

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2012 – 3:00 P.M. – 309 FERGUSON**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ATTENDING:** Steve Miller, Seth Panitch, Rona Donahoe, Clark Midkiff, Liza Wilson, John Vincent, Wesley Church, Carmen Mayer-Robin, Robert McLeod, Carolyn Cassady, Margaret Garner, Marcia Barrett, Jason Battles, Ed Stephenson, Melondie Carter, Donna Meester, Dwight Hooper, Charlotte Herrin.

**ABSENT:** Reuben Cook, Ion Stancu.

**GUESTS:** Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Bill Jones, UA Systems Government Relations Director; Porter Bannister, UA Systems Government Relations Office.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of August 14, 2012 were approved with corrections.

**President's Report** – (*Steve Miller*) President Miller and the Faculty Senate Steering Committee met with UA President Guy Bailey on Thursday, August 16, 2012 to present Faculty Senate priorities and talking points. The **Black Faculty and Staff Association** felt diversity had been overlooked in the presentation of Faculty Senate priorities for the year. President Miller had met with BFSA representatives during the summer to determine a method to partner and interact with them concerning diversity issues. The new BFSA president is Marcus Cotton and President Miller will meet with him on Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. President Cotton will be invited to speak to the full Faculty Senate meeting this fall. This is the fiftieth anniversary of the “Stand in the School House Door”.

President Miller met with Ivon Foster, Assistant to the Provost for Special Projects in the Office of Academic Affairs, to discuss the absence of **white boards in classrooms**, particularly in Russell Hall. It was acknowledged there was an absence of communication to faculty concerning the Information Technology structure. Foster has been invited to the October 16<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate meeting to speak to this issue.

President Miller went to the **Freshman Forum** meeting with three or four thousand freshmen attending in Foster Auditorium. The students disrespectfully were talking and texting during the entire meeting including during the introduction of President Bailey, Deans and honored students.

As a result of meetings with John McGowan, Vice Provost of Information Technology, the **Office of Information Technology** has revamped their website to include names, email addresses and telephone numbers of those in that office. Their name had to be known to find contact information prior to this posting. McGowan has been released from UA-Huntsville part-time duties and is full time on the UA campus. New buildings on campus have fiber optics installed and installation in older buildings is being addressed. The Core Network is in place and the Data Management Plan at the University level has been completed. John McGowan, Louis Pitschmann of Libraries, and the VP for Research have been active on this project.

There is a planning committee to organize fiftieth anniversary of the “**Stand in the School House Door**” events beginning in spring of 2013. The Faculty Senate has been asked for input and suggestions for the event planning. It was suggested to include the grandchildren of those involved fifty years ago. There is a Malone-Hood Plaza web site with information associated with the anniversary.

**Legislative Agenda** – (*Margaret Garner*) Bill Jones, Director of Government Relations for the UA System, began his duties at The University of Alabama in 1971. Jones began his remarks with an explanation of the collaboration and evolution of his responsibilities. There will be a **constitutional amendment election** on September 18<sup>th</sup> allowing the Alabama General Fund to borrow money from the Alabama Educational Trust Fund which is made up of growth taxes. It is felt that if the amendment does not pass, higher education funding will suffer along with epic cuts in State services such as prisons, Medicaid, nursing homes and hospitals. This amendment was inserted into a piece of legislation already in progress and the Legislature had four or five days to pass this legislation. Every dollar transferred from the Alabama Trust Fund to the General Fund is replaced by the Educational Trust Fund. The Alabama Trust Fund will continue to receive royalties and those monies are invested. The Governor, Senate and House of Representatives have addressed cuts in the Alabama budget resulting in some savings. The Legislation is not perfect but is the best option available at the present time. Opposition includes those believing the Trust Fund should not be touched, no “locked-in repayment” included in the legislation, political groups wanting the legislation to fail believing it will lead to tax reform and opposition from those elected on a “no tax” platform. The State of Alabama has the lowest tax rate in the nation. The question was asked why there is no repayment statement in the legislation and why more thought was not given to composing the legislation. The answer was the Legislature was backed up and there was some oversight in addressing budget issues. The political situation following elections in 2014 could be different. The Steering Committee was encouraged to pass along to friends and colleagues that this is the best measure at this time.

**Vice President’s Report** – (*Seth Panitch*) No report.

**Secretary’s Report** – (*Rona Donahoe*) The search for a new Parliamentarian continues. Carol Duffy was appointed to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. There are three people from biological sciences on that committee. Another person from biological sciences cannot be appointed according to Federal regulations. Jennifer Purvis was appointed to the Parking and Traffic Committee and cannot attend the meetings due to teaching obligations. Reuben Cook will be contacted concerning appointment to the Parking and Traffic Committee. An email will be sent to those senators not assigned to a **committee** and **assignments** will be addressed at next week’s Faculty Senate meeting.

**Academic Affairs** – (*John Vincent & Liza Wilson*) Liza Wilson was elected to replace Marcia Barrett as co-chair for the Academic Affairs Committee.

