# FACULTY SENATE MEETING

**October 15, 2024**

**1008 Nursing**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**Attendees**: Abby Horton, Aislinn O’Donohoe Riley, Anil Mujumdar, Anneliese Bolland, Barbara “Babs” Davis, Brenda Smith, Brian Clark, Bryan Hochstein, Cailin Kerch, Carrie Turner, Christy Adams, Connar Franklin, Courtney McGahey, Cynthia Peacock, Dale Dickinson, Dimitrios Latsis, Edith Szanto, Ellary Draper, Gary Sullivan, Gayle Faught, Harold Selesky, Ibrahim Cemen, Jacob Humphries, James Hardin, Jeff Lozier, Jenni Cox, Jeri Zemke, Jessica Goethals, Jihoon Kim, JoAnne Payne, John Giggie, Katie Grayson, Kim Boyle, Kim Colburn, Kim Parker, Kristi Acker, Laura Erin Watley, Lindsey Lowry, Mallory Scogin, Margaret Peacock, Maria Hernandez-Reif, Mark Weaver, Marysia Galbraith, Matt LaFevor, Matthew Hudnall, Matthew Valasik, Patrick Kung, Paulo Araujo, Qiang Huang, R. Miller Wright, Rachel Cajigas, Rona Donahoe, Ruth Ann Hall, Serena Blount, Shameka Cody, Shane Stinson, Sheila Black, Shreyas Rao, Soledad Sanche Valdez, Sree Patiballa, Stacy Alley, Stacy Hughey Surman, Susan Williams, Thang Dao, Theodore Tomeny, Tom Baker, Weihua Su

**Absent with Alternate**: Alison Hooper/E. Michael, Bharat Mehra/George Daniels, Jennie Northam/Bruce Barrett, John Petrovic/Colleen Geary, Meenakshi Arora/Abbey Gregg, Natasha Dimova/Mojdeh Rasoulzadeh, Nicole Swoszowski/E. Michael, Sarah Robinson/Alt. got sick

**Absent:** Amy Smith, Benjamin McMichael, Carl Hancock, Dawen Li, Diane Tober, Laura Rubio, Karen Epermanis, Nirmala Erevelles, Rebecca Totten, Renata Fuchs, Robert Riter, Shanlin Pan, Xabier Granja, Xiaoyan Hong, Darren Surman, Sharla Biefeld

**Guests:** Laura Braddick (Press), Allyson Holliday

Erica Shumate, Executive Director, Benefits and Wellness, was the guest speaker. She gave an overview of the new changes affecting UA health benefits and discussed open enrollment.

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

### Approval / Correction of the Minutes for September 17, 2024

Minutes from September 17, 2024, were reviewed and approved. No correction or additions mentioned. Motion to approve: Approved unanimously.

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

* Email regarding new Renewable Contract (RC) Task Force. Meant to gather feedback from RC faculty as it pertains to RC faculty issues. The provost has indicated he is open and willing to listen to feedback.
* SOI Task Force has come back together. Would like to move the needle on that and provide OAA with reasonable and actionable recommendations that can make a difference in teaching assessment.
* Increasing Senate prominence and incentives. Efforts are continuing to gather information from other schools in Alabama and SEC schools related to faculty incentives for serving on the Faculty Senate. A spreadsheet is being compiled of nine colleges and universities in Alabama with details on their Faculty Senate incentives. Next step is to analyze gathered data to propose similar incentives for the UA Faculty Senate.

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

* Attended the Faculty Assembly Committee meeting in late September. The FAC took two votes: the first one was to preserve existing A&S divisions and the second was to preserve existing Divisional representation on college-level committees.
* Renewable Contract Faculty Task Force met, and the specific charge right now is to develop a document of questions and concerns related to the new promotional criteria, specifically pertaining to research and/or scholarship that is necessary for the new promotional criteria.

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

* No report

**Senate Committee Reports:**

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

* Charlie Taylor is not anticipating that SB 129 will be brought up this legislative session.
* C. Taylor does expect some efforts to target libraries, specifically how libraries are governed. This might pertain more to public libraries, but it may also pertain to university libraries. We do not have a lot of specifics on this yet.
* Possible shift in executive leadership in the U.S. Senate, regardless of which presidential candidate wins.

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

* Plus / Minus grading survey should be distributed by the end of the week.
* Check with the Athletics Department advisor about any documented cases of student athletes not being allowed to make up work if they are attending a required event. If no cases are found, the committee will meet with Dr. Luoheng Han in OAA to discuss the necessity of the policy.
* Summary of handbook changes that are expected this year: changes were made to external activities and supplemental compensation, which is in Chapter 2. This will streamline the form that has to be filled out annually. We will work with the SOI Task Force and the RC Task Force to implement some of their recommendations in the next version of the handbook.

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

* Met with Stacy Jones regarding the student death protocol. According to Dr. Jones, there is no student death protocol.
* Scholarship revocation appeal. When a student leaves a scholarship, they are automatically sent an email that contains an outline to the appeal process. We did learn that many of those students appeals are approved.

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

* Met with Bryan Boudouris and talked about the new strategic plan that will be posted soon.
* Current issues with the functionality of OSP and day-to-day activities were discussed.
* A target matrix is in place to evaluate performance, but progress is lagging. Monitoring of performance in the matrix is ongoing. Operational inefficiencies are causing delays in simple tasks and there are challenges in retaining and attracting skilled staff.
* Next steps include hiring extra support from a contractor agency to improve functionality.
* Discussed new internal funding mechanisms. Data from other institutions were shared to provide context.
* New indirect cost rate is 51%.

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

* Will work with Leslie Reid to clean up dead links on the faculty resource page. We hope to then have some type of campaign to let people know about it and present it as a one-stop-shop for faculty resources.

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

* Email archiving has freed up about 200 terabytes of storage.
* IT hopes to come and talk to your college or department and give directions on using Blackboard Ultra.

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

* If you know of people who are 9 months or 12 months consistently and they have issues, please send them our way. We are trying to figure out how that benefits them.

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

* Vote of affirmation for Dr. Paige Johnson, nomination for Mediation Committee, out of the College of Nursing. Motion to approve: approved unanimously.

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

* Met and decided to have more conversations about expanding the mission of the committee.
* Dr. Christine Taylor has requested to meet with the committee.

**Reports from Other Committees:**

* **Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee** (*Rona Donahoe*)
	+ Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee has a Zoom meeting set up for later this week.
* Compliance Committee (Babs Davis)
	+ Compliance training deadline is October 31.

**Old Business**

* **None**

**New Business**

* **None**

Meeting Adjourned