

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2013 – 3:00 PM – 309 FERGUSON CENTER**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Seth Panitch, Rona Donahoe, Melondie Carter, Charlotte Herrin, Bob Riter, John Vincent, Carolyn Cassady, Jason Battles, Carmen Mayer-Robin, Ion Stancu, Reuben Cook, Ed Stephenson, Clark Midkiff, Margaret Garner.

ABSENT: Steve Miller, Robert McLeod, Wesley Church, Donna Meester, Liza Wilson.

GUESTS: Cori Perdue, Associate Vice President for Human Resources; Ross Green, SGA Representative; Richard LeComte, Dialog.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of December 4, 2012 were approved.

President's Report – Vice President Seth Panitch conducted the meeting in the absence of Faculty Senate President Steve Miller.

The search committees for the positions of Vice President for Research and Provost should be finalized this week.

Each Faculty Senate Committee was asked to report their priority issues for 2013.

The Smoke Free Campus initiative is being vigorously pursued.

Issues to be discussed with Interim Provost Joe Benson were brought forward.

Vice President's Report – (*Seth Panitch*) An email was sent to Interim Provost Joe Benson listing recommendations for improvement and more faculty recognition during commencement. A response has not been received.

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) No report.

Cori Perdue, Associate Vice President for Human Resources, was introduced and gave a presentation on faculty/staff benefits and the Work Life Center.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Liza Wilson*) The Academic Affairs Committee is waiting on action for the following items; the Faculty Handbook, Core Curriculum Committee action on Humanities 197, creation of a committee to review classroom construction requirements and the implementation of recommendations for specific guidelines for provisional approval of core curriculum courses.

Faculty Life – (*Tricia McElroy & Carmen Mayer-Robin*) The Faculty Life Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 9th. The committee recommends inviting Cori Perdue to make her Work Life Center presentation to the full Faculty Senate. The Work Life Center recognizes the

challenges of balancing work and family life. Their focus is to develop programs and resources to address the work-life and quality of life needs of faculty, staff and students. Those programs and resources include a childcare referral list, eldercare resources, systems of support for employee and parenting assistance and undergraduate parent support. Contact information for Cori Perdue is cperdue@fa.ua.edu or 348-5217.

Tricia McElroy will replace Wesley Church as co-chair of the Faculty Life Committee.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Dwight Hooper*) An election will be held in March to replace Ombudsperson Keith Woodbury. Woodbury served for a partial term which is ending this year.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Robert McLeod*) No report.

Information Technology – (*Carolyn Cassady & Jason Battles*) President Miller forwarded to this committee an email from Margaret King expressing interest in broader faculty support for technology units and for the Faculty Resource Center in particular. She suggested the topic be brought forward to see what the limitations and possibilities would be to move forward in this area. Jason Battles will interface with Marilyn Staffo, Faculty Resources Director, and others to acquire more information and to determine the direction needed for additional support. There is to be another meeting with John McGowan, Vice Provost for Information Technology, to address the status of several issues. Carolyn Cassady will email McGowan to acquire more information concerning a hacking effort into UA's computer system.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) The proposed age of majority change continues to be monitored and should be addressed this spring. The Teachers Retirement System vote was discussed.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Ion Stancu*) The proposal is to divide post-doctoral students into two categories – post-doctoral fellows #1 and post-doctoral fellows #2. Post-docs #1 would be limited to three years and not pay into the retirement system and #2 would be the same with the exception that payment into the retirement system would be paid through the grant. The timing of the raise is still unresolved. Joe Benson proposed the data management plan storage fee be paid by the Office of Research beyond the period of the grant. Some grants require data storage up to ten years.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Donna Meester*) No report.

Reports from Other Committees –

New Business – One issue to be added to the Faculty Senate list of priorities is the lack of faculty input into building facilities. The Campus Master Plan is presented in the final plan without any input from faculty. Parking, relocation of buildings, tearing up just-paved parking lots costing over one million dollars and the costly redesign of second-floor classrooms in Russell Hall could have been avoided with faculty input.

Meeting adjourned 4:00 P.M.