Dean Francko of the Graduate School spoke to the Academic Affairs Committee about scheduling events requiring student participation to graduate. He explained and gave rationale for the timing of the events. There are a very few exceptions given.

Ivon Foster, Assistant to the Provost for Special Projects in the Academic Affairs Office, will speak to the Academic Affairs Committee at their next meeting concerning the absence of white

boards in Russell Hall. The committee has been invited to go to Russell Hall to view the classrooms. There was discussion of **equipping classrooms** properly.

If a faculty member is the author of class materials used in teaching their class or anyone else's class, they can receive **royalties** if the department textbook committee approves the policy. An example was given concerning confusion about the interpretation of the royalty policy with some required to return their royalty money to the department. There is a University-wide policy in the Faculty Handbook. The Academic Affairs Committee will be working on Faculty Handbook revisions including the addition of the Ethics Law.

This committee will also address a student taking the AP exam in two different forms of English actually getting **credit hours** for English 101 and 102 and three hours of credit in any Humanities. The Humanities department was not consulted.

**Faculty Life** – (*Wesley Church & Carmen Mayer-Robin*) A survey revealed 60% of students were in favor of a **smoke free campus**. The UA Professional Staff Association surveyed their membership with 64% in favor of a smoke free campus with an additional 13% in favor with provisions for a total of 78% in favor of a smoke free policy. A survey of all faculty members should be ready to send out by the end of this week. The results will be tallied after approximately a two week response period. The Nursing College was the first on campus to go completely smoke/tobacco free. This Nursing College policy will be applied to patients, staff, students, visitors and grounds. The Great American Smoke Out will be held November 15<sup>th</sup>.

The **tenure clock extension** issue continues to be discussed with a suggestion to survey other institutions concerning their policies. A babysitting network with a website has been established, a work life center is a project headed by Corrie Perdue and nursing mother rooms are being established. A back up child and elder care program is in progress.

**Flu shots** are being made available to all faculty and staff. Locations and times were a little difficult to locate and the channel used to release the information was questioned.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – (*Charlotte Herrin & Dwight Hooper*) Elections have been completed successfully.

The six nominees from which Provost Bonner will choose four faculty to serve on the **Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans, Department Chairpersons, and in the Evaluation of Academic Programs Committee** include:

Donna Meester, Associate Professor A&S-Theatre and Dance  
Jennifer Purvis, Associate Professor A&S-Gender and Race Studies  
Ajay Agrawal, Professor, College of Engineering  
Ibrahim Cemen, Professor, Geological Sciences  
Russell McCutcheon, Professor, A&S-Religious Studies  
Ken Wright, CHES-Professor, Sports Management

The three faculty members selected for membership to the **Merger or Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee** are:

John Wheat, Professor, CCHS-Community and Rural Health

Celia Lo, Professor, School of Social Work

Miguel Mantero, Associate Professor, College of Education

**Financial Affairs** – (*Robert McLeod & Reuben Cook*) The Financial Affairs Committee is in the process of trying to set up a meeting with Lynda Gilbert, Vice President for Financial Affairs.

The Financial Affairs Committee will be looking into retirement benefit issues.

A new Tier 2 system will go into effect on January 1, 2013. New hires will not be eligible for retirement until 62 years of age. That information should certainly be made available to newly hired faculty.

**Information Technology** – (*Carolyn Cassady & Jason Battles*) The Information Technology Committee will meet on Thursday to review the **Data Management Plan website**. The reorganization, retention and number of IT committees were discussed. A meeting with Tom Wilson was suggested.

**Research & Service** - (*Ion Stancu & Ed Stephenson*) **Travel reimbursement** changes have been made with the Research & Service Committee being very instrumental in bringing about these upgrades. State Department travel rate guidelines will be used for international travel. Instate per-diem rate is determined by State law.

Faculty in the Science and Engineering Departments were to poll their faculty as a whole to determine their input on flexibility to give **post doctoral raises**.

**Student Affairs** – (*Melondie Carter & Donna Meester*) The Student Affairs Committee will be focusing on **gift cards** for homeless and foster students on campus. Dianne Teague, Director of Alabama Reach, will be invited to address the next Student Affairs Committee meeting. Guidelines concerning distribution and other details will be established prior to presentation to the full Faculty Senate. It was suggested to partner with SGA regarding the gift cards.

The **football ticket distribution** policy was brought up. Rona Donahoe will bring this up at the Intercollegiate Athletic Committee meeting.

#### **Announcement:**

The Nursing College will host the **United Way campaign** with Melondie Carter as a co-chair. “A Legacy of Caring” is the theme this year. Hopefully a United Way video will be emailed to the faculty. The University of Alabama has 68% participation with 25% the highest percent participation closest to UA. The Nursing College has 100% participation.

John Higbotham, Associate Dean for Research, addressed the Research Advisory Committee concerning difficulties obtaining **protocol approval**. The message conveyed is that there is awareness and this issue is under consideration.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 P.M.