

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 2012 – 3:00 PM – 309 FERGUSON**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Steve Miller, Rona Donahoe, John Vincent, Liza Wilson, Wesley Church, Carmen Mayer-Robin, Donna Meester, Ed Stephenson, Charlotte Herrin, Clark Midkiff, Melondie Carter, Robert McLeod.

ABSENT: Seth Panitch, Dwight Hooper, Ion Stancu, Carolyn Cassady, Jason Battles, Reuben Cook, Margaret Garner.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Ross Green, SGA Liaison of Academic Affairs.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of September 11, 2012 were approved.

President's Report – (*Steve Miller*) President Miller attended the UA Board of Trustees meeting and reported no new issues coming out of that meeting.

President Miller met with Marcus Cotton, President of the Black Faculty & Staff Association, to invite him to speak at the next Faculty Senate meeting on October 16th.

The University of Alabama President, Dr. Guy Bailey, will also speak at the October 16th Faculty Senate meeting. The timing of a welcoming email from President Bailey was discussed.

Rona Donahoe will lead the Steering Committee meeting with the Provost on Thursday, October 11, in the event Vice President Seth Panitch is unable to attend.

The event planning for the 50th anniversary of the “**Stand in the School House Door**” continues. Ideas from the faculty to make these events appropriate for a lasting legacy are lagging. President Miller suggested John Vincent and Liza Wilson of the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee formulate some suggestions and ideas how faculty could fit this milestone into their curriculum and classes.

A senator questioned the **role of the Faculty Senate**. Is it to come to meetings and disseminate information as formulated in committees and brought to the floor? Is it to go from their departments or divisions with a consensus of ideas and bring those forth to the Faculty Senate? How deep does the responsibility of a senator go? The sense of the Steering Committee is that the role of a senator is all these things and more. Part of the senator's responsibility is the opportunity to represent their college/department and also to make sure the administration is doing their job properly. There is a flow of information back and forth and the senator is to distribute that information to his/her colleagues. It is important to engage the senators in any Faculty Senate activity or issue. The administration has been receptive to issues brought to them by the Faculty Senate leading to a non-confrontational atmosphere. A senator's role is also to remain in the Faculty Senate's meetings until 5:00 P.M. or until the conclusion of the meeting.

President Miller will remind those senators sitting on standing committees to give a report concerning those meetings and to report if their committee is not meeting.

Some issues being addressed by the Faculty Senate have not had results or have had partial results due to complications or delays caused by financial or political situations. The Faculty Senate has accomplished progress on many issues.

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

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

The Steckol Academic Regalia Project email requesting regalia donations will be ready on October 31. Distribution will include current faculty, retired faculty and alumni. An article regarding the project will be published in the December Alumni Magazine. Faculty Senate Vice President Seth Panitch continues to work on improving faculty recognition and participation in UA commencements.

Academic Affairs – (*Liza Wilson & John Vincent*) The Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee met with Ivon Foster, Assistant to the Provost for Special Projects in the Office of Academic Affairs, to discuss the absence of white boards, poorly designed classroom spaces and proper equipment in Russell Hall classrooms and other locations. The absence of faculty input was acknowledged and information/advice is being sought concerning the correct faculty group to be consulted on these issues. Suggestions for the formulation of a committee included the Information Technology Committee, the Academic Affairs Committee, Master Teachers or National Alumni Association winners of past years, or selections from teaching award winners from every college for rolling membership in the committee for designing and equipping classroom consultation. Technology, size and lighting of classrooms would enter into design decisions. This issue will be discussed in the Steering Committee with the Provost.

The Academic Affairs Committee will continue to review and revise the Faculty Handbook. The committee has also discussed with the Provost a student taking the AP exam in two different forms of English actually receiving credit hours for English 101 and 102 and three hours of credit in any Humanities. How many students being affected is to be determined.

Faculty Life – (*Wesley Church & Carmen Mayer-Robin*) The Smoke-Free faculty survey sent out showed 74% support this policy. The majority of the Professional Staff Assembly and the Faculty Senate support the smoke-free policy. The Office & Clerical Staff Association are analyzing their data. The SGA is also moving forward with this issue with student approval rate at 65%. The next step is to bring together all these organizations to formulate a plan to bring forward to administration and implement the policy by May 1, 2013. Margaret Garner is formulating a tactical plan for smokers on campus. Distributing information will be discussed and determined by this committee.

