

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 12, 2013 – 110 AIME – 3:30 P.M.**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE:** Sheila Black, Tricia McElroy, Sierra Turner, Joanne Hale, Tricia Whitt.

**ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE:** Andrea Cevasco/Stevan Marcus, William Rabel/Len Zumpano, Dan Albertson/Laurie Bonnici, Meredith Bagley/Jeremy Butler, Eyun-Jung Ki/Danny Wallace, Aaron Kuntz/Becky Atkinson.

**GUESTS:** Katherine Bir (PSA), Will Pylant (SGA), Ross Green, Norm Baldwin, Caroline Bechtal, David Risling, Ivon Foster, Cresandra Smothers (Dialog), Ed Enoch (Tuscaloosa News).

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

The minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting on October 15, 2013 were approved.

**President's Report** – (*Steve Miller*) President Miller read the letter from Chancellor Witt concerning Shepherd Bend. The response will be placed in the Shepherd Bend file for any future reference.

President Miller's main points in his UA Board of Trustees address included detailing some of the work of the Faculty Senate's body and committees. These activities include working with students and UA administration. A task force has been appointed to focus on Greek, faculty and student diversity issues. The Faculty Senate foresees the actions of this committee reflecting UA as an outstanding institution.

Dr. Witt's comments included the possibility of shared faculty in the UA system, combining libraries electronically, streamlining supply purchases and looking at financial savings across the board.

One senator commented on the constraints of the State bid law. In some cases individual negotiations have resulted in lower prices. A three campus merging of the scientific purchasing contract would bring a substantial amount of savings.

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

**Secretary's Report** – (*Rona Donahoe*) The Faculty Senate constitution and bylaws are now posted on the Faculty Senate web site.

Ivon Foster-McGowan from the Office of Academic Affairs gave a presentation on the use of Qualtrix. Qualtrix is an online software survey tool and is in use by several colleges on campus. The various software tools currently being used costs about \$12,000

more than Qualtrix. This software system provides collaboration with other colleagues at UA and other institutions and corporations and the creation of individual surveys and data sets. To access Qualtrix go to OIT.ua.edu, software licensing, and scroll down to the software category. This page provides all the information needed including costs, eligibility for use, and the log-in page for Qualtrix. There is also a link to the FAQ page. The Qualtrix software provides secure data. Other information referred to setting up a division within Qualtrix; student, grad student and faculty access; composed surveys can be sent to anyone; and other programs are not as secure as Qualtrix. The MyBama log in page will be changed next week.

Dr. Norm Baldwin as a facilitator/member of the Faculty Senate Diversity Task Force reported the committee has met twice and will be meeting weekly. The first meeting with President Miller was a presentation of the committee’s charge. The main priorities of the committee are openness, input, reporting decisions, determining a plan of approach and the development of a web site. Dr. Baldwin and task force members will be meeting with Mark Nelson of Student Affairs on Wednesday. The committee will take the lead from the Faculty Senate. Members of the Task Force are:

Task Force Members

Name	Represents	Selected or Appointed by
Milla Boschung	UA Administration	Judy Bonner, UA President
Gina Johnson	UA Administration	Judy Bonner, UA President
Norman Baldwin	Faculty at Large	Faculty Senate
Mary Meares	Faculty at Large	Faculty Senate
Meredith Bagley	Faculty Senate	Faculty Senate
Osiris Molina	Faculty Senate	Faculty Senate
Utz McKnight	Black Faculty Staff Association	Carl Bacon, BFSAs President
Stephanie Robinson	UA Graduate Student	David Francko, Dean of Graduate School
Brennan Johnson	UA Student Government Association	Jimmy Taylor, SGA President
Kirkland Back	UA Undergraduate Student	Steve Miller, Faculty Senate President

A senator urged the Task Force to hold a public meeting and a forum for deliberations and to reach out to all the stake holders in this issue. A name should be assigned to this particular Task Force.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – *(Charlotte Herrin & Amy Taylor)* An election was held for the Merger Or Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee vacancy. Ballots were distributed, gathered and counted by the Faculty & Senate Governance Committee and Parliamentarian Bob Riter. **Anna Corbalan**, Associate Professor, Modern Languages and Classics, Arts & Sciences; and **Steven Jacobs**, Associate Professor, Religious Studies, Arts & Sciences was elected. Charlotte will communicate the results to those elected and not elected and to UA administration.

**New Business** – The Capstone Alliance presented a statement and possible resolution to propose to the Faculty Senate, Student Government Association, Professional Staff Assembly, and Office/Clerical/Technical Staff Assembly to include “gender identity and gender expression” in the University of Alabama’s Equal Opportunity Policy and in the Non-Discrimination Policy. The decision was made for President Miller to take this issue directly to UA administration following the discussion of several action options and any developments will be emailed to the Faculty Senate membership.

**Information Technology** – (*Clark Midkiff & Mangala Krishnamurthy*) The committee was reminded the Faculty Senate determined a committee be established to monitor classroom design before construction. This issue would be under the responsibilities Ivon Foster-McGowan, Office of Academic Affairs. Many problems and expenses could be avoided if the construction plans could be reviewed before being built. Any problems with information technology should be emailed to these committee members.

