

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
October 5, 2010

The Faculty Senate of the University of North Alabama met October 5, 2010 in Room 100 of Floyd Science Building at 3:30 p.m.

President Richardson called the meeting to order and recognized the following proxies: Martha Rock for Senator Lee from Nursing, Stephen Montgomery for Senator Garfrerick from Communication, and Leah Graham for Senator Fitzsimmons from History and Political Science.

President Cale spoke about the on going discussion concerning the move to NCAA Division I in athletics. The move of six Arkansas schools from the Gulf South Conference served as a flashpoint to cause serious reconsideration. At the Board of Trustees retreat, the administration was charged with the preparation of a report summarizing various studies and the actual cost to contemplate the move in divisions. President Cale stated that the faculty, staff, students and alumni will also be given the report with input solicited. The document was not to reach a conclusion but to present all the relevant facts. President Cale discussed the problem in the Gulf South Conference with only five football playing schools remaining. This would result in only four conference games on the schedule for football.

Senator Adams thanked President Cale for preparing and sharing this document with the faculty.

The document was presented by Athletic Director Mark Linder. The timeline of how a move could be made was discussed related to additional expenses, additional revenue, game guarantees, recruiting, scholarships, competition for championships, additional sports, and additional staff including a strength and condition coach, a marketing/sales position, and an advancement position. Comparisons were made with the three or four top institutions in the Ohio Valley Conference. It was noted that UNA must have an invitation to join a Division I conference, must pay a large fee to the NCAA, add two additional sports and add additional support staff including someone overseeing the Academic Performance Rate (APR) which is very important at the Division I level. It was also pointed out that revenue sharing with the NCAA would not occur until four years after the transition began. Mr. Linder also presented a list of advantages and disadvantages for either moving to Division I or remaining in Division II. This list was compiled by the athletic staff through consultation with colleagues from across the nation and within the different divisions.

President Richardson thanked Mr. Linder for his hard work and presentation of the information. At some time the faculty will need to weigh-in with their opinion concerning the move in divisions. It was suggested that similar sessions be presented to the faculty and staff.

The next regular senate meeting is set for October 14.

Senator Roden moved the meeting be adjourned. Senator Statom seconded. The motion passed.