Wesley Church will need to be replaced on this committee as of January 1, 2013.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Dwight Hooper*) The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee will compose a handout announcing the need for nominations to replace two faculty members on the Mediation Committee. This will be circulated at the Faculty Senate meeting and by President Miller.

Financial Affairs – (*Robert McLeod & Reuben Cook*) The Financial Affairs Committee met with Lynda Gilbert, Vice President for Financial Affairs; Provost Judy Bonner and UA Systems Governmental representative, Bill Jones. A copy of the Financial and Budget Presentation dated October 2, 2012 was emailed to the Steering Committee. State appropriations declined another 1% (20% to 19%) for the new budget year, tuition and fees were up 1% (up to 41%) offsetting the appropriations decline. The overall budget was up \$35 million from the previous year. Compensation benefits were up 1% from the previous year. State appropriations high water mark in 2008 was \$200 million and this fiscal year is \$140 million, a loss of \$60 million, and a decrease of \$5 million last year. A bill is being introduced in the State Legislature to reduce the size of the rolling reserve to \$250 million. The committee discussed the “what if” question. What if enrollment decreases? According to Lynda Gilbert, a “stress test” has been done to see what amount of revenue reduction would have to be to impact the University. The reduction would have to be a 25% reduction or a \$200 million decrease out of the total budget. The University of Alabama’s budget for this year is \$775 million dollars. Expenses projected and approved by the Board of Trustees are \$705 million dollars with possibly a \$70 million surplus. In 1978 State appropriations with tuition added was State 78% - tuition 22%. In 2011 State appropriations were 27% - tuition 73%. As the University has grown the appropriation from the State has continued to decrease. The budget presentation is available online. The budget for last year increased disability service access, audio visuals and web sites.

The committee continues to bring attention to the new Tier 2 system going into effect on January 1, 2013. New hires will not be eligible for retirement until 62 years of age. Newly hired faculty should be made aware of the new standards.

Information Technology – (*Carolyn Cassady & Jason Battles*) President Miller gave the IT report in the absence of the chairs. The multiple Information Technology committees on campus lack mutual communication and faculty input. John McGowan, Vice Provost of Information Technology; Laurie Bonnici, Main Library; Ion Foster, Assistant to the Provost for Special Projects in the Academic Affairs Office; and UA’s Information Technology Committee to discuss the purpose/continuation of this committee. IT oversight is vital.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) No report.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Ion Stancu*) The Research & Service Committee has been in the process of surveying the Science and Engineering Departments for input on flexibility in giving post doctoral raises. At this point the input has been unanimous for the capability to give post doctoral raises independent of the University. The gathered information is being compiled and the issue will be discussed in the meeting with the Provost.

A retreat was held to address moving documents and protocol through IRB more rapidly. Several points discussed during the retreat included reducing the response time to investigators, establishing consistent and relevant policies, updating a user-friendly website and revising eProtocol software. Further discussion in the Steering Committee meeting included scientific merit, research credentials, and purview of the IRB. The Research and Service Committee will further study this issue.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Donna Meester*) The Student Affairs Committee will focus on assisting “Alabama Reach” with providing and distributing gift cards to homeless,

orphan and foster care students for the holidays. There will be web site access to contribute to this cause. The committee will also be reaching out to other campus organizations to collaborate with such as the SGA and the Professional Staff Assembly. Time is of the essence to complete arrangements for the gift cards. This will be discussed further in the meeting with the Provost.

The Student Affairs Committee was charged with determining the details of the one week rush suspension.

New Business – A copy of a map of the University was distributed. The site of a new dining facility was noted on the map between Rodger's Library and Hardaway Hall. This will further decrease parking space and there was a lack of faculty involvement in the planning stage.

Reports from Other Committees –

Campus & Student Life – The chair of this committee requested suggestions and input for any issues this committee to consider be forwarded to Liza Wilson.

John Vincent reported Environmental Health and Safety will be completely reorganized. Hal Barrett will be taking all the non-research related items. There have been promotions and two lab managers, one existed and one newly hired, and each will get a technician. There are three new positions coming out of EHS. Research compliance and updates which were desperately needed are being implemented.

Talking points for the Steering Committee meeting with the Provost were reviewed.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 P.M.