

## **Faculty Senate Minutes**

March 12, 2026

### **Call to order:**

A regular meeting of the University of North Alabama's Faculty Senate (FS) convened in Wendell W. Gunn University Commons 330 and via MS Teams Video Conferencing at 3:30pm with President Carter presiding.

### **Members in attendance**

Jackie Allen, Lisa Ann Blankinship, Sidney Blaylock, Charles Brooks, Keli Brothers, Danny Burton, Corey Cagle, Justin Carter, Freda Coleman-Reed, Jenny Dawson, Anissa Graham, Leah Graham, John Hodges, Rebecca Hopkins, Andrea Hunt, Jason Imbrogno, Lorie Johnson, Kelly Latchaw, Mark Linder, Melanie Looser, Tom Lukowicz, Jason McCann, Ashley Molina, Stephanie Montgomery, Andrea Nate, Gary Padgett, Steven Puckett, Chris Purser, Candice Quinn, Robert Rausch, Suzanne Reese Mills, Matthew Schoenbachler, Gretchen Windt, Ping Zhao

### **Members not in attendance**

Argie Campbell, James DaSambigiagio-Moore, Justin Scott

### **I. Recognized Proxies**

Dr. Wael Al Kouz for Sen. Gollapalli  
Dr. Matthew Balentine for Sen. Pretes  
Ms. Amy Butler for Sen. Townsend  
Dr. Sarah Hood for Sen. Beverly  
Dr. Abdelrahman Mohamed for Sen. Bowie  
Dr. Yuyu Peng for Sen. Zhou  
Mr. Thomas Pratt for Sen. Gudmundsson  
Dr. Brian Thompson for Sen. Olive

### **II. Recognize guests**

None

### **III. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

### **IV. Approval of the Minutes from February 12, 2026 meeting**

An updated URL was provided for OER faculty resources. The minutes were approved as amended.

### **V. Remarks from Dr. Justin Carter, Faculty Senate President**

- President Kitts and Provost Smith are at a BoT meeting and will miss Faculty Senate.
- FSP Carter presented information on House Bill 580 (HB580). This bill is currently introduced into the Alabama House and based on similar legislation from Texas and Georgia. If HB580 is ratified in its current state, then Shared Governance would be restructured to an advisory capacity, tenure and post tenure review policies would change

based on BoT action, and degree requirements and curriculum would be decided upon by the BoT. This would conflict with SACSCOC standards for accreditation. FSP Carter recommends that faculty pay attention but work collaboratively rather than reactively with State legislature. Discussion followed. Sen. Brothers and Sen. Puckett requested Jay Cochran to attend April 2026 Faculty Senate meeting to discuss HB580. Motion was seconded by Sen. Lukowicz. [Vote: 38Y: 0N: 1 Abs]. Motion passes. FSP Carter will contact Jay Cochran to schedule a meeting.

## **VI. Reports**

- a. Standing Committees
  - i. Faculty Affairs (Sen. Hodges) – No report
  - ii. Academic Affairs – No report
  - iii. Faculty Attitude Survey (Sen. Purser) – Reminder to complete FAS
  - iv. Faculty Handbook Oversight Committee (Sen. Lukowicz) – No report

## **VII. Unfinished Business**

- a. Department Chairperson Policy (3.2.4) – A motion to discuss was made by Sen. Hodges and seconded by Sen. L. Graham. Discussion. Proposed policy edits were amended. A motion to approve the policy as amended was made by Sen. L. Graham with second by Sen Schoenbachler. [Vote: 36Y:1N:4Abs]. Motion passes and the policy will be forwarded to SGEC for review.

## **VIII. New Business**

- a. Instructional Support Concerns Related to Bookstore Platform – A motion to discuss was made by Sen. Hodges and seconded by Sen. L. Graham. Discussion. Sen. A. Graham requests that Academic Affairs investigate
  - how the Bookstore is selected
  - how long the current contract is with our Bookstore
  - what can be done to improve the textbook acquisition process for students and faculty

The motion was seconded by Sen. Blaylock. [Vote: 41Y:0N:0Abs]

## **IX. Information Items**

- a. Faculty Senator Election Process (Sen. Lukowicz) – Information was presented on how some departments and senators are not meeting the criteria for election and Senate service as outlined in the Constitution. Discussion. A motion was made to ask Faculty Affairs to develop a best practices document by Sen. Coleman-Reed with a second by Sen. A. Graham. [Vote: 38Y: 0N: 3Abs]
- b. Workgroup for Faculty Workload Policy – FSP Carter invited all interested senators to attend an informal work group session on Wednesday, 3.18.26. Location and time will be sent out by email.
- c. AI Showcase April 23<sup>rd</sup> 12.00-1.30pm

**X. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Sen. A. Graham and seconded by Sen. L. Graham.  
Senate was adjourned at 4.52pm.