

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
AUGUST 14, 2012 – 3:00 pm – 309 FERGUSON**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ATTENDING:** Steve Miller, Seth Panitch, Rona Donahoe, John Vincent, Carmen Mayer-Robin, Charlotte Herrin, Dwight Hooper, Reuben Cook, Robert McLeod, Carolyn Cassady, Margaret Garner, Ed Stephenson, Melondie Carter, Donna Meester, Clark Midkiff.

**ABSENT:** Wesley Church, Jason Battles, Ion Stancu.

**GUESTS:** Richard LeComte, Dialog.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of July 10, 2012 were approved.

**President's Report** – (*Steve Miller*) The Faculty Senate Steering Committee will have a luncheon meeting with UA President Guy Bailey on Thursday, August 16, 2012 in 254 Rose Administration Building. Discussion included setting Faculty Senate priorities for the Faculty Senate year and for discussion during the luncheon meeting with President Bailey.

The list established is as follows:

**Faculty Senate Priorities  
2012-2013**

- 1) Continue Efforts to Increase the Size and Quality of the Research Faculty** – The University has invested \$148 million in new faculty hires over the past 9 years. The Faculty Senate strongly supports the Administration's efforts and has identified the following opportunities to increase the effectiveness of these efforts:
  - Faculty Research Start-up Funding
    - Increase funding to be competitive with peer institutions.
    - Give faculty more flexibility in using start-up funding.
  - Salaries
    - Must be competitive within the discipline and nationally.
  - Benefits
    - Child care
    - Maternity leave
    - Health and wellness programs
  
- 2) Raise the Research Reputation of the University** – The University of Alabama is recognized regionally and nationally as The Capstone for undergraduate education and athletics. The research culture at the University is robust and involves students at all levels. The following efforts will increase the national and international reputation of the University as a top-tier research institution:

- Recruit the “best and brightest” faculty.
- Encourage and reward publication of scholarly books and research papers in indexed journals.
- Increase extramural research funding with incentives and support from Sponsored Programs.
- Provide travel support for faculty presentations at national and international conferences.
- Support the research infrastructure: computing, instrumentation, equipment

**3) Promote a Culture of Health and Wellness** – The University established the Office for Health Promotion and Wellness in 2007 and hired Dr. Rebecca Kelly as its director. The Office sponsors a variety of programs aimed at increasing the health and well-being of University employees. In addition to these efforts, the Faculty Senate has great interest in the following:

- Smoke Free Campus Initiative
  - Disease prevention & chronic disease management education
  - University child care expansion
  - Maternity leave policy improvements
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- Increase attention and growth of the Graduate School

Start-up funding policies, resources and distributions were determined to be a very important issue for the Faculty Senate for 2012-13. Emphasis will also be placed on size and quality of research faculty and facilities, and culture of health at The University of Alabama.

President Miller has contacted a faculty member concerning the replacement of the Faculty Senate **Parliamentarian**. A decision has not been made at this time.

Faculty Senate Vice President Seth Panitch is heading up an ad hoc committee to assemble suggestions and ideas for greater focus on faculty during **commencement**. Hopefully those changes suggested by this committee would be in place for the commencement in May of 2013. Among the project goals are additional faculty involvement and presence during commencement exercises. Volunteers for this committee were Melondie Carter and Donna Meester.

Rona Donahoe reported three vacancies on the **Faculty Senate roster**. A replacement is needed for Senators Lowell Baker of Arts & Sciences and Marcia Barrett of Libraries. Jason Battles has agreed to serve as Marcia Barrett’s replacement on the UA **Campus Master Plan Committee**. Replacing Russell McCutcheon on the UA **Institutional Animal Use and Care Committee** will be Carol Duffy, and Kagendo Mutua, College of Education, will serve as Faculty Senate representative to the UA **Technology and Learning Committee**.

