

FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
June 14, 2011 – ROOM #2002 SHELBY HALL – 3:00 PM

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Clark Midkiff, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Jeanette VanderMeer, DoVeanna Minor, Marcia Barrett, John Vincent, Rona Donahoe, Russell McCutcheon, Lowell Baker, Carolyn Cassady and Karen Steckol.

ABSENT: Katrina Ramonell, Robert McLeod, Margaret Garner, Wesley Church, Melondie Carter, Seth Panitch, Brad Hodges and Ed Stephenson.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes of May 10, 2011 were approved.

President's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) President Midkiff voiced concerns about the number of construction projects currently underway on campus and the limited faculty knowledge or input regarding such projects. Karen Steckol said faculty that would be affected by a project are supposed to be notified prior to construction. However, a large parking lot is being constructed behind the Speech and Hearing Center and they were not notified. The comment was made that UA Facilities has said that timelines are frequently imposed upon them for projects. The question arose regarding who is paying for the revisions of problems with previous road construction. Tim Leopard, Assistant Vice-President for Construction would be the person to voice your concerns or complaints.

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

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

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) The chairs are keeping a list of topics that the committee will need to address in the fall.

Faculty Life – (*Wesley Church & Lowell Baker*) Copies of **The Guidelines for Maternity Leave for Nine Month Faculty Members (attached)** that were received from the Provost were distributed for discussion. A grammatical error in #5 was corrected by changing the word is to are. The group also were in agreement that item #5 was probably non-negotiable with the Provost because the guidelines allow 8 weeks of paid leave. Item #3 which granted maternity leave to women who adopt children was the concern of the committee. Members were concerned about whether the UA legal counsel had reviewed and approved this item because it appears to be discriminatory against male faculty. After much discussion, the decision was made for Deidre Leaver-Dunn to contact the Provost and let her know that the Steering Committee is generally pleased with these guidelines. However, the Steering Committee is concerned with granting maternity leave only to female faculty who choose to adopt a child.

Financial Affairs – (*Katrina Ramonell & Robert McLeod*) No report.

Information Technology – (*Carolyn Cassady & Brad Hodges*) No report.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Ion Stancu*) Because both chairpersons were unable to attend today's meeting, they provided a report of their meeting with Dr. Joe Benson concerning the **move of the Environmental Health and Safety Department**. Steering Committee members were provided with a copy of the report. There was much discussion regarding this matter and the belief that there had been a lack of communication among all the parties involved. The committee decided that Ed Stephenson needed to contact Becky Sobecky in the Biology Department and Hal Barrett, Director of Office of Environmental Health and Safety regarding their satisfaction with the planned move. Meanwhile, Clark Midkiff would ask the Provost during his July 7th meeting if she would invite Dr. Joe Benson and at least two individuals who utilize the Environmental Health and Safety Department to meet with the Steering Committee as soon as possible.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Rona Donahoe & Russell McCutcheon*) No report.

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

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

Reports from Other Committees – No report.

Old Business – None

New Business – A question arose regarding how compensation would be handled this year for the Assessment Officer in each College/Department. Last summer, the compensation was calculated at 7.5% and was to cover the period of last summer, the academic year and this summer. Clark Midkiff will talk with the Provost about this matter. Another question arose regarding expectations that individuals employed on a contract basis would be expected to work past the contract period and whether the Faculty Handbook needed to be rewritten to cover deferred exams.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 PM.