

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
OCTOBER 15, 2013 – 3:30 P.M. - #110 AIME**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Richard Fording, Tricia McElroy, Joanne Hale, Dwight Hooper, Ed Back, Glenn Tootle, Heath Turner, Jason Scofield, Meredith Render, Jill Grogg, Pamela Melton.

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Sheila Black/Stacy Morgan; Andrea Cevasco/Ray White; William Rabel/Doug Cook; Eyun-Jung Ki/Danny Wallace; Aaron Kuntz/Karri Holley; Joy Burnham/Cecil Robinson.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Kim Eaton-Ed Enoch-Michelle Carter, Tuscaloosa News; Crimson White reporter, Mary Meares, Katie Neidhardt-Dr. Mary Kay Meyers, University Club, President Judy Bonner.

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

The minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting on September 17, 2013 were approved with one correction.

The minutes of the called Faculty Senate meeting on September 24, 2013 were approved.

Vice President's Report – (*Donna Meester*) No report.

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) The Faculty Senate constitution and bylaws review continues and upon completion will be posted on the Faculty Senate web page.

President Steve Miller expressed appreciation to the Faculty Senate for their hard work, attendance and passion for the issues addressed in the past few weeks.

President Miller introduced UA President Judy Bonner.

President Bonner began her remarks with an update on the progress UA is making toward insuring access throughout UA's Greek system. Sorority leaders have shown outstanding leadership throughout the bidding process. Every sorority has now reached out to diverse membership. To date 200 bids have been offered with 145 women accepting bids including 23 minorities of which 14 are African American. Twelve UA sororities have members that are African American and all sororities have minority members. In order to expand throughout the Greek community meetings have been held with IFC fraternities. The president of each IFC chapter signed a resolution expressing their commitment to diversity. All UA fraternities have minority members and seven have African American membership. UA students, faculty, staff and alumni were praised for efforts to insure the process works. It was made clear UA had not accomplished their goals but progress is being made and would not stop until UA campus is an inclusive campus community for every student at the University of Alabama.

UA's fiscal year began on October 1, 2013. The State Legislative appropriation for FY 13 is \$141 million dollars. The State Legislative appropriation for FY 14 is \$143 million dollars. This

fiscal year is beginning with an increase of two million dollars in state appropriations. At the same time our assessment for State Teachers Retirement is \$5.1 million dollars and the assessment for PEEHIP insurance for retirees is \$400,000. With two million dollars in new State Legislative appropriations and \$5.5 million in assessment for retiree benefits a deficit of \$3.5 million dollars is created. This emphasizes the importance of enrollment growth progress this year and earlier years. UA's priority has been to have a competitive merit based program for faculty and staff. This year \$12.2 million dollars was allocated for merit based raises for faculty, staff, graduate assistants and promotions for UA faculty. In addition to the merit compensation, \$2.6 million dollars was budgeted for new faculty positions and \$1.3 million dollars for new graduate assistant positions. When the economic downturn began in 2007-08 UA's State appropriation decreased by \$60 million dollars. UA provided \$75.2 million dollars in merit based salary increases and provided \$18.3 million dollars for new faculty positions. There is not another University in the nation has been able to do what UA has done during these difficult economic times. This is directly tied to the ability to support a growing student body.

Adjustments to be made are: (1) the State of Alabama and the Federal Government will expect higher education to be more accountable in increases in financial support. Previous Faculty Senate Senator Steve Katsinas has recently released a report that is a nationwide update on performance based funding. Everyone is encouraged to read the report and it was suggested to invite Dr. Katsinas to address the Faculty Senate concerning nationwide performance based funding; (2) Now for the second year in a row the number of undergraduates in higher education has declined. For the third year in a row the number of graduate students has declined. The projection is for enrollment to decline over the next several years. This has the potential to impact higher education in general. The University of Alabama has bucked the trend at the undergraduate level for the last several years with significant enrollment growth. At the graduate level enrollment has remained relatively stable; (3) Institutions around the state and nation have taken notice of UA's growth and the competition for the best and brightest students will intensify; (4) Technology has changed the way teaching and learning is done and will be more pronounced in the future. The total enrollment for exclusive off campus students has doubled. UA's greatest asset is the people, students, faculty, staff, alumni and citizens of our community and state. As we transition toward progress it is imperative that the focus be on UA's students. The UA experience must be second to none, student centered and focused on the success of students. A successful student is one finishing their degree in a timely manner. We are attracting top students with the goal of a degree in four years. The best and brightest faculty is an integral part of that success. Faculty compensation continues to be a top priority.

