

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 13, 2012 – 3:30 PM – FERGUSON FORUM**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE:** Tim Murphy, Seth Panitch, Ion Stancu, Tom Zeiler, Joe Calamusa, Jeannine Lawrence, Wesley Church.

**ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE:** Priscilla Davis/Seth Appiah-Opoko, Carol Mills/Jeremy Butler, Aaron Kuntz/Joy Burnham, Jason Battles/Josh Sahib, Mangala Krishnamurthy/Mark Siciliano.

**GUESTS:** Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Kim Eaton, Tuscaloosa News; Ross Green, SGA representative; Andy Maddox, Professional Staff Assembly; Robert (Bob) Riter, Parliamentarian.

Roll call and quorum check by Faculty Senate Secretary Rona Donahoe.

The minutes of the October 16, 2012 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

**President's Report** – (*Steve Miller*) President Miller began the meeting by introducing Professor Robert Riter as Faculty Senate Parliamentarian. The Faculty Senate voted unanimously to approve this appointment.

The importance of remaining until the end of the Faculty Senate meetings was reiterated.

President Miller spoke at the November 2nd UA Board of Trustees meeting bringing in the new University of Alabama president. Faculty Senate current issues, activities and faculty representation were included in his remarks.

A luncheon meeting was held to strategize a plan for a smoke-free campus. President Miller, Faculty Senate secretary Rona Donahoe, Senator Margaret Garner, SGA representative, Professional Staff Assembly representative and Office, Staff and Technical Association representative and others were in attendance. A senator suggested an international student representative should be included in the planning of this project. The smoke-free campus plan will be presented to the administration once all details are in place.

A reception for Deans was held at the Gorgas House following the November 6<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting and was very well attended and received.

President Miller asked three people to speak to the role of Faculty Senate. Senator Margaret Garner spoke first giving a review of her past Faculty Senate service. In her opinion the role of a senator for Community Health Sciences is to collectively take those issues directly impacting faculty members back to her college and department and to be the representative voice for her college. Margaret has been associated with the Faculty Senate for many years and believes in collaborative governance.

John Vincent spoke concerning the role of the Faculty Senate. He stated senators are a conduit to take information back to their college/school and represents the faculty in all aspects of the University. Reports from the Faculty Senate's liaison on other UA committees are vital to the

distribution of information; i.e., parking and benefits. Faculty members often seek out a senator with problems and situations needing attention and resolution. Clarification of information comes with being a member of the Faculty Senate and participation in committees.

Clark Midkiff stated the role of the Faculty Senate depends on varying degrees of participation and involvement. The various responsibilities of Faculty Senate officers and committee members serve the senator and his/her college/school well by bringing forward important issues to be discussed and reviewed before becoming UA policy. Extended service in the Faculty Senate provides experience and understanding of Senate and University operations.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meets several times a month with the Provost and during this time of transition President Bonner will be involved in those meetings to assure the continuance of projects and goals.

Law Professor Paul Horwitz sent an email to President Steve Miller expressing questions concerning the procedure followed in naming a new University president in the wake of an unexpected resignation from Dr. Guy Bailey. The concerns noted were not naming an interim president while a national search was conducted, the terms of the rather truncated search for a replacement, the policy of an interim president being ineligible to serve as a permanent president, faculty or Faculty Senate input into the decision and the new president's policies on support for Arts & Sciences and monitoring and correcting situations within the Greek system.

President Miller conducted a faculty survey last summer to collate the faculty's priorities and qualities desired in naming a new president. The survey results were used by the presidential search committee and UA's Board of Trustees in seeking the right choice of the person to fill this most important position. The search was narrowed to fifty candidates and then to five candidates. Dr. Judy Bonner served in the positions of UA's Provost and Interim President during the search. Dr. Guy Bailey was selected and resigned a few months later due to his wife's health. Since it was such a brief time since the nationwide presidential search was conducted Chancellor Robert Witt felt there was a good idea of the present presidential candidate pool. Chancellor Witt and the Board of Trustees did not want to put the University through another period of having an interim president, believed faculty input was current and that Dr. Bonner had served as Interim President in an exemplary manner. Immediately following the announcement of Dr. Judith Bonner as President of the University, she met with the Faculty Senate Steering Committee to talk about her plans and areas of priorities to continue to move The University of Alabama forward and upward.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee felt an expression of appreciation and support for Dr. Bailey should be made. Faculty Senate President Steve Miller will deliver the following letter in person in a meeting with Dr. Bailey on Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Faculty Senate Secretary Rona Donahoe read the following letter to the Faculty Senate which was approved by a unanimous vote.

Dr. Guy Bailey  
November 12, 2012

Dear Dr. Bailey,

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee asked me to write to you on their behalf. We join the rest of The University community in expressing our compassion and support for you and Mrs. Bailey. We know that her health is your top priority and we wanted you to know that we understand your decision, as a couple, to focus your full attention to her journey of recovery. We appreciate the time we had with you and the opportunity to discuss with you our commitment to The University of Alabama, and to working with you.

Please know that our hearts and prayers follow you and Mrs. Bailey. We wish you the very best.

