

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2012 – 3:30 PM – FERGUSON FORUM**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Sheila Black, Phil Harris, Tim Murphy, Kagendo Mutua, Wayne Urban, Paul Horwitz, Wesley Church.

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Joe Calamusa/Gorman Houston; Mangala Krishnamurthy/Jody DeRidder.

GUESTS: Andy Maddox, Professional Staff Assembly; Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Kim Eaton, Tuscaloosa News.

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

The minutes of April 17, 2012 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

President's Report – (*Steve Miller*) The meeting began with President Miller extending a welcome to the new senators and giving an overview of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee activities over the summer. Those issues included a UA presidential search. The faculty input assembled by President Miller to prioritize the characteristics and qualifications of the candidates were primary talking points utilized by the search committee and Board of Trustees in the search process. Melondie Carter, also a member of the presidential search committee, felt there was a concentrated effort to search and find the best qualified candidates for the vacancy. Chancellor Witt met with the Faculty Senate Steering Committee during the summer to discuss the search process.

President Miller asked the Senate for nominations to replace DoVeanna Minor as Parliamentarian.

Meetings were held during the summer with John McGowan, Vice Provost of Information Technology; Joe Benson, Vice President for Research, and the Faculty Senate Information Technology Committee to directly address Office of Information Technology issues. OIT and Libraries are working on a data management plan and a centralized approach to faculty research.

President Miller had a lunch meeting with the leadership of the Student Government Association, Office of Clerical and Technical Association, and the Professional Staff Association to strategize and prioritize the most important issues and to determine the best method to work together to bring those to fruition. A smoke/tobacco free campus is one of those issues. President Miller also met with the Black Faculty/Staff Association leaders and will invite them to speak to the Faculty Senate.

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) - Two of the three **senator vacancies** occurring over the summer have been filled with the senator election in Libraries currently underway. Replacements will be needed for a co-chair for the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee, Parliamentarian and two University committees. Senators were requested to check the Faculty Senate web site to make certain they are on the committees on which they wish to serve. CUC

letters of appointment have been sent. If committee members have not been contacted with meeting dates and times, please notify Rona Donahoe.

The **Karen Steckol Academic Regalia Project** is underway. The project is in honor of Karen's service as a three-term Faculty Senate President and her dedication to the University. This project will enable and encourage faculty participation in graduation. Regalia donations are being sought to loan faculty for commencement ceremonies. A link to a form requesting regalia is posted on the Faculty Senate web page. After filling out this form, it will then be forwarded to the Faculty Senate assistant. Donation letters will be sent to faculty, retired faculty, and alumni. Dialog will publish an article about the regalia project.

Vice President's Report – (*Seth Panitch*) Seth Panitch is heading an ad hoc committee to bring more focus on faculty during commencement. Melondie Carter and Donna Meester are also members of this committee and suggestions should be forwarded to these senators.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Donna Meester*) The Student Affairs priorities for the coming Faculty Senate year include determining methods for more faculty involvement and participation in student organizations, a holiday drive to supply gift cards for homeless students on campus, and housing for international students and other students during University holidays and breaks. There are 250 spaces reserved for ELI students and four residence halls that remain open during holidays. Use of workout facilities for graduate students during the summer is another issue the committee will address.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent*) The Academic Affairs Committee have their meetings scheduled for 2012 – September 4, October 2, February 5 and March 5 and April 2 in Room #2002 in Shelby Hall. Dean Francko of the Graduate School will be meeting with the Academic Affairs Committee to discuss the timing of the requirements for graduate students for graduation. A primary issue is faculty input concerning the preparation of classrooms (white boards) for the beginning of classes. Revisions of the Faculty Handbook will be another project for this committee.

The College of Arts & Sciences has increased the number of students for minimum enrollment requirements. Normally departments can still request waivers for courses that do not meet those limits with a letter of justification. The Academic Affairs Committee will wait and see what the actual impact on the University will be. The Faculty Senate does not address issues unless there is a direct impact on faculty as a whole but will be following this issue very closely.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Dwight Hooper*) This committee will plan to meet electronically. Nominations are being gathered for the following committees:

On behalf of the Provost, the Faculty Senate seeks six faculty members as nominees who are willing to serve on **the Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans and Department Chairpersons and in the Evaluation of Academic Programs Committee**. The names of the six faculty nominees will be presented this month (August) to Provost Bonner who will select the four faculty members to serve on the committee. Nominees may be current Faculty-Senate representatives. For more information concerning the duties and composition of the committee, follow the link: http://committees.ua.edu/?page_id=141

If you wish to add your name to the list of candidates to serve on this committee, then please send your name and college/division designation to Charlotte Herrin, Co-Chair, Faculty and Senate Governance, cherrin@sw.ua.edu. Thank you for your interest and participation.

