest speaker did not show up)

### Roll Call/Quorum Check – Quorum confirmed.

### Approval / Correction of the Minutes for December 10, 2024

### Minutes from December 10, 2024, were reviewed and approved, with one correction. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes: Approved unanimously.

### President’s Report (*Matthew Hudnall*)

* The RCAP resolution presented to the Provost had significant impact. Meetings with the Provost were postponed, to allow for situations to improve. It was noted that perhaps a softer approach for the next meeting would be needed to rebuild trust.
* There is a new Capstone Creed in the works. We will discuss in the future whether the Faculty Senate should also adopt this creed.
* President Hudnall will introduce the concept of a Principles of Community, which will be much more lengthy than the capstone creed. It will talk about respect, integrity, civility, belonging, collaboration, and accountability and says we stand for this while firmly rejecting things like behavior rooted in bigotry, harassment, and intolerance.

### VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT – (*Serena Blount*)

* + Group of renewable contract professor faculty and contract faculty will be meeting with Lesley Reid and the two topics of conversation will be defining and distinctly defining these two different roles, which seem to have quite a lot of crossover and lack of distinction currently, along with ways to recognize and reward the contributions of renewable contract faculty.
  + The president of the PSA passed along that the apparently the University is terminating the potential pay increases for staff that accompany completing advanced degrees. This appears to be an announcement in arears. President Hudnall will discuss with Provost.
  + The higher education partnership has partnered with SGA and they are hosting their legislative caravan next week. State legislators will be in attendance and students are going to be describing the positive impact higher education has upon them and their lives.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT** – (*Kim Parker*)

* No report

**Senate Committee Reports:**

**Community and Legislative Affairs** (*Katie Grayson & John Giggie)*

* No report.

**Academic Affairs** – (*Rona Donahoe & Babs Davis*

* The plus/minus grading survey results were forwarded to Andre Denham in the Graduate School. Babs and Rona presented the results to members of the Policy Committee of the Graduate Council on January 24th. Babs and Rona will also present the results to the Graduate Council at its meeting on February 5th.
* We have scheduled a special meeting of the AAC for 3:30 PM on January 28th to discuss the proposed SB 129 Resolution.

**Student Life –** (*Carrie Turner & Dale Dickinson*)

* No report.

**Research and Service** (*Natasha Dimova & Shreyas Rao*)

* + No report.

**Faculty Life** – (*Kim Colburn & Stacy Hughey Surman*)

* No report.

**IT and Strategic Communications** – (*Patrick Kung and Connar Franklin*)

* 230 active Blackboard Ultra courses, which is a pretty small number.
* CIT recommends moving to Blackboard Ultra now. Also said a communication from OIT will be forthcoming in a few weeks.
* Discussed the sunsetting of Windows 10.

**Financial Affairs** – (*Shane Stinson & Aislinn O’Donohoe Riley*)

* + No report

**Faculty and Senate Governance – (***Jeri Zemke & Ruth Ann Hall*)

* No report

**Opportunities, Intercultural Connections, and Success** – (*Anil Mujumdar & Sheila Black*)

* We have discussed having George Daniels come to our meeting on January 28th.

**Reports from Other Committees:**

* **Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee** (*Rona Donahoe*)
  + The insurance reserve fund balance is catastrophically low ($3.7M) due to a number of large claims from members. This means that premiums were not raised enough this year, so there may be significant plan design changes for 2026. A recommendation for the reserve fund would be $10M to $11M.
  + HR will save about $10,000 in postage annually due to the paperwork burden law that was signed by President Biden. The 1095-C that used to be mailed will now be available as a download.
  + 585 employees were able to sign up for life insurance because they did not have to answer health questions.
  + It was noted that UAB allows a GLP-1 medication used for weight loss to be covered under their insurance. This, as well as some other disparities between UA and UAB will need to be studied.
* Compliance Committee (Babs Davis)
  + No report.

**Old Business**

* **None**

**New Business**

* It was noted that there is a lawsuit against the Board of Trustees brought by three colleagues at the university and three students at UAB regarding academic freedom regarding SB 129.
* A resolution was introduced and discussed related to the lawsuit and the impacts of SB129. The feedback provided will be rolled into the resolution to be presented at the next Senate meeting. The next draft will be distributed for discussion at the February 18th Senate meeting, at which time we can still make tweaks on the Senate floor, discuss, and vote whether or not to adopt.

Meeting Adjourned