

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
MARCH 12, 2013 – 309 FERGUSON – 3:00 P.M.**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ATTENDING:** Steve Miller, Seth Panitch, Rona Donahoe, Jason Battles, Carolyn Cassady, Tricia McElroy, Melondie Carter, Charlotte Herrin, John Vincent, Liza Wilson, Reuben Cook, Robert McLeod, Ion Stancu, Ed Stephenson, Margaret Garner, Bob Riter (Parliamentarian).

**ABSENT:** Carmen Mayer-Robin, Donna Meester, Dwight Hooper.

**GUESTS:** Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

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

**President's Report** – (*Steve Miller*) – President Miller began the meeting with a report on the Smoke Free Campus issue. The student survey has been delayed. There was a student survey of 2,000 students nine months ago and it was questioned if those results could be used in discussions and meetings pursuing the approval and implementation of a smoke free campus. SGA officers will change since SGA elections are being held today. It was suggested that Student Affairs could send out the survey with just one question concerning approval/disapproval of a smoke free campus. President Miller will meet with the current SGA president to determine if SGA does not want to send out a survey. If not, the Faculty Senate will have to find another way to survey students about this issue.

The main focus of this Steering Committee meeting is to determine the priority issues to pass along to the new senate being elected at this time.

**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. Another meeting was held with Denny Savage, Associate University Registrar, with continued encouragement for increased faculty attendance at commencement. Processional and recessional procedures have been changed. Faculty Senate President Steve Miller will speak at commencement. President Miller will send two emails encouraging faculty participation.

**Secretary's Report** – (*Rona Donahoe*) Senator elections are to be completed by March 22 and results reported to the Faculty Senate by April 5. The election process in different colleges/schools was discussed.

**Information Technology** – (*Carolyn Cassady & Jason Battles*) The Information Technology Committee met with John McGowan, Vice Provost of Information Technology, and Patty Benton, Executive Director of OIT Operations, on February 22. IT governance is of great concern. McGowan is to contact the current chair of UA's IT committee to convene a meeting to determine if this committee should be discontinued or if the committee should be active to give faculty a voice and input into information technology issues.

There continues to be confusion and a lack of information on the OIT web page. Assistance for composing web pages should be listed under the Center for Instructional Technology. People.ua.edu is a web site (Internet 2) established to assist faculty setting up web sites on their own or they will

provide assistance. Internet 2 Net Plus is coming out of the Internet 2 push. The Cloud Network is being developed as part of the Internet 2 initiative with cheaper space available to back up office computers and research. This network is secure and is approved by federal funding agencies. McGowan stated in his Chemistry Department presentation that MyBama's tech tab has been activated and that information about Internet 2 will be published in Dialog and other media outlets. He will making this presentation to departments all across campus.

Some sections of UA administration have been restructured and there should be some formal announcement of the changes. Restructuring Faculty Senate committees was discussed.

**Research & Service** – (*Ion Stancu & Ed Stephenson*) Ed Stephenson, the Faculty Senate webmaster, reported there is currently fifteen years of documents/files on the Faculty Senate website and suggested a conversion to Word Press. Ed's suggestion is to convert all the files to pdf files and for every year have a table of contents with a link to the file. The conversion and preservation of the old files could be done by a computer student through the Provost's office. President Miller will consult with Joe Benson on what path to follow to accomplish these changes.

**Academic Affairs** – (*John Vincent & Liza Wilson*) The committee discussed the revision of the on-line version of the Faculty Handbook. HUM197 continues to be a concern and discussion included AP credit and how the University plans to grant credit. This issue is unresolved.

Distinction between clinical faculty and tenure-track faculty was discussed along with granting temporary graduate faculty and how this would impact dissertation committees. The percentage of new hires going under the clinical faculty umbrella and how that will impact grants was another issue brought up in the meeting. Student evaluations, class sizes, graduate student growth were subjects to carry over to the new senate. There was further discussion concerning graduate student growth across campus.

The Core Curriculum Committee has refused to address the HUM 197 issue. The Academic Affairs Committee has persistently pushed for a solution with no action being taken concerning the administration giving credit in Humanities. This could be used as a precedent so further action is being considered by the Academic Affairs Committee. President Miller has sent communications to Joe Benson and Ivon Foster concerning this situation.

**Faculty Life** – (*Tricia McElroy & Carmen Mayer-Robin*) Cori Perdue, Associate Vice President for Human Resources, spoke to the Faculty Senate meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup> concerning faculty/staff benefits and the Work Life Center. She successfully defended her dissertation and gave birth to a little girl. The Faculty Life Committee will meet with Dr. Benson, Dean Boschung, President Miller and Secretary Rona Donahoe on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, to discuss child care issues.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – (*Charlotte Herrin & Dwight Hooper*) Officer elections and bylaw changes will be voted on at the next Faculty Senate meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>. There continues to be a need for an Ombudsperson. Another email requesting nominations will be sent following senator elections.

**Student Affairs** – (*Melondie Carter & Donna Meester*) The Student Affairs Committee is following up on the issue of having a balance on Bama Cash receipts. It is felt this could be detrimental to students.

**Legislative Agenda** – (*Margaret Garner*) Higher Education Day was held with the continuing issue of 1/3 2/3 Trust Fund distribution being stressed. Attendance for Higher Ed Day was about 2,500. Private school credit, political ads and phone calls, and the age of majority bill were discussed. The age of majority bill will be discussed in next week's Faculty Senate meeting.

UA has declined to fund expansion of the Office of Disability Services to provide more exam accommodations for ODS students. Faculty does not have to change basic structure to accommodate disabled students. Lack of space is the main issue. This issue will be brought up with the Provost.

**Financial Affairs** – (*Robert McLeod & Reuben Cook*) A Tuscaloosa News article contained inaccurate information concerning the architect fee for a proposed water feature. Lynda Gilbert was contacted and the architect fee will not exceed \$78,675 (7.3%) which includes sidewalks, landscaping and lighting.

Future funding in the event of declining enrollment and income is of concern and was discussed.

Disproportionate faculty salaries and disparity between disciplines was a concern brought up by a faculty member. The higher the salary made the lower the percentage of the average in your field. Specific situations in individual departments and divisions brought further discussion. President Miller will follow up by requesting data pertinent to this issue.

#### **Reports from Other Committees –**

The Health and Safety Committee has not met this year and only one time last year. From the last meeting of this committee the hazard material test by all employees was brought forward.

There is a desperate lack of accommodations for international visitors.

A report was given concerning an increase in violations of the honor code by foreign students. An increase in the emphasis on acceptable behavior and the honor code during orientation should be developed.

An active faculty member has been named the new chair of the IACUC.

A report was given on the search for the Vice President for Research and Provost. Some interviews are being conducted.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 P.M.