**Research & Service** – (*Ed Stephenson & Steve Burch*) The Research & Service Committee will meet with the new Vice President for Research, Carl Pinkert, after the first of the year to insure the focus on research continues to remain a priority.

**Student Affairs** – (*Melondie Carter & Joanne Hale*) The Student Affairs Committee continues to work on the Alabama Reach program to provide gift cards to special students. A reception will be held for this group the first week in December. The gift cards should be in twenty-five dollar increments. The app for students for scholarships is being developed.

**Financial Affairs** – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) The Financial Affairs Committee met with Vice President for Financial Affairs Lynda Gilbert, President Judy Bonner, and Provost Joe Benson. Prepared questions were sent ahead of the meeting. All buildings on campus are State insured but it was not known if it included value replacement. There is some concern that Greek integration could affect enrollment. The budget is based on last year’s enrollment. When there is an increase in enrollment for the year a good portion goes into scholarships. The construction of new fraternity and sorority houses replaces those not meeting fire codes. These organizations borrow money from the University at a larger percentage than a financial organization could loan the money for new construction. The University considers this a good investment and a tool to recruit out-of-state students. The houses are located on UA land which is leased to the fraternities and sororities. Once that debt is paid these organizations do not pay rent for the land. The UA credit rating is good. The University will have to report their percentage obligation for unfunded retirement costs which may affect the credit rating. The UA Athletic Department receives State appropriations.

There are efforts to have parking permits issued based on salaries.

**Faculty Life** – (*Carol Duffy & Jeannine Lawrence*) The Faculty Life Committee’s report on a smoke-free campus has gone to President Bonner. The goal is to have a decision from UA administration by January. The committee is now working to reinstitute the

Work Life position. An application has been sent in for a grant to fund this position but it would only be for faculty. The Faculty Senate should take the lead to make certain staff and employees would be included.

**Academic Affairs** – (*John Vincent & Sierra Turner*) The Academic Affairs Committee met with Provost Joe Benson. The tenure, non-tenure track faculty ratio was discussed with the hiring of tenure track faculty to return to the tenure track faculty-student ratio held five years ago being a priority. The committee is working on the Faculty Handbook revision. The establishment of faculty emeritus policy is something to be examined.

**Legislative Agenda** – (*Margaret Garner*) Higher Education Day will be held in Montgomery, Alabama on February 27<sup>th</sup> with transportation and lunch provided.

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

**Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee** - A report on 2014 Open Enrollment Changes was distributed. Open enrollment ends Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Rona Donahoe was the sole dissenting vote on monthly premium increases. Married UA employees see a gradual decrease in benefits.

**Campus Master Plan** – Dan Wolfe, University Planner and Designer, provided an overview of UA growth in an October 23 Master Plan Committee meeting.

1. Bryce Property development – two roads are planned, one from 5<sup>th</sup> avenue at the SRC which will curve through the Bryce property to intersect Hackberry Drive behind Shelby Hall and a second road that will extend from the first one to intersect Warner Parkway at a new light.
2. New dormitories are planned for the north half of the Bryce property on both sides of the second new road behind the old hospital dome and includes student parking - (5,000 new dorm beds in the last 10 years and 759 new spaces available on the recently completed deck at Hackberry and Old Hackberry lanes).
3. UA has largest Greek population in the country – 8,500 and numerous new houses.
4. New UA Systems office building on University Blvd near DCH.
5. New Fresh Foods in front of Rogers Library.
6. New parking deck and planned Sorority buildings behind Rose.

### **Announcements -**

A fundraiser benefiting the U of A Senior Design Hovercraft Team by eating at Moe's Southwest Grill will be held Wednesday November 13 from 4 until 9 P.M.

International Education Week will be celebrated with a speaker on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. in the Gorgas Library and 3:30 P.M. until 5:00 P.M. in Shelby, Room 1093. The sponsors are the Department of Biological Sciences, Department of Chemistry, New College and University Libraries.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 P.M.

Attachment Dr. Witt Shepherd Bend letter



THE UNIVERSITY of  
ALABAMA SYSTEM

The University of Alabama  
The University of Alabama at Birmingham  
The University of Alabama in Huntsville

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

November 8, 2013

Mr. Steve Miller  
President, Faculty Senate  
The University of Alabama  
Box 870252  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Dear Steve:

This letter confirms the discussion at our September 13, 2013, luncheon meeting in Tuscaloosa.

If The University of Alabama decides to consider leasing or selling its Shepherd Bend property, The University of Alabama System will notify the Faculty Senates and SGAs of the three campuses and will allow their input before any final decisions are made by the Board.

By copy of this letter I am asking UA System General Counsel, Cooper Shattuck, to make this letter part of the Shepherd Bend file that would be consulted if either of the above events were to occur.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Witt  
Chancellor

REW/dm

c: Trustee Paul W. Bryant, Jr. (w/encl.)  
Trustee Karen P. Brooks (w/encl.)  
Trustee Joseph C. Espy III (w/encl.)  
President Judy Bonner  
General Counsel Cooper Shattuck (w/encl.)

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