

**Minutes of Auburn Montgomery Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Friday, November 14, 2008**  
**204 Goodwyn Hall**  
**Convened at 9:00 a.m.**

Present: Gehling, Newman, Powell, Knigge, Finley, Foxx, C. Ligeon, Johnson, Buskist, Gilchrist, Kate Simmons (for Morton), Krawczynski, Borton, Kaufman, Hamilton, Rhodes Jones, Ioimo, Brad Moody (for Tidwell), Gantt, Veres, Warren, Fredericks

Absent: None

Guests: Alan Gribben, Elizabeth Woodworth, Mike Fitzsimmons, Brad Moody, Susan Salter, David Ang, Carolyn Golden, Jeff Anderson, Gordon Stone, Susan Bargainier

I. Senate Business

- A. Minutes from the October meeting were unanimously approved.
- B. The next Senate meeting is January 9, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in 204 Goodwyn Hall.

II. Administrative Reports

A. Dr. John Veres, Chancellor

- 1. The board met last Friday and there were two items of interest, some of which he will defer to Dr. Finley to report.
- 2. Dr. Gogue gave a six month report on the progress of 35-36 items in the AU system plan, nine of which apply to AUM. Most of the time the questions focused on the AU-AUM relationship. Dr. Veres has a document on all 35 items and will provide that to the senate president later.
- 3. There are four issues which Dr. Gehling asked Dr. Veres to address. The first is budget status. The results of Amendment 1 will be certified over Thanksgiving. Expect proration after the Thanksgiving break to be 7% - 9%. They will not borrow the maximum allowed from the Trust Fund. The loan will ameliorate 2% - 4% of proration. This proration will be especially bad after the original budget cut. Dr. Veres will form a committee with Dr. Gehling and others to address cutting expenses. Dr. Veres' belief is that we will not have to cut the O & M of academic units. The University of Alabama has frozen hiring and international travel. The Deans have been asked to prioritize open slots within the schools. Dr. Warren has these and will discuss them later. Dr. Veres reported that he is loathe to declare an absolute hiring freeze and intends to approve critical hires, if the spread is reasonable, and as many important hires as possible.

For example, the distinguished research and teaching professor funds had enough carried forward without using current year funds. The economic forum is not optimistic about 2009. Consensus is that we should see the bottom by mid 2009 with some rebound in 2010 and more in 2011. For nonacademic units, we're looking at the possibility of back office functions being done in cooperation with Auburn. Everything is on the table for ideas for savings. The news is not good, but certainly manageable. Plans are to continue to cut nonacademic units to support academic units.

4. Dr. Veres reported an update on administrative actions with respect to China. Gross tuition in the first term exceeds the amount spent to get here. Plans are to continue to pursue the China program because of financial and cultural benefits to AUM and its students. We have a small committee to assess the Hunan opportunities. If it will run as a separate budget, it must support itself.
5. The seamless admissions update currently projects a \$219,216 net in the current term. We intend to fund the program again in Fall 2009 and it will still be in the pilot stage. It is beneficial in a financial aspect and to the students enrolled. There will continue to be a 100 student limit on the Auburn campus. Auburn guarantee is for any AUM student. We have 101 enrolled currently, 79 at Auburn plus 22 at AUM. The program provides advertising for AUM widely throughout the U. S. We are hoping that some of the students on our campus will choose to stay here.
6. The final enrollment for fall is 5287, a 3.1% increase from last fall. Enrollment was previously declining and both the enrollment and credit hour production are up. Most of this is from seamless admissions, the China program, and housing for ROTC scholarship students. Dr. Veres believes the Chinese students will open up that area even more and is hoping for peer-to-peer advertising.
7. The AU-AUM related strategic initiatives report includes the Seamless Admission/AU Guarantee program (a marketing initiative); there are ongoing discussion about a master's in mathematics (don't know the progress); the Ginn College of Engineering will put a person on the Informatics Board and we are pursuing an informatics graduate degree. The Chamber wants offering of engineering courses at AUM. At a minimum we may provide the space for these courses. Gogue wants 50 joint appointments; in particular at AU-AUM he wants an increase of graduate students to 5000. Informatics and math are 2 areas we are pursuing.
8. Discussions with Don Large have focused on how we can share job responsibilities, e.g., paying 25% - 30% of a person's salary at AU with them coming to AUM for those responsibilities on this campus. Our friends in K-12 have whittled us down to 27% versus the 1/3 - 2/3 split. AEA wants to reduce higher education to 20%. We have to increase enrollment since state funding will not improve.