The Faculty Senate of the University of Alabama is seeking nominations of tenured faculty to fill three vacancies on the ***Merger or Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee***. Primary purposes of this committee are to represent the faculty as a whole in cases where merger or discontinuance could result in termination of a faculty appointment and to determine whether merger or discontinuance of an academic unit would benefit the educational mission of the University as a whole. Current Faculty Senators and members of the University Mediation and Grievance Committee are not eligible for nomination. For more information on the duties, composition and reporting channels of this committee, go to http://committees.ua.edu/?page_id=196.

Please send nominations to Charlotte Herrin, Co-Chair, Faculty and Senate Governance Committee, cherrin@sw.ua.edu, by August 31, 2012.

Senators were encouraged to take this information to their colleagues and departments. The information was sent to the entire faculty by President Miller.

Faculty Life – (*Carmen Mayer-Robin & Wesley Church*) The Faculty Life Committee will continue to pursue the maternity leave policy. Deidre Leaver-Dunn, a past member of the Faculty Life committee, gave the new committee a synopsis of the history of this issue. The Faculty Senate passed a resolution on maternity/paternity/adoption tenure clock extension in February of 2007. The Faculty Life Committee would like to see UA's tenure clock extension policy advertised along with requesting the Faculty Senate send out a statement annually. President Steve Miller will circulate the Tenure-Clock Policy to the entire faculty. Requesting extensions involves a time-sensitive process and UA's guideline is on the Provost's web page at <http://provost.ua.edu/family-friendly>.

“Tenure-Clock Extension Policy (adopted 2007): Upon the birth or adoption of a child, a faculty member holding a tenure-accruing appointment will be granted a one-year extension of the date on which the probationary period would end. Only one such extension is allowed per faculty member. A written notice must be provided to the Department Head, the Dean, and the Provost within six months of birth or adoption and no later than the December 15th prior to the October 1st on which the original mandatory tenure application was to be made. During this extension the retention process continues, with the probationary candidate receiving normal feedback from the department about job performance.”

The Faculty Life Committee and other Faculty Senate members met at the Child Development Center to determine if those facilities would be serviceable for faculty/staff child care. There seems to be no avenue to pursue child care at that location.

Financial Affairs – (*Robert McLeod & Reuben Cook*) The Financial Affairs Committee is in the process of scheduling a meeting with Lynda Gilbert, Vice President for Financial Affairs, to review the 2012 University budget. Budget decisions are made with minimum input from faculty. There are concerns about the outlook for future budgets if continued growth and tuition

increases stall or decrease. What is the University's contingency plan in that event? Start up funding for research will be a priority issue for this committee.

President Miller will forward to the Senate the talking point document used in meeting with UA President Bailey.

Information Technology – (*Carolyn Cassady & Jason Battles*) Availability of John McGowan, Vice Provost for Information Technology, for duties at The University of Alabama is an issue that has been resolved. The University of Alabama-Huntsville has hired someone to fill the position taken on part-time by John McGowan. A data management plan is underway with the Office of Information Technology and Libraries collaborating on the plan development. Internet access resource is available with some faculty not aware of this service. Contact information for the Office of Information Technology should be readily available. There have been difficulties in reaching OIT personnel and management. Consolidating technology committees must be achieved. There are many such committees overlapping and lacking communication about their activities. Other concerns are software, backup and unifying email service.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) The Legislative Agenda Committee was asked to review the age of majority for student participation in research. This issue is being handled by University attorneys to provide language to exempt universities to include freshmen in research.

There was good attendance at the Legislative Advocacy Retreat in Sandestin, Florida. Governor Bentley and Mike Hubbard, Speaker of the House, and other Legislators spoke at the event.

Higher Education Partnership membership numbers have decreased following the discontinuance of paying membership fees through payroll deduction. Benefits received from different levels of membership were discussed including frivolous lawsuit insurance coverage.

Research & Service – (*Ion Stancu & Ed Stephenson*) The Research & Service Committee took up the Conflict of Interest Policy revision this past summer. The National Institute of Health prescribed changes to the document. The COI policy is part of the Faculty Handbook and the revised COI policy becomes Appendix E1. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee approved the revision in view of a deadline and the Faculty Senate would not be meeting as a body until after the deadline.

Priorities of the Research & Service Committee will be improving the research profile of the University, support for research faculty and improving research policies. The mandate for this committee is to facilitate research for any type scholarly activity. Any suggestions should be sent to this committee.

The Alabama Ethics Law and royalties were discussed.

New Business - The budget meeting with Lynda Gilbert will be Tuesday, August 28 at 3:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned 4:50 P.M.

