

UCA Faculty Senate
Tuesday, December 10 at 11:00 am
Wingo 315

Attendance:

- College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences: Mayhew-p, Mongno-p, Craun-p
- College of Business: Thomas-p, Otoo-p, Horpedahl-aa
- College of Education: Rice-p, Shaw-p, Trumble-p
- College of Health & Behavioral Sciences: Engle-p, Rose-p , Jamerson-p
- College of Science and Engineering: Naumiec-p, Le-p, Yarberr-p
- Honors: Frank-p
- Library: Lebeau-Ford-p
- At-Large: Keith-p , Mukherjee-p, Spivey-p
- Part-Time: Brazeal-p
- FS President Shires-p, FS VP Dunlap-p, Provost Hargis-p

I. Call to order: FS President Shires

- II. Approval of Minutes** from Faculty Senate regular meeting Nov. 12, 2024
- Motion to approve minutes from Nov. 12, 2024 Keith, seconded by Thomas
 - Vote to approve - 18 approved, 2 abstained. Motion passed.

 - Motion to expedite today's minutes (12/10/24) and vote online before the semester ends - Dunlap, seconded by Craun.
 - Vote to approve - 18 approved, 2 abstained. Motion passed.
 - Online voting process discussed.

III. President's Comments: President Davis

“I would specifically like to thank everyone and every University unit involved in keeping our campus open 24/7 over the holiday break”. There will be a couple of hundred students that stay in the dorms and nearby apartments. Essential offices such as Physical Plant, ARAMARK/food services, University Police, and many more will have holiday hours to accommodate those individuals remaining on campus.

Questions for President Davis -

- Craun-asked for further information on a recent newspaper article about higher education funding. It was announced that UCA's 2025-26 state appropriations will be \$900,000 less than FY 251.

Response from Davis - yes, this is correct, and not a surprise. ADHE prepares budgets based on the previous three years' enrollments and graduates for the formula calculation. As expected, UCA will be receiving less next fiscal year due to lowered enrollments and smaller classes during and through the end of COVID. As we build budgets multiple years out, we project another \$350,000 less for 2026-27. For 2027-28 we project that our formula calculation will run back to positive gains. Looking to the future, this current year's enrollment growth and potential impact on the formula will not manifest for about three years.

III. Provost's Comments: Provost Hargis

"Thank you for everything you do for UCA".

Please remember that commencements will be held on Friday and Saturday and we encourage your participation.

Questions for Provost Hargis

- Rice-has UCA ever considered using plus and minus (+ and -) in our grading scales?

Response from Provost Hargis - not to my knowledge.

- Mongno- is UCA providing any policies/guidance on Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

Response from Provost Hargis - At this time, I do not anticipate any university wide policy related to AI. The application and utility of AI tools will vary across disciplines and departments. Faculty should be aware of and have knowledge of AI tools and how they apply to various disciplines. AI utilization, just like any other technology tool, should be covered as part of the existing Academic Integrity policies—which are mandatory on each syllabi. Additionally, CETAL provided guidance early this academic year related to this topic. He would also encourage faculty to discuss this topic with each class and specifically indicate when students may or may not use AI in each assignment. "AI tools are pervasive and are part of most of the software we use. I encourage faculty and the Faculty Senate to stay informed and to continue to monitor all aspects of AI as they pertain to pedagogy and instruction".

IV. FS President's Comments: FS President Shires

- Web Archivist has added the senators' photos to the web site.
- Board of Trustees approved:
 - appreciation for Kay Hinkle's 21 years of service,
 - approved purchase of Martin St. property (Davis commented that this property will be a temporarily used for offices)
 - expanded UCA beds at The Edge for next year
 - Base operating budget for 2024-25 revised, the Legislative Audit Report for FY 2023 was accepted, and other statements of financial solvency were certified.
- The Salary Study continues, with discussion beginning after Jan. 20, 2025.
 - Craun-when will the data be available?
 - Davis - we are still months away from releasing data. "Individuals will be notified of their "salary ranges" before data is released to anyone else."
 - Jamerson-why have the peer institutions changed?
 - Davis - Amber Hall, in Institutional Research would be the person to address this question.
- Strategic Planning continues. Jan. 7th will be the next meeting of the reorganized Steering Committee.
- Former Faculty/Staff Spring Awards Ceremony is in the process of being redesigned. The new Faculty/Staff Recognition Celebration will include faculty awards previously given at Fall Convocation, along with all others.
- Over the last several months, the Faculty Senate has been asked to review and approve three position conversions from tenure track to non-tenure track. All three have been strategic in nature, although occurring at the last minute. I am reassured there is no attempt to dismantle tenured positions or the institutional pillar of tenure. The process of Faculty Senate review and recommendation of such changes can certainly be revisited, perhaps through the Faculty Affairs Committee.