9. Questions: Dr. Brad Moody asked: Is the admissions criteria for international students the same as for regular students. Answer: No; for example the TOEFL score must be 500+; however, they must meet the same ACT/SAT standards as domestic students. If you look at international students, they are largely among the best students at AUM. Thus we get better and higher paying students. Also in the Seamless Admissions Program we have the same or higher standards. E.g., in English and Math we can't support developmental course on the AU campus, so students needing these are referred to AUM instead. We are working on templates for Chinese students, Icelandic students, etc., to be able to translate courses to AUM.
  10. Dr. D'Linell Finley commented that Chinese students will take the same core courses as domestic students either as transfer work or by taking here at AUM. It is encouraging that they can meet our requirements in China so that the 3 year/1 year students will be able to meet major requirements while here. Dr. Veres also commented on a trip to Turkey coming up for recruitment.
  11. Question: Does seamless admission depend on information from AU? Yes and no. AU will suggest our program to those students who are not admitted there. Also, we are getting inquiries directly via word of mouth. The early students referred are often too low to meet the program qualifications.
- B. Dr. D'Linell Finley, Advisor to the Auburn Board of Trustees
1. Dr. Finley suggested reports from both the student government and staff council.
  2. He made extensive notes from the board—to be provided later.
  3. AU has prepared a strategic plan with 50 items prioritized and 36 of those designated as doable now. Nine of the 36 relate to AUM; they state the AU goal and AUM's input. There was a lot of discussion about internationalization and AU-AUM collaborative effort. At some point we will need to make a report on these nine points. We will also want to make a point of including these in our strategic plans.
  4. There were joint appointments referred to between the two campuses; but, they are also looking at joint majors and interdisciplinary cooperation. Some programs, specializations, will not meet a broad appeal, particularly mentioned in Liberal Arts. There were other things about students that Dr. Finley asked for permission to add in writing to the minutes.
  5. Mrs. Marilyn Rhoades pointed out that the Nursing schools do share a dean with AU. It works, possibly because of the small program. Also, they share certain faculty to teach specialties, e.g., one person teaches geriatrics at both campuses.
  6. Dr. Finley added that Political Science and Public Administration also share a program with AU.
  7. Dr. Veres announced that Dr. Barbara Witt, Dean of Nursing, will retire in May. He commented that she will be a hard act to follow. A joint

committee with co-chairs from AU and AUM will be formed. He is meeting today about a job description and other details.

8. Dr. Ralph Ioimo asked how programs were chosen for consideration as joint programs. Answer: Faculty would bring the proposal to Academic Affairs and begin conversations with AU.
- C. Dr. Bob Gehling
1. The AU faculty senate met on Tuesday. He had nothing of note.
  2. From Dr. Veres' administrative retreat he had two points:
    - \*He stressed communication. Don't depend on people reading minutes. Disperse information to your faculty.
    - \*Those granted graduate teaching status here will also have Level 1 graduate teaching status at AU. You can look at their levels to define this.
  3. Mrs. Melinda Ligeon, staff council president, mentioned the Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 12 along with the Holiday Market. There has been work to improve the offerings at the Holiday Market.

### III. Committee Reports and Presentations

- A. Mr. Gordon Stone of the Higher Education Partnership discussed the status of Higher Education. He expressed not being shocked to know that the economy is down and that funding was effected. What we don't know is how deep and how long this trough will be. The HEP represents you in higher education. He reports that they have done a good job at bringing issues forward; but, they have not done a good job state wide of individually looking senators in the eye and saying, "What are you going to do with respect to Higher Education funding?" We would welcome individuals or a group of 3 or 4 faculty that want to be on a task force to go to the senators and ask this question.

The partnership is working to get at least back to the 2008 funding, vs. the 10% decrease. K-12 is asking for a 9% increase. K-12 lobbyists will go to the legislators and "cut our throat" in funding. Unless we can get can get \$300/year from each faculty member for PAC money, we won't catch up.

We need eyeball to eyeball contact. Our Montgomery area senator is for us. Ted Little is not with Auburn. We need to make sure that he knows we will support his opponent. The reality is that we can't win in the House. The Governor will propose the budget and then we'll hear rumblings about K-12 and higher education funding. If you have colleagues who know a senator, they need to ask them, "Are you going to support me and my colleagues?"

