

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES  
February 11, 2021

Call to order:

A regular meeting of the University of North Alabama's Faculty Senate convened via Zoom Video Conferencing at 3:30pm with President Williams presiding.

I. Recognized Proxies

Jan Gellock for Michael Stocz

Members in attendance

Lori Alford, Lisa Ann Blankinship, Tabitha Blasingame, Cory Cagle, Justin Carter,



Dr. Alexander then addressed COVID and its impact on the national environment of higher education and UNANationally, over 650,000 jobs in higher education have been lost. This represents an approximate \$183 billion dollar loss. Fortunately, no adverse employment decisions have been made at UNA because of the collective effort on everyone's part to adjust to the pandemic and keep people employed.

Speaking to current and future UNA capital improvement projects, Dr. Alexander mentioned that UNA's Culinary Arts Management program will be moving to the McKinney Center by Summer, 21. Renovations to Norton Auditorium have been completed with improved seating and acoustics.

The UNA Career Center has been moved to the Collier Library

Dr. Alexander reported that UNA will serve as "managing partner" of the Lauderdale County Workforce Development Center. UNA, and the Center will collaborate with NWSCC, the Lauderdale County School System and others. Completion of construction efforts related to the new Agricultural Center and the new home of the Allen Thornton Career Technical Center is 2022.

On a final note, Dr. Alexander notified senators that the UNA College of Business has been reaccredited by AACSB.

Senator Richards asked Dr. Alexander to discuss recent rumors concerning the removed of course fees/lab fees. Dr. Alexander responded by saying such a discussion is true and open for input. He stated that the current course fee system is not balanced and adds some degree of sticker shock when fees are added to traditional semester tuition and other costs. Dr. Alexander did say that if course fees were eliminated, no department would be going backward on the total budgetary allocations for 2022 compared to 2021.

VI. Remarks from Laura Williams, Faculty Senate President

President Williams made no 2 (e)65a004 Tc 0.01 (s)5 (c) c 0 T (i)3 (s)9 (c)0 Tw 25.55(W)-4 (illimC )TJ 0

## VIII. Unfinished Business

### A. Request for clarification and definitions of administrative titles (FS)

This particular issue was first addressed by Faculty Senate several months ago. More recently, a request was made for Dr. Joy Borah to oblige the Faculty Senate's request. Due to unforeseen circumstances related to Dr. Borah's office and her SACS obligations, the requested report has been delayed. It is anticipated that Dr. Borah will attend the Faculty Senate meeting in March to provide a complete report.

### B. Proposal from the Registrar's Office for a Revision to Graduation Application Dates (SGEC: F)

[See Appendix A](#)

Senator Richardson moved to open the floor for discussion regarding this proposal. Senator Stovall seconded the motion.

Mr. Mitch Powell, Interim University Registrar, discussed this proposal. The proposal requests that deadlines for students to apply for graduation be moved one month to the following dates: Fall graduation deadline is Oct. 1, Spring graduation is Mar. 1, and Summer graduation is Jun. 1.

Mr. Powell stated that it is important for his office to recognize graduation deficiencies as early as possible. The new listing of eight-week term courses will help students possibly fix any graduation deficiency. The interval between February and October would be the new idea window for students to apply for graduation.

Senator Klein stated that his department thought an audit window should be even earlier. Mr. Powell responded by stating that if you move the graduation application date up too early then too many students might simply miss the application deadline.

Senator Richardson noted that so long ago, students had to submit before the semester they graduated. This was problematic. He would support a deadline moved up provided it stays in the semester the student wants to graduate.

Senator Carter asked if there was anything that would stop students from applying early. Mr. Powell responded stating that there is nothing stopping students from applying early.

Senator Owen Murphy asked for an explanation of how students are notified that they should apply for graduation. Mr. Powell responded by noting that given current practices, his office is working to develop strategies to more effectively notify students.

Senator Richardson called the question.

A vote was taken. There were 34 votes to approve the proposal. There were no votes in opposition and no abstentions

#### IX. New Business

A. Proposal for revisions to Chapter 2 language of the new tenure and promotion policy, and Appendix 2E language of the old tenure and review policy regarding the order of items in the tenure and promotion portfolio (SGEC: F)

#### [See Appendix B](#)

It is the case that faculty want their individualized CV to be the first version seen in Digital Measures for the purpose of tenure and promotion evaluation. Currently, the Digital Measures version of each faculty CV has priority. Ms. Vandiver and Ms. Walton have worked with President Williams, President-elect Watson, and Mr. John McGee to alter this. The Faculty Qualifications Report is the name given to the Digital Measures version of the faculty CV instead of CV

Senator Stovall thanked the above mentioned people for working on this improvement.