Dr. Carl Pinkard, Vice President for Research, will be full time on November 1, 2013. The administration is looking forward to supporting faculty research through new innovations and ideas. Top staff is important to support students and faculty. Faculty expertise should be shared with existing businesses and with the State as new businesses and industries are attracted to Alabama. A high priority will be working with the aerospace industry. The new Water Center on campus will be a benefit in this area. Support must be provided for faculty leadership in attracting new businesses based on their discoveries.

President Bonner looks forward to working with faculty, staff and students in assuring UA campus is united in the pride of the past and the progress made together in the future. President Bonner also looks forward to working with each individual, discipline, department, and Faculty Senate President Steve Miller and the Faculty Senate as new ways are found to insure that The University of Alabama remains Alabama's flagship and Capstone of Higher Education.

Dr. Mary Kay Meyer, Nutrition and Hospitality Manager and Katie Neidhardt, Sales and Membership Manager from the University Club brought treats for the Faculty Senate meeting. Dr. Meyer gave a brief history of the location of the University Club and an overview of the current operation of the organization. The club provides catering, lunch and dinner menus. Specialties are presented during game days and holidays. A shuttle is available from campus to the club location. Membership applications and information were presented.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Harris & Amy Taylor*) Ballots were distributed for the election of two Faculty Senate senators and two faculty-at-large for the Task Force. There was discussion concerning the voting process to be used and it was approved by a vote of the senate. Parliamentarian Bob Riter certified the election. J. Norman Baldwin and Mary Meanes were elected for the faculty-at-large committee members. Osiris Molina and Meredith Bagley were elected as faculty senator representatives.

The Merger and Discontinuance Academic Unit Committee will have a vacancy at the end of the year as Dr. Celia Lo rotates off the committee. A request for nominations will go out to the faculty at large in the next few weeks.

Dr. Giles D'Souza, Associate Professor, C&BA Management and Marketing, was unanimously elected Ombudsperson to serve from 2013 until 2016.

President's Report – (*Steve Miller*) President Miller gave an overview of the Shepherd Bend issue. This property is owned by The University of Alabama and is located in Birmingham, Alabama near the Black Warrior River and is close to a Birmingham water intake facility. It was given to the University as reparation following the Civil War. Mining companies can obtain mining permits without permission from the landowners until well along in the process. There are three levels of permits to exploit surface mining and the University's name was placed on the first two permit levels without the knowledge of the University. The University response has always been there are no plans to mine this property. This was not a sufficient answer for several environmental students, faculty and others. After meeting with students, a scientist from Birmingham, UA SGA president and the Faculty Senate Steering Committee to discuss the history of the property, a case for the dangers of mining the property was established. President Miller reached out to UAH and UAB Faculty Senates, Student Government representatives from UAB and UAH and UA's Faculty Senate. He consulted with UA's system legal department questioning if the University's name could be removed from the permit. He was told the legal department could not take action on anything they did not activate. A meeting was held following the Board of Trustees meeting in September with Chancellor Witt. At the end of the meeting and after listening to all opinions, Chancellor Witt proposed writing a letter stating advance notice would be given to UA, UAB and UAH regarding any pending action concerning this property. There was concern about what would occur after Chancellor Witt left the system. There is always a Birmingham representative on the Board of Trustees and that would be an extra guard against unknown activity. Chancellor Witt requested such a meeting be held following every Board of Trustees meeting. President Miller requested permission from the Faculty Senate to sign the letter to Chancellor Witt. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to approve President Miller signing the letter to Chancellor Witt. This issue will be placed on the Faculty Senate web site and will be monitored very closely in the future.

Under new business a senator from the Faculty Life Committee suggested other issues brought up in the last few months be addressed such as making the Faculty Senate the best it could be through shared governance, transparency and representation. Each committee could talk about how to maximize the momentum created in the last few meetings.

Also discussion included sincere concern for the students coming forward with information about the voting fraud situation. It was suggested the Faculty Senate form a resolution with language stressing this concern. In lieu of a resolution President Miller will speak to President Bonner and the Dean of Students about this issue.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Sierra Turner*) The Academic Affairs Committee will meet with Provost Benson next week to discuss tenure and non-tenure faculty numbers. The Faculty Handbook section has not been provided to the Academic Affairs Committee and if it is not received at this meeting the committee will begin work on the handbook.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Joanne Hale*) The Alabama Reach gift card program will be continued this year and a new co-sponsor will be the Professional Staff Assembly. Gift cards to grocery stores, Supe Store and Wal-Mart in the amount of \$25.00 were suggested.

Everyone was reminded to get their flu shots.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 P.M.