

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2013 – 309 FERGUSON – 3:00 PM**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Steve Miller, Seth Panitch, Rona Donahoe, John Vincent, Liza Wilson, Carmen Mayer-Robin, Tricia McElroy, Charlotte Herrin, Dwight Hooper, Jason Battles, Carolyn Cassady, Margaret Garner, Ed Stephenson, Donna Meester, Bob Riter.

ABSENT: Reuben Cook, Robert McLeod, Ion Stancu, Melondie Carter.

Guests: Cathy Butler, Dialog.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of January 8, 2013 were approved.

President's Report – (*Steve Miller*) President Miller attended and spoke at the impressive and moving funeral of Dr. James Hood. Samory Pruitt, UA's Vice President for Community Affairs, also spoke.

New faculty member, Jeremy Bailin, addressed problems facing young faculty members. He has a wife and two children and is facing difficulties locating appropriate child care. Most programs are full. The Child Development Center could possibly be an option but they are not in a position to expand their facilities at this time. Child care is an important issue affecting recruitment and retention of faculty members. Cori Perdue, Associate Vice President for Human Resources, will speak to the Faculty Senate meeting on February 19th presenting information on faculty/staff benefits and the Work Life Center.

The smoke-free campus student survey results are in and this issue will be a continued priority for the Faculty Senate and other UA organizations.

Vice President's Report – (*Seth Panitch*) An answer has not been received from the Provost concerning the organization of a committee to consider all aspects of commencement. Denny Savage, Associate University Registrar, encouraged the Faculty Senate to stress faculty attendance at commencement ceremonies. President Miller will send an email next month reminding faculty of the importance of attending and the availability of regalia loans through the Faculty Senate.

It was suggested to contact Josten's concerning the purchase of slightly worn regalia.

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) The data report has been received from the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment suggesting the total number of senators will increase from 60 to 68. A letter from the Faculty Senate concerning senator elections will be sent this week to the division deans with a copy of the OIRA report, a senator attendance record and a list of senators and alternates with current and expiring terms. The only division losing senator representation is University Libraries with five vacant faculty positions.

The Faculty Senate by-law definition of a faculty member holding a regular appointment is:

Section 8. Faculty Holding Regular Appointments.

“A faculty member holding a regular appointment is a tenured, tenure-earning probationary, or temporary faculty member at The University of Alabama engaged in teaching or research at least half of a normal load during the regular (academic) year, or a librarian having corresponding rank and professional engagement.”

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Ion Stancu*) The Research & Service Committee met with Joe Benson, Vice President for Research, to clarify the new policy regarding the timing of raises for post-doctoral fellows. Raises can go into effect at any time during the year but application for raises must be made during the summer calling for advanced planning. The raise can be rescinded if the post-doctoral fellow does not meet qualifications. Further discussion included post-doctoral hiring pools, IRB/IACUC compliance issues (exempt and non-exempt class project categories & protocols), IRB web site clarification and notification of IRBs not closed. IACUC will be getting a new chair following the unexpected resignation of the current chair.

Information Technology – (*Carolyn Cassidy & Jason Battles*) The Information Technology Committee has met with OIT and CIT in the past two weeks. Of great concern was the technology outage during the February 20th Martin Luther King holiday weekend. Scheduled maintenance from 7:00 until 10:00 A.M. extended until 4:00 P.M. with no notification sent to the faculty. Faculty members were unable to contact anyone (outsourced) for information during the outage. Communication is desperately needed from Information Technology to faculty during these type situations. The academic calendar has not been considered by IT before scheduling maintenance outages until this past December.

Notification of a password hacking situation in January was sent by letter containing vague information in the last week of a ninety-day legal notification period. There were password files placed on a computer with public access in the area of the business school.

Placing new IT committees under CUC structure continues to be a priority issue.

Ivon Foster will speak regarding IT governance at next week's Faculty Senate meeting.

The Information Technology Committee met with the Center for Instructional Technology. Sixty percent of courses on campus now utilize Blackboard Learn. A Federal law concerning the American Disabilities Act rules that any disabled student must have technological access to pursue their education such as web sites, videos, etc. Faculty will be trained to adapt their materials for accessibility. Retro fitting materials and adapting methods were discussed.

People.ua.edu is a web site (Internet 2) established to assist faculty setting up web sites on their own or will assist in the effort. Publishing information about this faculty aid will appear in Dialog and other means of communication. The delay of naming a new president and whether research would be a priority was the explanation given by John McGowan for the lapse of pushing this project forward.

The CIT is in charge of campus speaker emergency alerts and tornado alerts and now covers Bryce.

Alabama has a new fire code law stating fire alert strobe lights must be installed in all old campus buildings.

The third floor of Russell Hall is getting white boards. UA's wireless in large classrooms grabs cell phone signals close to the door which is not only UA's problem but is a problem nationwide.

Margaret King sent President Miller an email concerning the College of Continuing Studies on-line courses being available campus wide. The problem is the College has 15 staff supporting 600 courses. CIT has four staffers supporting 4,500 courses.

Faculty Life – (*Tricia McElroy & Carmen Mayer-Robin*) The letter from Jeremy Bailin referred to a post-doctoral fellow turning down a UA job citing the lack of child care. The letter will be discussed in Thursday's meeting with Joe Benson. It seems the child care and family leave issue will be deferred until a new Provost is named. It was suggested to make this a point of concern when interviewing and selecting candidates for this position. Further discussion included the need for child care and methods of developing this benefit for faculty and staff families. Rona Donahoe will bring this issue up before the Faculty Staff Benefits Committee again.

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

Faculty Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Dwight Hooper*) The nominations received so far for Faculty Senate officers are Steve Miller for President, Donna Meester for Vice President and Rona Donahoe for Secretary. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at next week's Faculty Senate meeting.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) Higher Education Day will be February 28th in Montgomery. Transportation and lunch will be provided.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Liza Wilson*) The current on-line Faculty Handbook is need of revision. Problems include missing sections, bad links and missing appendices along with minor punctuation errors. The committee requested a task force be formed to initiate the needed revisions.

HUM 197 continues to be a concern. Five students this year are involved in this English AP exam situation. Possibly the English Department did not want to give nine hours of credit for the exam consequently the decision was made administratively to give credit in Humanities. Benson feels this is an isolated situation and continues to look into this issue.

A list of suggested events and activities has been forwarded to President Bonner.

No response has been received from Ivon Foster concerning construction plans for new classrooms. An Apple educator gave a lecture and planned to go to a classroom to review accessibility and technological assets.

New Business – The proposed two million dollar water feature was not in the Campus Master Plan.

Meeting adjourned 4:20 P.M.