K-12 says "we'll have to lay off teachers!" The superintendents in this area said they had a reserve and would not lay off teachers. HEP is working with students but have not yet tapped into the employee base. We need to keep saying the good things we are doing, and faculty, staff, and students are in the best position to articulate that. The increased tuition is a "tax" on students. If this were in the auto industry and companies were leaving Alabama, there would be some action.

Dr. Finley asked if we have come to the point where Democrats support K-12 and Republicans support Higher Education. Response: Because Hubbert is on the Democratic committee, that's where he comes from. Higher Education doesn't care about Democrat or Republican. But, Riley has supported higher education when voted in, while Siegelman was voted in and two years later put in 18% proration for higher education.

- B. Dr. Jeff Anderson, Chief Information Officer, reported on IT issues.
  - 1. The IT audit brought forward the issue of data retention policies in place for confidential information, including e-mails. We will need to have a policy in place so that legal documents can be provided when subpoenaed from litigators.
  - 2. A privacy policy will be put online. There is a possibility of doing e-discovery to go back to e-mails and other e-documents. The system currently holds deleted e-mail for one year. The retrieval will not be something AUM initiates. They are trying to be able to turn over required documents without an AUM employee being involved.
  - 3. Web CT no longer exists at AUM. Blackboard is our latest version. We have had training meetings for Blackboard for the transition.
  - 4. We will kick off I-Tunes AUM on February 4. Apple has come in to work with us on the I-Tunes AUM.
- C. Mrs. Susan Salter of University Relations reported on the new website design.
  - 1. A mock-up of the new design of our website was distributed at the meeting. They are working on putting student profiles on our website. They are looking for students who are outstanding in an "all-around" sense or in an area, such as significant research. They also need passionate faculty and staff to say, on video, what they do and why they like AUM.
  - 2. The previous website was designed around our structure, vs. what people who use the website want to know. The office is working hard to redesign for user friendliness and marketing value. Links to schools will be on every page.
  - 3. The faculty and staff part of the website will change. They are hoping to simplify processes and move them off of the main website onto an intranet. Some points which would be of interest to students and others, such as Faculty Senate minutes, and institutional research will remain on the main website. They will work toward consistency by using only 4-5 templates for presenting material. They will also try to get rid of pages that have only links.
  - 4. Mrs. Salter said she would be glad to meet after or come to departmental meetings to present details as requested.
- D. Mrs. Carolyn Golden reported on fundraising at AUM.
  - 1. There are two primary sources of funding: State funding and tuition. One of our under tapped resources is fund raising. The two major areas of funding are alumni and friends and corporations. AUM now has over 28,000 alumni. Many are in a place to be able to donate to AUM. There

is a great affinity for AUM and for individual departments and faculty in particular.

2. Goals for Alumni Services include increasing alumni members by 150% and lifetime members by 50%. We need each person across the university to help. Please collaborate and place individual referrals into Alumni Services' hands. Everyone's participation will be needed to increase fund raising.
- E. Dr. David Ang, Chair of Academic Standards, brought a report on three changes regarding English placement.
  1. The proposals for changes were e-mailed prior to the meeting. Dr. Alan Gribben addressed the reasons for the changes. When approached about possibly implementing a national test for incoming students, they considered the information already available from the ACT scores. They know that ACT English is a "perfect" predictor of success in English 1010. However, they propose increasing the minimum score for English ACT from 17 to 18. It will move many students back to ENGL 0100 and ENGL 0101. Students report a much greater level of confidence after successfully completing ENGL 0100/0101. Mrs. Susan Bargainier, Learning Center Director and instructor of these classes reported that in one term, of the 35 students moving from ENGL 0100/0101 to ENGL 1010, there were 9 A's, 9 B's, 5 C's, 2 D's, and NO F's. This is 27% A's. The labs have been very helpful and they thanked Dr. Warren for the impetus for introducing the labs.
  2. Dr. Gribben also introduced Dr. Elizabeth Woodworth, the new English Composition Director.
  3. A second request was to raise the score required on the English Placement Test (EPT) from 26 to 35 for entrance into ENGL 1010.
  4. The third request was to administer the EPT only to those students without valid ACT scores. The ACT English score would then be the only placement option for all students with valid ACT scores.
  5. A major concern is that this change is announced well ahead of time. Please support the English department in this.
  6. Dr. Veres requested that Susan Salter be involved in terms of the communication plan.
  7. A question was asked regarding use of the ACT writing exam by the AU campus and if AUM would be asked to use the writing exam. Response: The English department has studied this and considers the ACT English score currently used a great predictor of success for AUM students.
  8. The committee recommends implementing these changes Summer 2009. A move and second was made to accept the report of the Academic Standards Committee, approving these three changes. The Senate unanimously approved. The changes should be forwarded to Dr. Warren.
  9. Dr. Ang further strongly recommended the standardization of Blackboard. Reponse: Dr. Gehling chaired a committee with Blackboard recommendations and these have been forwarded to Jeff Anderson. Jeff will look at the implications for implementation.

