

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2012 – 3:30 PM – FERGUSON FORUM

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Priscilla Davis, Phil Harris, Tim Murphy, Ian Stancu, Joe Calamusa, Lenka Nolan, Kagendo Mutua, Ed Back, Steve Emens, Wesley Church.

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE:

GUESTS: Gordon Stone, Higher Education Partnership Executive Director; Kim Eaton, Tuscaloosa News; Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Ross Green, UA Student Government Association; Andy Maddox, Professional Staff Assembly.

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

The minutes of August 21, 2012 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

President's Report – *(Steve Miller)* The Faculty Senate Steering Committee met on Thursday, August 16, 2012 with The University of Alabama President, Guy Bailey, to present talking points/**priorities** assembled through input from faculty and the Faculty Senate. The Black Faculty and Staff Association felt diversity had been overlooked in the presentation of the priorities for the year. The BFSA President, Marcus Cotton, and President Miller met and Marcus Cotton will speak to the Faculty Senate.

UA President Bailey will speak to the Faculty Senate at their meeting in October.

President Miller met with Ivon Foster, Assistant to the Provost for Special Projects in the Office of Academic Affairs, to discuss the absence of white boards in Russell Hall. Other issues discussed in the meeting were streamlining **Information Technology** committees and seeking faculty input on equipping classrooms.

John McGowan, Vice Provost of Information Technology, has addressed most of the **technology** issues presented to him by the Faculty Senate.

A planning committee has been formed to organize events regarding the fiftieth anniversary of the “Stand in the School House Door”. The events should present a long-lived legacy for faculty and students. The Faculty Senate was asked for suggestions and input to develop the events into something deeper and more meaningful than just a series of lectures. The events should symbolize continuing to address diversity and “open doors”.

Vice President's Report – *(Seth Panitch)* No report.

Secretary's Report – *(Rona Donahoe)* The vacancy on the UA Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee has been filled by Jennifer Shoaf.

The Faculty & Staff Benefits Committee will meet on September 19th at noon and Meredith Bagley will attend as an alternate for Rona Donahoe.

President Miller introduced Gordon Stone, Executive Director of the **Higher Education Partnership**. The organization was formed in 1997 to represent higher education interests and to better the lives of the people in Alabama. The partnership deals with government officials and public policy relating to Alabama's public four-year universities. The partnership also addresses communications to assure a positive message and works with other organizations with similar state-wide messages to strengthen education in Alabama.

Director Stone encouraged everyone to vote on the **amendment** proposing borrowing from the Alabama Trust Fund to provide three years of relief for the Alabama General Fund. There are two funding sources in Alabama, the Alabama General Fund and the Alabama Education Trust Fund. Growth taxes on the consumer side go into the Alabama Education Trust Fund. Very few growth taxes support the Alabama General Fund. The General Fund suffers when the economy is sluggish. If the amendment does not pass, a 17% General Fund proration is projected.

The Faculty Senate members were encouraged to join the **Higher Education Partnership** to strengthen advocacy for higher education. The benefits of membership include a two-million dollar liability insurance policy as long as the member is teaching and the policy follows to any location of their employment in education.

Higher Education Day will be February 28th, 2013 in Montgomery, Alabama. This is a political rally on the front steps of the Alabama State House to remind political leaders of the need to improve higher education appropriations. Buses are provided for transportation and students and faculty are encouraged to attend.

Information was distributed concerning **Global Challenges**, Local Solutions. The mission is to inspire a generation of global leaders with the capacity to solve some of the worlds' most pressing problems including poverty, gender inequity, water, education and hunger. This will be a collaborative effort among faculty and students with students participating in a series of leadership development activities. Anyone wishing to volunteer or any suggestions should be forwarded to Gordon Stone.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Liza Wilson*) The Academic Affairs Committee elected Liza Wilson to replace Marcia Barrett as co-chair of this committee.

Dean Francko of the Graduate School spoke to the Academic Affairs Committee giving an explanation and rationale for scheduling events requiring student participation to graduate.

Ivon Foster, Assistant to the Provost for Special Projects in the Academic Affairs Office, will address the Academic Affairs Committee at their next meeting concerning the absence of white boards in classrooms in Russell Hall and other **classroom equipment issues**. The design of classroom space should include faculty input.

An issue brought forward in the last Faculty Senate meeting concerned **royalties**. The University policy in the Faculty Handbook states if a faculty member is the author of class materials used in teaching their class or anyone else's class, they can receive royalties following the approval of the department textbook committee.