V. Invited Guests: None

VI. Senate Committee Reports

- FS Committee on Committees- VP Dunlap

A last minute request has been received to fill the Honor's College's seat on the Undergraduate Council. (Ellen Hostetter is on sabbatical). Dean Patricia Smith has volunteered.

- Motion to approve Dean Smith-Dunlap.

- Discussion-a lengthy discussion with various comments/suggestions followed as to the validity of putting a dean-administrative level faculty member on a faculty committee.
 - “This is a dangerous precedent to set”.
 - How often do they meet? Once a month.
 - Do they need to be tenured? No, but the rank of Assistant is required.
 - What is the language in the handbook?

Vote Called. 15 not in favor of the motion, 6 abstained.

Motion fails.

- President Shires recommends that there obviously needs to be some further discussion on our committee memberships in the future.
- Senator Frank (Honors College) expresses his interest in filling this seat.
 - VP Dunlap-I would like to suspend the rules to nominate Senator Frank.
 - Motion to suspend - Keith, 2nd - Rice.
 - Motion to replace Hostetter with Senator Frank, seconded by Naumiec.
 - Discussion. Senator Frank will need to check his spring calendar.
 - Motion tabled until next meeting.
- VP Dunlap would like to fill committee openings in April/May, thus allowing for Faculty Senate approval earlier in the semester and allowing committees to begin working at the beginning of the Fall semester with a full membership.
- Academic Affairs- Sen. Mayhew for Sen. Horpendahl
 - Senator Mayhew reported on the progress for the research grant
 - Discussion of the rubric to be used, award amounts, rationale/qualifications for selecting award winners
 - President Shires recommended that the Resolution/Proposal be edited and re-submitted at the next meeting
 - See attachments for proposal
 - [Academic Affairs Committee Fall 2024 Report.docx](#)
 - [Faculty Senate Research Empowerment Grants - Proposed Rubric.docx](#)
- Faculty Affairs-Sen. Keith-work should be completed in January on bylaws and constitution revisions.

- Diversity, Belonging, Equity, and Inclusion- Sen. Mukherjee
 - Reported and discussed the proposed questions for a faculty survey regarding the possibility of creating an ombudsperson position at UCA. The survey included a description of an ombudsperson with brief examples of how the position might serve the university community and two questions for the faculty to respond to.
 - The committee received helpful feedback from the faculty senate members and will continue to work on the contents of the survey in the spring semester.

VII. Action Items -none

VIII. New Business-none

IX. Constituent Concerns

- Constituent Concern via email from Horpedahl
 “UCA had dropped several people from my class for nonpayment. These students have missed classes, having been forbidden to come (especially those in the online class). Now as these students get reinstated I have to create make up quizzes and have the students learn the missed materials. Can’t UCA just withhold grades for nonpayment? It would be a lot less disruptive and it would help faculty avoid doing pointless work to accommodate the students the university dropped.”

Response from Provost Hargis - This topic is on the administration’s radar and unfortunately there is no perfect solution. UCA cannot keep these students on rosters for a variety of reasons—general accounting practices, state/federal regulations, etc. Every semester there are students (usually under 50) that will need to be dropped due to nonpayment. We begin our emails with several students not paying on time. After 5 or 6 emails throughout the semester we are down to under 50 who are actually removed for non-payment.

- Constituent Concern via the online form. An issue regarding communications within CHBS was mentioned. The matter was referred to President Davis and is being handled through appropriate channels.
- Constituent Concern- Yarberry-we are still experiencing problems with budgets not being uploaded in a timely manner.

Response from Hargis-Can you please provide me with specifics for further investigation. On this topic...we need to begin to differentiate between the two

campus units. ORSP (for pre-award) and Post-Awards Grants and Contracts for (post award).

X. For the Good of the Faculty

- Congrats to Riva Brown for her *Farmer to Farmer Volunteer of the Year* award.

XI. Reminders:

- Next regular meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 12:45 p.m.
- Note that there is not much academic calendar between now and then.
- Drop-in senate gathering at Pres, Shires' house, Monday Jan. 6 from 5:00-7:00
- Spring planning: Senators should not schedule Tues./Thurs. courses during FS hours or at 2:40 pm

- Motion to adjourn -Trumble
- Adjourned at 1:00 pm