

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**February 14, 2012– 3:00 PM – 2002 SHELBY**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ATTENDING:** Clark Midkiff, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Jeanette VanderMeer, DoVeanna Minor, Marcia Barrett, John Vincent, Rona Donahoe, Charlotte Herrin, Lowell Baker, Robert McLeod, Carolyn Cassady, Margaret Garner, Ian Stancu, Ed Stephenson.

**ABSENT:** Wesley Church, Katrina Ramonell, Melondie Carter, Seth Panitch, Brad Hodges.

**GUESTS:** Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Dr. Norm Baldwin, Associate Professor, Political Science.

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes of December 6, 2011 were tabled for approval until the March meeting. The meeting scheduled for January 10, 2012 was cancelled.

**President's Report** – (*Clark Midkiff*) The meeting began with Clark reporting on 4 items. He indicated he had received very little feedback from other senators regarding **the impact of HB 56** on the faculty and students on the UA campus. He briefly discussed statements related to HB 56 from Bill Jones during his recent meeting with the Steering Committee. Basically, Bill Jones indicated that HB 56 will not be repealed, but the hope is that planned changes for this bill will make it less onerous for UA. The second item concerned a recent meeting with Karen Croneis, Chair of the **UA Committee on University Committees (CUC)**. She indicated that the Senate needed to recommend three faculty members to serve on the CUC and provided a list of faculty who indicated in the recent survey that they were willing to serve. Copies of the list were distributed to the Steering Committee members. After some discussion, the three faculty names selected from the list were: Kathleen Morris (for a 2 year term), Pamela Foster, and John Mason. Three other faculty names were selected from the list to serve as alternates, including: David Cordes, Jean Luc Robin and Craig Schwery. The third issue concerned a course, **CSM 116, Math of Compounding** currently being offered in Human Environmental Sciences as meeting the core curriculum Math requirement. After some discussion, it was decided that this course had not been through the normal process to receive core curriculum designation and Clark would discuss the matter in his next meeting with the Provost. The fourth item for discussion was the planning for a **joint luncheon on March 8<sup>th</sup>** with members of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee and the Professional Staff Assembly. Several members of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee indicated they would be able to attend that luncheon. The location of the luncheon will be announced later by Clark.

**Guest – Dr. Norm Baldwin** – Requested time to speak to the Senate Steering Committee regarding a proposed Senate resolution honoring a faculty/student effort following the August 27 tornado. The intent of the resolution was to commend three students who worked to place over 110 UA students in disaster-related jobs and internships. While one of these students received a stipend based on a 20 hour week, he frequently worked 40 hours. Much discussion ensued, mostly related to the narrow scope of this resolution – recognizing three students in one internship program. Many Senate Steering Committee members were concerned about the risk of offending other faculty and students who also spend large amounts of their time assisting

during the tornado. Cresandra Smothers said there had been some effort by UA to document all of those who helped following the tornado, but the task was overwhelming. Clark attempted to poll the group to determine what the majority wanted to do about this resolution. A decision was made to refer the resolution to the Senate Student Affairs Committee in order to expand the scope of the resolution. Cresandra Smothers agreed to send an email to Clark that would identify individuals and groups from UA who have been identified as assisting following the tornado.

**Vice President's Report** – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn*) No report.

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

**Academic Affairs** – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) The Academic Affairs Committee has been working on the issue of low response rates from students related to the Student Opinion of Faculty Teaching surveys that occur at the end of each semester. They have invited Lorne Kuffel to meet with the committee on March 27 and to bring statistics related to these surveys that are broken down by division and also that distinguish undergraduate courses from graduate courses.

**Faculty Life** – (*Lowell Baker & Wesley Church*) The original plan was to table the Smoke-Free Resolution (attached) because Wesley was not able to attend today's meeting. However, several members voiced a desire to proceed with discussion and a vote on the resolution today. After some discussion, the resolution was passed by the Steering Committee with the following vote: 8 For, 3 Abstentions, 1 Against.

**Financial Affairs** – (*Robert McLeod & Katrina Ramonell*) The Financial Affairs Committee is in the process of obtaining clarification about the impact on UA from the legislative budget proposals discussed by Governor Bentley in his recent televised State of the Union message. The chairs have contacted Dr. Lynda Gilbert to obtain her perspective on this matter. A suggestion was made to host an informational session on the fourth Tuesday for the Senate regarding the state budget issues on UA.

**Information Technology** – (*Carolyn Cassady & Brad Hodges*) The Information Technology Committee co-chairs met January 24 with Tom Wilson, chair of the UA Information Technology Committee, about the proposed Data Management Plan for UA. Tom Wilson has agreed to speak to the entire Senate about the Data Management Plan. On February 6, the committee met with John McGowan, Joe Benson and Dean Lou Pitschmann to discuss the resources required to electronically store and serve faculty data managed by the University. It is likely that hardware will need to be purchased and programmer time will be required to make the data management plan functional. On January 9, the Faculty Senate IT Committee met to discuss their ongoing concerns with the low productivity and problems associated with the University Office of Information Technology. A decision was made that Carolyn Cassady would talk with the Provost about the committee's concerns. It was also suggested the Ivan Foster McGowan be invited to meet with the Provost and the Steering Committee to discuss the concerns.

**Research & Service** – (*Ed Stephenson & Ian Stancu*) The Research & Service Committee stated the overall procurement policy for UA is constricting. They are currently waiting for an appointment to talk with Kevin Stephens in the Procurement Office.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – (*Rona Donahoe & Charlotte Herrin*) Rona Donahoe announced that as of today only one faculty, Steve Miller, had requested to be on the ballot for President of the Senate. She also announced her willingness to put her name on the ballot for secretary. There have been no requests to be on the ballot for the Vice President position. On Tuesday, during the Senate meeting, she will ask for nominations from the floor for all 3 of these positions. Two faculty have agreed to serve as Ombudspersons, Mindy Nancarrow (Art History) and John Rutledge (Music), but a third faculty from Arts and Sciences is needed. Clark agreed to send an email to the entire Senate soliciting nominations.

**Student Affairs** – (*Melondie Carter & Seth Panitch*) No report.

**Legislative Agenda** – (*Margaret Garner*) Margaret Garner announced that Higher Education Day is scheduled for March 1 in Montgomery. Because she will be going to Montgomery the evening before, she asked for faculty to consider helping with this effort by riding the buses from the campus to Montgomery and talking with the students. She also announced that the UA Board of Trustees has decided they will serve as the Search Committee for the Chancellor position.

#### **Reports from Other Committees – No reports**

**New Business** – DoVeanna Minor, Parliamentarian, asked for clarification about how summer pay was calculated for part-time, temporary instructors. Clark said the pay is calculated at 7.5% of the annual salary for that position. She said other faculty had also discussed another issue with her, the fact that Auburn University offers paid research leave to pre-tenured faculty. The third item discussed was a copy of a flyer that was recently posted in Rose Towers and also on Facebook. Discussion ensued and a decision was made that a taskforce was needed to address the current UA climate.

Meeting adjourned 5:15 PM.