The Academic Affairs Committee will continue to revise and update the **Faculty Handbook**.

To implement any changes in the Faculty Handbook, the changes are first submitted to the Faculty Senate for approval, then sent to the Council of Deans for review and input, then sent to the President and Provost. There is an effort to publish the handbook as an I-book.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Dwight Hooper*) The three faculty members selected for membership on the **Merger or Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee** are:

John Wheat, Professor, CCHS-Community and Rural Health
Celia Lo, Professor, School of Social Work
Miguel Mantero, Associate Professor, College of Education

The six nominees from which Provost Bonner will choose four faculty members to serve on the **Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans, Department Chairpersons, and in the Evaluation of Academic Programs Committee** include:

Donna Meester, Associate Professor A&S-Theatre and Dance
Jennifer Purvis, Associate Professor A&S-Gender and Race Studies
Ajay Agrawal, Professor, College of Engineering
Ibrahim Cemen, Professor, Geological Sciences
Russell McCutcheon, Professor, A&S-Religious Studies
Ken Wright, CHES-Professor, Sports Management

A final decision by the Provost has not been made at this time.

There was a discussion of effective **distribution of email** to senators, deans, departments and others. There are departments that do not meet qualifications to have a representative on the Faculty Senate and would not receive information. Senators are elected to represent their department/division and to relay information to their colleagues. Some senators are not comfortable forwarding emails to their deans or department heads. Nursing has a Faculty Senate report during their faculty organizational meeting. The communication channel will be an issue discussed during the Reception for the Deans held during the first week of November.

Faculty Life – (*Wesley Church & Carmen Mayer-Robin*) The Faculty Life Committee continues to address the tenure clock extension issue. The proposed smoke-free campus policy is receiving quite a bit of support. November 15th is the date for the Great American Smoke-Out Day.

The issue of obtaining protocol approval through the Office of Research being a cumbersome and tedious process will be reviewed by the Faculty Life Committee.

Financial Affairs – (*Robert McLeod & Reuben Cook*) The Financial Affairs Committee is in the process of trying to set up a meeting with Lynda Gilbert, Vice President for Financial Affairs.

This committee will be checking on the amount of compensation eligible for retirement system credit issue. The rule in effect now is 120% of the base salary would be eligible for retirement benefits. What is base salary for faculty members? Basically the base salary compensation for teachers and faculty employees is the annual contract salary for the regular school year plus the normal full-time value of the initial instruction period including summer term, interim term and

mid-term. However, there are some exclusions. The new employee standard will be 125% after January 1, 2013. Retirement age will be 62 years of age.

Information Technology – (*Carolyn Cassady & Jason Battles*) Following up on the Data Management Plan services will be a joint meeting of the Research & Service Committee, the Faculty Senate Information Technology Committee and Tom Wilson of Libraries.

The committee also looked at the lack of communication between faculty and UA's Information Technology Committee concerning the services they provide. There are continuing concerns about the help desk. Any concerns should be forwarded to the Faculty Senate Information Technology Committee.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) Report given by Gordon Stone.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Ion Stancu*) The Research & Service Committee was instrumental in the recent changes in travel reimbursement upgrades. International travel reimbursement has been upgraded to comply with State Department rates. The State of Alabama determines the per-diem rate.

The UA administration has asked for input from the Faculty Senate, faculty and staff in departments that have post-doctoral fellows. The issue concerns raises for those post-doctoral fellows. The Research & Service Committee would like input via Faculty Senate senators from all Natural Sciences departments in Arts & Sciences, all departments in Engineering and the Psychology Department.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Donna Meester*) The focus of this committee will be on holiday gift cards for homeless, special circumstance students and foster students on campus. There is a campus organization titled "Alabama Reach" attempting to assist those students. The gift cards would possibly be administered through this organization. Student housing during the holiday breaks is also an issue.

Reports from Other Committees –

A senator asked what lead time should be provided by Parking Services before roping off a parking area. There are parking issues around Moody Music Building. There also seems to be a lack of writing parking tickets for violations.

The age of majority issue is moving forward. Sister institutions have accepted the language.

There was an issue concerning purchasing books and keeping them in department offices.

A reminder concerned the United Way Campaign hosted by the Nursing School. It is a "Legacy of Caring" theme and The University of Alabama leads SEC institutions in giving to the campaign.

Meeting adjourned 4:50 P.M.