Senator Richardson pointed to the new number 3 on this and the next proposal expressed disapproval that the word “or” makes the statement confusing. He made the case that clear wording is required.

Senator Kirch questioned word ordering “resume or vitae” or “vitae or resume”. Senator Watson said, this is holdover old language that appears in several places. He noted that many changes would be necessary to remedy this issue.

President Williams moved this to old business to be addressed at the March Meeting [(e)-2(o be)-3 (o

Senator Richardson commented on the size of the tenure and promotion committee and also noted that it is committee chair's responsibility to constitute the committee. It is not a Dean's job to pick people to serve on such committees.

Senator Cheryl Price questioned whether assistant professors should be voting on promotions when they will be applying for promotion at a later date.

President Williams moved this to old business to be addressed at the March meeting.

#### X. Information Items – SGEN Town Hall Meeting February 16th

President Williams reminded everyone of the virtual event. Please register for the event and submit your questions. Questions can be submitted during the meeting.

#### XI. Adjourn

Senator Monteiro moved to adjourn the meeting. Senator Stovall seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm

Appendix A

**Graduation Application Deadline Dates**

**Policy**

Currently the deadlines for students to apply for graduation are as follows:

Fall – November 1<sup>st</sup>

Spring – April 1<sup>st</sup>

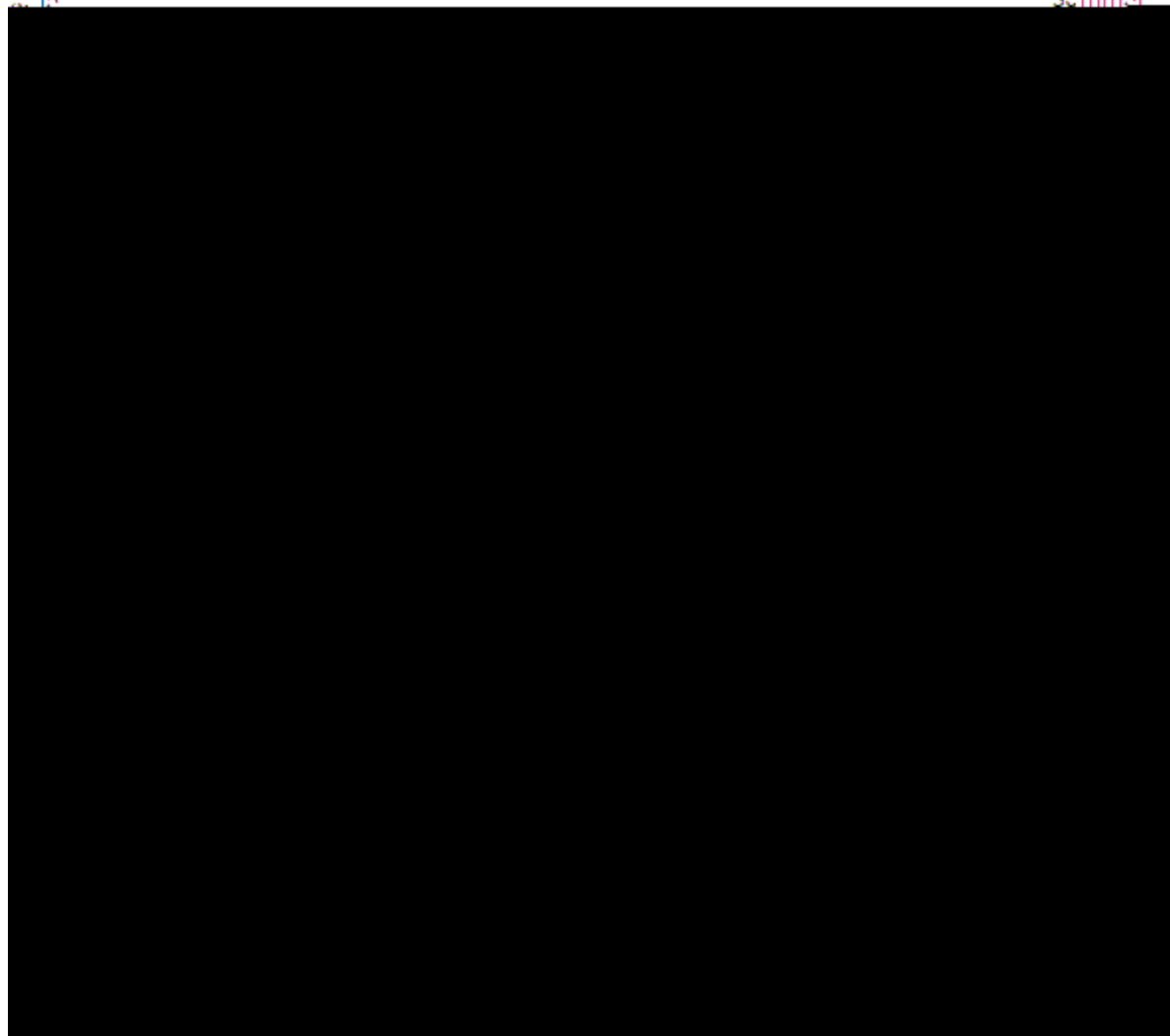
Summer - July 1<sup>st</sup>

~~as the incoming~~ ~~to announce the~~ ~~deadline~~ ~~for the~~ ~~fall~~ ~~semester~~ ~~is~~ ~~now~~ ~~April~~ ~~1<sup>st</sup>~~ ~~2021~~