#### IV. Old Business

None.

#### V. New Business

- A. Dr. Joe Newman, as the faculty senate representative on the Hunan, China committee, brought forth his concerns about the proposal to open an AUM campus in Hunan, China. He has attended two meetings of the committee but the last one was during one of his two classes. He reported sending a list of 7 serious concerns to Dr. Ho about documents that appeared to just need signatures to institute.
1. Dr. Newman proposed a resolution (distributed) which requests that the Faculty Senate be allowed to look at any documents before signing.
  2. The concerns which he believed had not been addressed were first, since the School of Business awards ACSB approved degrees, he recommended that the Dean of Business be consulted.
  3. Second, he did not see this contract as being consistent with the mission of the university or the mission of the school of business.
  4. Third, he was concerned that a cost-benefit analysis be done for the program. His analysis found an annual loss in excess of \$200,000.
  5. Fourth, he referred to information on the web that cites human rights abuses in China. They don't have back rights including freedom of speech and yet we will be sending faculty there.
  6. Fifth, he pointed out that a MS in Finance is discussed while there is currently no MS in Finance offered at AUM.
  7. Sixth, the document calls for a class size of 30 – 50 students. With the English ability of the students, he believes a class size of 20 is optimistic.
  8. Seventh, the contract called for a commitment of 10 years, noncancellable, which he believes is very problematic
  9. Dr. Newman was concerned that the next two scheduled meetings were during his classes, of which he only has two. This would leave no faculty senate representative at these meetings.
  10. He also questioned whether or not faculty might be required to go to China to fully support such a program.
  11. Lastly he mentioned that he would hate to see anyone from AUM approached for a bribe (side fee) which he understands to be normal in the Chinese culture.
  12. Dr. Veres responded.
    - a. The documents sent to the Senate were only a proposal from the Hunan campus to us. These documents do not represent what we will do.
    - b. The MS in Finance is not totally off the table as an eventuality, assuming that this proposal is approved in some form.
    - c. Dr. Veres objected to the claim that this program was inconsistent with the university mission statement. The mission statement refers to serving the “tri-county and beyond.” The international outreach could be a part of this beyond.

- d. While he understood the concern about human rights issues, Dr. Veres stated that he had not been offered a bribe and that he had found all Chinese colleagues to be forthright.
  - e. The proposal has already been sent to both the deans of liberal arts and business.
  - f. Dr. Veres concluded by saying that he had no objection to the proposed resolution because the discussion was intended to broaden as it proceeded. He repeated, “We cannot afford to do this with a negative cash flow.”
13. Dr. Mike Fitzsimmons asked that if there was a commitment to include faculty senate, what is the percent chance of this occurring? Dr. Warren responded that they were at the beginning of this process and does not see any movement on this for six to eight months, IF we move on it.
14. Dr. Veres commented that he is loathe to dismiss the proposal without serious consideration in order to preserve current relationships with them. The idea of opening a campus there scares him. The environment there is similar to Alabama and it might be a good place to cooperate. He stated that we will never force anyone to teach in China. He has had interest from some faculty in going there.
15. Dr. Joan Powell stated a personal request that the meeting times for the committee be set so as include Dr. Joe Newman, at least in that they not be during his classes. Dr. Warren indicated willingness to do this.
16. Dr. Veres said that the Faculty Senate will have opportunity and time to review the documents.
17. Given no objections to the proposed resolution, after a motion and a second the resolution was unanimously approved.
- B. Dr. Keith Krawczynski brought out his concern about a budget cut for grants-in-aid. He will bring a resolution at a future meeting.

#### VI. Announcements

None

#### VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.