A letter requesting regalia donations and donation/loan request forms for the “**Steckol Regalia Project**” is being composed and will have a link on the Faculty Senate web page. The donation letter will be circulated to alumni, retired faculty and faculty members. The loan request form

will be made available following the appropriate accumulation of regalia. The intent is to have a sufficient number of regalia available for the December commencement.

**Academic Affairs** – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) Marcia Barrett is leaving the University and a replacement will be needed as senator and co-chair of this committee.

The Academic Affairs Committee will be working on revising and updating the **Faculty Handbook** and graduation deadlines. Provost Bonner will be contacted to determine if the revisions made in 98-99 are available as a starting point for the updating.

**Faculty Life** – (*Wesley Church & Carmen Mayer-Robin*) The Faculty Life Committee continues to keep the maternity leave policy as a top priority.

**Financial Affairs** – (*Reuben Cook & Robert McLeod*) The Financial Affairs Committee will be meeting with Lynda Gilbert, UA Vice President of Financial Affairs. The committee will request information about the source, disbursement and amount of start-up funds. The committee will also seek information concerning sustainability in terms of UA's model while enrollment patterns may not increase significantly and adaptability in terms of tuition increases. The committee will also look at salary ranks compared to SUG, national averages and the national competitive market.

**Information Technology** – (*Carolyn Cassady & Jason Battles*) The Information Technology Committee met with John McGowan, Vice Provost of Information Technology, and Joe Benson, Vice President for Research. John McGowan will return to full time at The University of Alabama after being part-time at UAH and UA. A data management plan has been put together and UA will join a consortium with other institutions. UA will secure hardware for this plan along with making some other changes. OIT plans to hire a researcher but has not done so at this time.

**Research & Service** – (*Ion Stancu & Ed Stephenson*) The Research & Service Committee has completed the revisions to the **Conflict of Interest Policy**. This included changing words, definitions and monetary amounts. Most of the changes were to meet requirements by NIH and the federal government. It is now ready to go into the Faculty Handbook following a unanimous vote by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee acting for the full Senate which does not meet until August 21. The finalized policy will be forwarded by President Miller to the Provost and Joe Benson.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – (*Charlotte Herrin & Dwight Hooper*) President Miller will send emails to the entire faculty at the beginning of the fall semester requesting nominations for three vacancies on the **Merger or Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee**. Current Faculty Senators and members of the University Mediation and Grievance Committee are not eligible for nomination.

The Provost has requested six names for membership on “**The Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans and Department Chairpersons and in the Evaluation of Academic Programs Committee**”. The Provost will select four of the six names to serve on this committee.

**Student Affairs** – (*Melondie Carter & Donna Meester*) The Student Affairs Committee continues to support the UA Student Affairs Office. They are also working with the Student Government Association to increase faculty involvement in student organizations and any other issue where assistance may be needed.

During the holiday season WalMart/Visa cards for homeless and needy students according to the need of the student will be distributed and are sponsored by the Faculty Senate, UA Student Affairs Office and the Student Government Association.

The suggestion was made to check into housing provisions for students remaining on campus during University breaks.

The committee was also requested to look into charges for use of the Recreation Center. Graduate students are charged during the summer even though they are fully enrolled as students and performing their full-time duties. The Recreation Center generates their funding as an auxiliary enterprise.

**Legislature Agenda** – (*Margaret Garner*) The **Legislative Advocacy Retreat** was held in Sandestin, Florida the second weekend of August. Governor Bentley and Mike Hubbard, Speaker of the House, and other Legislators spoke at the event and addressed the importance of voting in September on the amendment affecting Medicaid funding and other government services. There seems to be no plan in place to pay the money back.

Dr. Robert Witt, Chancellor of the UA System, spoke regarding the value of a **marketing plan**.

**Higher Education Partnership** membership numbers have decreased following the discontinuance of paying membership fees through payroll deduction. Some method or strategy must be determined to overcome this decline.

**Announcement** –

The College of Nursing will host a United Way kickoff event on October 10 with the goal for West Alabama at \$3,150,000.

Meeting adjourned 4:50 P.M.