

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
October 19, 2010 – Room 1026 Capstone College of Nursing – 3:30 PM

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE – Priscilla Davis (sabbatical), Jim Hall, James Hamilton, Rasma Lazda, Stevan Marcus, Maha Marouan, Katrina Ramonell, Leslie Rissler, James Wang, Chapman Greer, Lew Silver, Brent Hardin, Stuart Usdan

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE – Vijaya Sundar/Scott Arnold; Ed Back/Alan Lane

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Jill Beville, Professional Staff Assembly; Aaron Zucker, SGA, VP for Academic Affairs; Eon Wineberg, SGA Liaison to the Senate; Ashley Ewing, Office of Information Technology.

The minutes of the September 21, 2010 Faculty Senate meeting were not available for review, but will be available for review prior to the November meeting.

Vice President's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) President Karen Steckol is here today, but has requested that I conduct the meeting.

Representatives from the Department of Human Resources attended the recent Steering Committee meeting with the Provost to discuss **the planned changes in the health benefits plan for 2011**. The premium costs for faculty and staff will increase by approximately 10% and some copays will also increase. According to the BC/BS managers of the UA self-insured plan, the 2010 costs were underestimated by approximately \$ 5 million. However, the premiums for the UA health plan are still lower than half of the SUG schools. A question was asked regarding why there are not more than two tiers for premiums in the UA health plan. Rona Donahoe, a member of the Faculty & Staff Benefits Committee, said this matter has been discussed in the committee several times and the Department of Human Resources said that more tiers would be very complicated to administer. However, she agreed to raise the issue of multiple tiers again in the FSBC.

Rona also reminded the Senate members that the cost to the UA plan depends on where the individual receives the services. She encouraged everyone to become more aware of the cost of the services they are receiving and to consider using the University Medical Center. Another Senator commented that the UA Faculty/Staff clinic is very user-friendly and less costly.

Another speaker at the meeting with the Provost was Bill Jones, UA Lobbyist. He said that even though tax receipts are starting to increase, there is a possibility of an additional 2% in proration.

Ashley Ewing, OIT stated that October is **Cyber Security** Month and informed Senators about why he had distributed toothbrushes to each person. He said that your password is similar to your toothbrush – you should pick a good one, do not share it, and change it

frequently. He also reminded individuals that their password should be complex, but something they can remember. He covered the information contained in a power-point and also provided each member with a packet of information. In the information was a link to a web site for additional information about Cyber Security and his contact information. He said that all UA laptops need to be encrypted and all desktop personal computers also need to be encrypted if the information needed to be protected. He encouraged everyone to turn on the password capability of their cell phones and to remember to take your old sim card with you from the store when you upgrade to a new cell phone. He reminded everyone to be very careful when they re-purpose computers because even when files are deleted, the data is still on the hard drive. Alt-Ctrl-Delete should be used to lock your personal computer and to report any security incidences to OIT. If your computer is stolen, then you need to contact the police and fill out a form.

SGA Students – Aaron Zucker, VP for Academic Affairs; Eon Wineberg, Liaison to the Senate - Both students introduced themselves and said they want to work with the Faculty Senate. Aaron said he had heard some complaints from faculty about the availability of class tests, notes, PowerPoints, and handout materials being dropped off in boxes around campus for students to use. Several Senators voiced their concerns about this practice and said students should sit in class and get the information for themselves. Aaron said he had spoken to the Provost and she was o.k. with making these materials available to students. However, he agreed to meet and talk with faculty group from any department. He also mentioned several other SGA projects such as (a) printing 3500 test booklets with the Capstone Creed on the back, (b) establishing a registration helpline, (c) increasing scholarships for graduate students, (d) activities and food during Academic Integrity Week, and (e) having all CWs and Corollas scanned into the library.

Secretary's Report – (*Jeanette VanderMeer*) – No Report.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Marcia Barrett*) The Academic Affairs Committee is reviewing the AAUP policy regarding acquisition of **tenure for teaching faculty**. The UA Graduate Philosophy resolution passed last year has been posted in three UA websites: (a) Provost site, (b) VP for Student Affairs site, and (c) the Core Curriculum site. The next meeting of the committee will be held in conjunction with the Financial Affairs Committee when the UA VP for Finance will present her report.

Faculty Life – (*Lowell Baker & Deidre Leaver-Dunn*) No report.

Financial Affairs – (*Katrina Ramonell & Steve Hobbs*) This committee has scheduled a meeting with Financial Affairs Vice President Lynda Gilbert for November 2nd at 2:30 p.m. in 2438 SEC.

Information Technology – (*Ray White & Jim Hall*) No report. This committee met two weeks ago and will meet this Friday with John McGowan, VP for Information Technology. Clark Midkiff stated that the UA internal version of Google leads to old,

out-of-date information. He requested that the committee discuss this problem during their meeting with OIT.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Brian Gordon*) The Research & Service Committee met two weeks ago with Joe Benson, Vice President for Research who provided information on the changes in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. An ad hoc committee is reviewing the newly revised **patent policy** modified at the direction of the Board of Trustees. All three schools within the UA system must have the same patent policy. The workload in the Office of Research Compliance has increased, so more staff will probably be added. Information regarding funding for research within UA was shared by VP Benson and is difficult to compare with peer institutions because of the variations with Medical Schools and Agricultural Schools. This committee will invite VP Benson to share the data regarding the 2009 Research funding with the Steering Committee.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Rona Donahoe & Steve Emens*) The Faculty & Senate Governance Committee has been in the process of obtaining nominees from the College of Engineering and/or the College of Business Administration for the vacant **Ombudsperson** position. The two nominees at this time are Keith Woodbury and Steve Ritchie of Engineering. The election will be a campus-wide faculty vote.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Seth Panitch*) Melondie thanked the two students from SGA for coming to the meeting today. The Student Affairs committee met 2 weeks ago with the VP for Student Service, Stephen Swinson and the next committee meeting will be held on Nov. 4th. A safety initiative has been put into place for students regarding driving while intoxicated that utilizes a simulator located at the Ferguson Center. She requested the help of the Senate with several Student Outreach initiatives such as (a) a clothes drive to provide attire for students who are interviewing, (b) development of student business cards, (c) a mentor program for first generation college students, and (d) campus activities for students with children.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) **Higher Education Day** is scheduled for April 7th in Montgomery and she reminded faculty of the need to not schedule student projects due or examinations on that date.

Reports from Other Committees

The **Intercollegiate Athletic Committee** met the first Wednesday in October. According to the Student Affairs Office, 18-20 workers have been hired to work in the student section during home football games to deal with intoxicated students. The belief is that tickets for the student section are over sold and when the seats are filled in the lower bowl, students are sent to the upper level. Ushers do not move the students when they move into areas where they do not have tickets to match the seats they are using. The thought was expressed that the gate personnel need to do a better job of monitoring everyone who enters the stadium. John Vincent said there is a push in the committee for student tickets to have an assigned seat number. Approximately 2000 seats were lost due

to the new Zone area. Faculty that have difficulty accessing the upper deck may use the Gate 43 elevator, plus there is a cart at the Southeast ramp to transport faculty to their seats. If necessary, faculty may obtain a note from their physician and transfer their ticket to a seat in the handicapped section.

The **Textbook Committee** held their first meeting last week. The **Libraries Committee** has also met.

Announcements: None

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.