Fall – October 1<sup>st</sup>

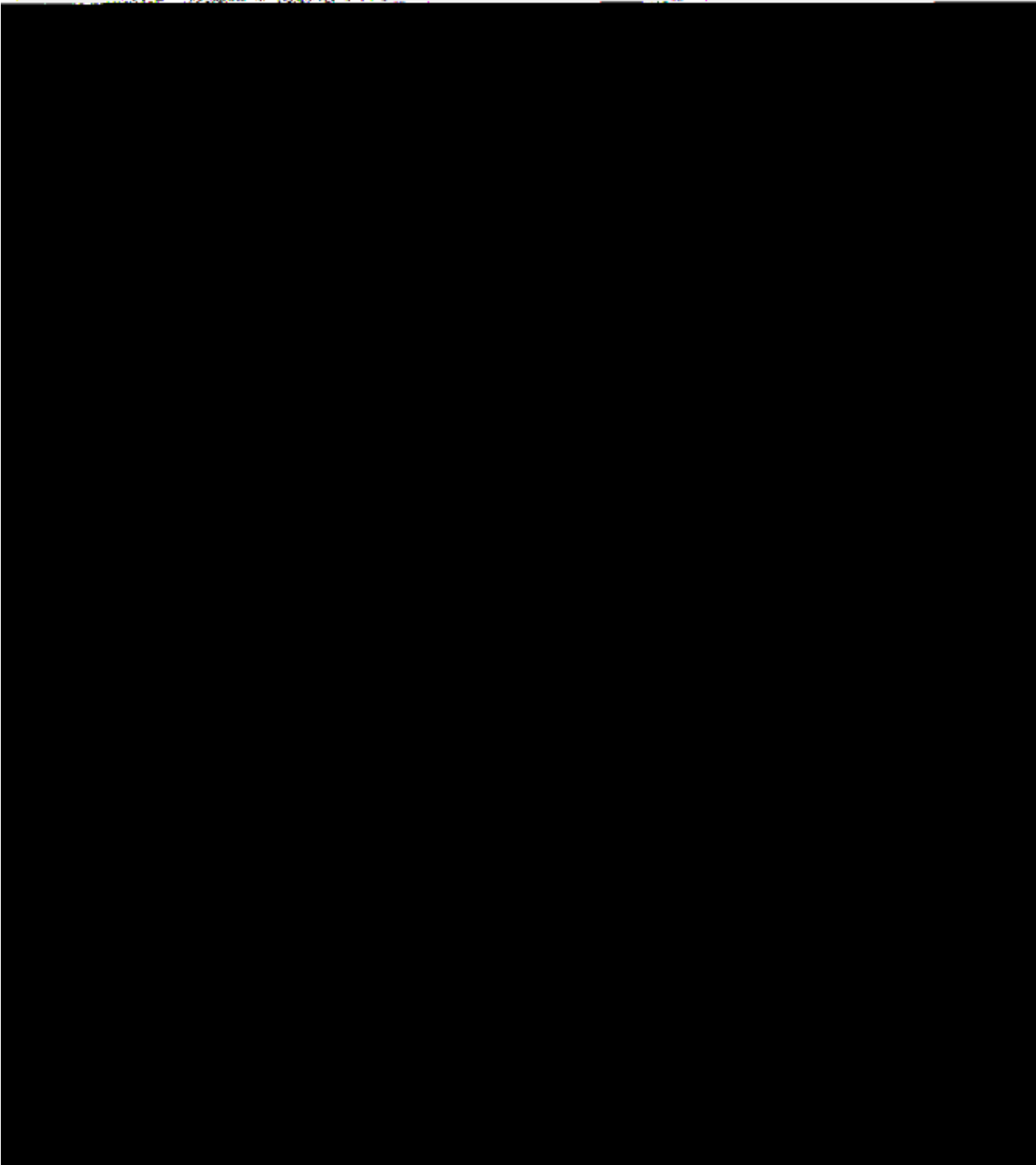
Spring – March 1<sup>st</sup>

Summer – June 1<sup>st</sup>









Appendix C