On behalf of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee,

Steve Miller, President

President Miller spoke with Chancellor Witt and President Bonner posing questions asked by faculty members and others. To answer the question of why Dr. Bailey was offered the job the same day he interviewed was that the decision was made by the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor. The presidential search committee (President Miller and Senator Melondie Carter were on the committee) was advisory only. Perhaps they wanted to make the offer of the presidency to Dr. Bailey in person. Another question was why the position was not offered to the next candidate in line after Dr. Bailey. Making such an offer could have projected the impression that something was out of line at the University since Dr. Bailey was in office such a short time. It could have projected the impression that the candidate was second best and could have threatened the candidate's job security. The UA Board of Trustees were in town for a regularly scheduled meeting the next day. There is support of President Bonner, only questions concerning the selection process that was followed and the future of faculty input in such decisions. The selection procedure is established and has been followed in the past but the unusual circumstances presented by Dr. Bailey's resignation called for an unusual response. Chancellor Witt and President Bonner met with the Faculty Senate Steering Committee on November 6<sup>th</sup> and answered any and all questions posed by Steering Committee members.

On the agenda for today's Faculty Senate meeting is a proposed resolution supporting the selection of Dr. Judith Bonner as UA President. One senator questioned the authority of President Miller to state the Faculty Senate supported the choice of Dr. Bonner and the authority of the Steering Committee to act. All senators are welcome to attend the Faculty Senate Steering Committee meetings on the second Tuesday of every month. Senator Melondie Carter stated the selection process was a deliberative process and the Board of Trustees asked for specific opinions from Melondie and Steve Miller as faculty members on many occasions. There was more input from the faculty in this presidential search than there has ever been in the past.

Structural and procedural issues of the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Steering Committee will be on the agenda for the next Faculty Senate meeting.

The resolution congratulating Dr. Judith Bonner on being named President of The University of Alabama was presented to the Faculty Senate. The vote was unanimous approval.

**Resolution Congratulating Dr. Judith L. Bonner On Being Named  
President of The University of Alabama**

Whereas, Dr. Judith Bonner has provided over three decades of devoted service to The University of Alabama as a faculty member, department head, dean, vice president, provost, and interim president,

And whereas, as Provost, Dr. Bonner has displayed an unprecedented degree of collaboration with the Faculty Senate, and its Steering Committee, and the faculty as a whole in working for the good of the institution,

The Faculty Senate congratulates Dr. Bonner on her promotion to President of The University of Alabama, pledges its cooperation and collaboration in the guidance of The University to continuing success in the future, and wishes Dr. Bonner the greatest success in this new endeavor and challenge.

November 13, 2012

**Academic Affairs** – (*John Vincent & Liza Wilson*) The Academic Affairs Committee continues to look at the English AP exam credits. This did not go through the Core Curriculum Committee or faculty for approval. There was further discussion and the issue will be discussed with the new Provost.

Ideas and input are being requested for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “Stand in the School House Door”.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** - (*Charlotte Herrin & Dwight Hooper*) The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee has requested nominations for the Mediation Committee vacancies. There are two representatives rolling off that committee this year. Arts & Sciences members are not eligible since there are already two Arts & Science representatives on the committee. The nominations are Dr. Tyra Hilliard, Associate Professor in CHES, and Angela Paschal, HES. There were no nominations from the floor and a vote will be taken at the Faculty Senate meeting in December.

The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee proposed a change in the by-laws to be presented at this meeting and voted on in the Faculty Senate meeting in December.

In Section 3, Standing Committees, 12. Faculty and Senate Governance Committee,  
As item F.:

“Seeks nominations and conducts elections for Senate-appointed members of the Mediation Committee, Faculty Ombudsperson positions, Senate-appointed members of The Merger and Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee, and for Faculty Senate Officers.”

**Faculty Life** – (*Weley Church & Carmen Mayer-Robin*) No report.

**Financial Affairs** – (*Robert McLeod & Reuben Cook*) The University of Alabama Board of Trustees has requested the State Legislature restore UA funding to the 2008 level. The committee is also looking at the lack of adjunct faculty raises.

**Information Technology** – (*Carolyn Cassidy & Jason Battles*) The Information Technology Committee met with John McGowan, Vice Provost of Information Technology and Patty Benton, Office of Information Technology, on October 18<sup>th</sup>. There is an eighteen million dollar/five year support plan completed for the IT data center in Atlanta. This will supply backup for office computers and will be faster. The Office of Information Technology has hired an IT specialist for research. John McGowan wants to restructure IT by eliminating the University IT standing committee. At this time the plan would not include faculty representation in the restructuring. Concern was expressed about the elimination of a UA standing committee. The data management plan is now operational.

**Legislative Agenda** – (*Margaret Garner*) February 28 is Higher Education Day in Montgomery and the Higher Education Partnership membership needs to increase.

**Research & Service** – (*Ed Stephenson & Ion Stancu*) The Research and Service Committee in collaboration with the Research Advisory Committee will review IRB approval procedures. The Faculty Senate is soliciting specific suggestions on how to improve this procedure. An email will be sent to the full Faculty Senate with a request to forward it to any college with IRB issues.

**Student Affairs** – (*Melondie Carter & Donna Meester*) The gift card program to supply gift cards through “Alabama Reach” for foster youth, homeless and other students is underway. Fliers were distributed to all senators. Gift cards should be in increments of \$25.00 and can be from a department store, bookstore, restaurant, gas station, Visa or any other type card.

#### **Reports from Other Committees –**

The Parking and Transportation will meet on Wednesday, November 14. If there are any parking problems, email Gina Johnson, [vjohnson@bama.ua.edu](mailto:vjohnson@bama.ua.edu).

An announcement was made that the November 30 deadline for the undergraduate student Premier Award is quickly approaching. The application is online on the University of Alabama web page.

The University of Alabama has reached 73% of the United Way goal and everyone was encouraged to donate.

Meeting adjourned 4:55 P.M.