

## FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 6, 2012 – 309 FERGUSON – 3:00 PM

### APPROVED MINUTES

**ATTENDING:** Steve Miller, Rona Donahoe, John Vincent, Liza Wilson, Wesley Church, Carmen Mayer-Robin, Charlotte Herrin, Dwight Hooper, Reuben Cook, Robert McLeod, Jason Battles, Carolyn Cassady, Margaret Garner, Ion Stancu, Ed Stephenson, Melondie Carter, Donna Meester.

**ABSENT:** Seth Panitch

**GUESTS:** Dr. Robert Witt, UA System Chancellor; Dr. Judy Bonner, UA President; 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 October 9, 2012 were approved.

**Chancellor Robert Witt** began the meeting with a review of the national search process to hire a new president of the University of Alabama following the resignation of recently hired Dr. Guy Bailey. Dr. Witt stated the national search had just concluded at the end of the summer with Dr. Bailey as the leading candidate. Faculty members were on the search committee and it was felt extensive faculty input had been sought and was very recent regarding qualities desired in the selection of a new president. Dr. Bonner withdrew her name from consideration for president in the light of her duties as Provost and Interim President. In August of this year a new system policy was established that when interim candidates for presidency, vice presidency, deanship or appointments they would be told in advance accepting an interim position would not allow them to be a candidate for that position. Usually if an outside candidate is looking at a position at an institution and knows there is an interim candidate, he/she realizes the institution has substantial respect for that person already in place and would wonder if this was a real search or the institution going through the motions. This policy was not in place when Dr. Bonner was interim president. Thus the University did not go against this new policy. Dr. Witt recommended in the light of the search just completed it would be in the best interest of the University to name Dr. Bonner as President since she had clearly demonstrated as interim president the ability, work ethic and values for the job. Further discussion revealed Dr. Bailey resigned as President of The University of Alabama due to conflict of his duties as president and his need to attend to his wife during her serious illness.

Further discussion addressed comments from a faculty member concerning the process followed appointing Dr. Bonner as University President.

President Judy Bonner addressed the Faculty Senate Steering Committee concerning **campus safety issues and procedures**. She stated her goal is to continue building on the progress made during Dr. Witt's tenure as President of the University and to continue working closely with the Faculty Senate.

**President's Report** – (*Steve Miller*) President Miller introduced Associate Professor Bob Riter of the School of Library and Information Services as a candidate for Faculty Senate Parliamentarian.

Following discussion and suggestions President Miller and Margaret Garner will work together along with University Relations to compose a compassionate and appreciative letter to former UA President Guy Bailey.

Changing Faculty **Senate meeting times** to accommodate those needing to leave early was discussed. It was decided to continue meeting at 3:30 until 5:00 PM.

Senator John Vincent presented the following resolution:

**Resolution Congratulating Dr. Judith L. Bonner On Being Named  
President of The University of Alabama**

Whereas, Dr. Judith Bonner has provided over three decades of devoted service to The University of Alabama as a faculty member, department head, dean, vice president, provost, and interim president,

And whereas, as Provost, Dr. Bonner has displayed an unprecedented degree of collaboration with the Faculty Senate, and its Steering Committee, and the faculty as a whole in working for the good of the institution,

The Faculty Senate congratulates Dr. Bonner on her promotion to President of The University of Alabama, pledges its cooperation and collaboration in the guidance of The University to continuing success in the future, and wishes Dr. Bonner the greatest success in this new endeavor and challenge.

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After discussion the Faculty Senate Steering Committee voted to accept the resolution. The resolution will be attached to the ad presented to the November 13, 2012 Faculty Senate meeting agenda.

**Academic Affairs** – (*John Vincent & Liza Wilson*) The Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee continues to ask for suggestions and ideas for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **“Stand in the School House Door”**.

Students who pass both English AP exams (literature and composition) with a score of 4 receive 3 hours core humanities credit in HU 197 with a grade of P.

**Faculty Life** – (*Wesley Church & Carmen Mayer-Robin*) The proposed **smoke-free policy** is supported by 70% of the faculty, 60% of students with SGA proposing another student survey, 80% of the Professional Staff Assembly and the Office, Clerical and Technical Staff conducting their final vote. Additional pieces will need to be in place before advancing this policy. Frustration was expressed with the slow progress of this issue.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – (*Charlotte Herrin & Dwight Hooper*) President Miller will present Associate Professor Bob Riter as Faculty Senate **Parliamentarian**.

An election will be held at the next Senate meeting for two Senate appointed Mediation Committee members replacing those completing their terms in December of 2012.

A proposed change to the **Faculty Senate By-Laws** will be presented for consideration.

In Section 3, Standing Committees, 12. Faculty and Senate Governance Committee,  
As item F.:

“Seeks nominations and conducts elections for Senate-appointed members of the Mediation Committee, Faculty Ombudsperson positions, Senate-appointed members of The Merger and Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee, and for Faculty Senate Officers.”

**Financial Affairs** – (*Robert McLeod & Reuben Cook*) The University of Alabama Board of Trustees has requested the Legislature restore **UA funding** to the 2008 level.

**Information Technology** – (*Carolyn Cassady & Jason Battles*) The Information Technology Committee met with John McGowan, Vice Provost of Information Technology and Patty Benton, Office of Information Technology, on October 18<sup>th</sup>. IT is in the midst of an eighteen million dollar/five year support of the IT data center in Atlanta. Internet II will supply backup for office computers and will be faster. An IT specialist has been hired. John McGowan wants to restructure IT by eliminating the University IT standing committee. The new plan would include an executive IT committee and other committees without faculty representation.

Research & Service Committee was charged with getting information from the Purchasing Department concerning delays in purchasing and repairing equipment. These delays affect research projects and Federal funding deadlines.

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

**Research & Service** – (*Ed Stephenson & Ion Stancu*) The Research and Service Committee met with the Research Advisory Committee to discuss **IRB** issues. The committee’s responsibility is to direct through the Faculty Senate issues concerning IRB approvals and permissions. This will be brought forward at the next Faculty Senate meeting. Concern was expressed that the progress on **post-doctoral raises** not be lost in UA’s administrative changes.

**Student Affairs** – (*Melondie Carter & Donna Meester*) The Student Affairs Committee is preparing to kick off the **gift card** drive. Fliers will be distributed at the next Faculty Senate meeting and drop points have been established. Alabama Reach will distribute the gift cards and it will be an ongoing program. Dialog will be publishing this information.

President Miller requested the Steering Committee review the **Faculty Senate Priorities** for 2012-2013.

## **Reports from other committees—**

The Awards Committee met and the deadline for the Premier Award is November 30. This information needs to be distributed to eligible seniors to apply for this award. Application can be made on the web site.

Meeting adjourned 4:50 P.M.

Following the Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting a reception for UA Deans was held at Gorgas House from 5:00 til 6:30 PM.