

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 2013 – 3:30 P.M. – 110 AIME**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Steve Bunker, Priscilla Davis, Tricia McElroy, Sierra Turner (resigned), Todd DeZoort, Chapman Greer, Lenka Nolan, Joanne Hale, William Rabel, Dan Albertson, Eyun-Jung Ki, Glenn Tootle, Reuben Cook, Pamela Melton.

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Dwight Hooper/Nelle Williams, Aaron Kuntz/Becky Atkinson, Meredith Render/Heather Elliott.

GUESTS: Kathy Bir (PSA), Norm Baldwin (Faculty Senate Task Force), Cresandra Smothers (Dialog).

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

The minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting on November 12, 2013 were approved with corrections.

President's Report – (*Steve Miller*) The Capstone Alliance proposed a statement and resolution to the Faculty Senate, Student Government Association, Professional Staff Assembly and the Office/Clerical/Technical Staff Assembly to include “gender identity and gender expression” in the University of Alabama’s Equal Opportunity Policy and the Non-Discrimination Policy. President Miller took this issue directly to UA administration. The administration felt the equality statement covers and includes every area of discrimination. The Faculty Life Committee will pursue this issue. Any opinions or suggestions should be forwarded to this committee.

President Bonner spoke to President Miller concerning phone calls from fraternity member parents to her office regarding some professors speaking/acting anti-Greek sentiments. If this is true, it has to be a minute/tiny faction of the faculty. President Miller requested the senators take this back to their colleagues for input and to make certain the focus is appropriate. Senators expressed concern about academic freedom, limited scope of UA’s president, limited facts and information, and freedom of editorial comment and dialogue. President Miller addresses the administration with respect in efforts to balance faculty needs and the administration’s position. However, that does not preclude needed action to address difficult issues.

Dr. Jo Bonner, VC for Governmental Relations and Economic Development for the UA System Office, will be meeting with the Faculty Senate Steering Committee on Thursday.

The Karen Steckol Regalia Project has been very successful with seventeen robes loaned for the commencement this month. President Bonner purchased twelve robes to add to donated robes. Two robes have been donated this past week.

Dr. Norm Baldwin as a facilitator/member of the Faculty Senate Diversity Task Force reported the committee has been conducting weekly meetings. Continuing in a learning mode, the committee made a list of approximately thirty names to have visiting sessions with each one and compile information. Last Tuesday the committee met with Tim Hebson, Dean of Students;

Lynda Gilbert, VP for Financial Affairs; and Dana Keith, Asst. VP for Financial Affairs. Today's meeting will be with Kelli-Knox Hall of Student Affairs. The committee wants to propose election reforms for future campus elections. A task force committee web site has been established at www.equitytaskforce.ua.edu. The official name of the task force is the "Faculty Senate Task Force for Excellence in Equity, Inclusion and Citizenship". Public sessions and open listening sessions will be held in the future with the first being held at the end of January. There is not a committee member from outside the University of Alabama. The task force will report regularly to the Faculty Senate.

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

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) No report.

New Business – A senator reported Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox is meeting with State Legislative delegates and will be discussing election reforms including changing the election date and the establishment of residency qualifications. Any suggestions can be emailed to mayor@tuscaloosa.com.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Amy Taylor*) Ballots to vote for three candidates for the "Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans and Department Chairpersons and in the Evaluation of Academic Programs Committee" were distributed. Associate Professor Joe Burrage of the Capstone College of Nursing, and Professor Patricia Parmelee of Arts and Sciences Psychology Department were elected by a majority vote. For membership in the committee with a tie run-off vote, the Senate approved forwarding the names of Professor Ibrahim Cemen of Arts and Sciences Geological Sciences and Associate Professor Nitin Chopra of the College of Engineering, Metallurgical and Materials Engineering.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Pat Parmelee*) Sierra Turner resigned as a senator and Academic Affairs co-chair due to a family situation. Pat Parmelee was elected by the committee to serve the remainder of her term. The committee continues to work, discuss and request input for the following: Faculty Handbook revisions, establishment of a faculty emeritus policy, designated diversity courses and resolution proposed by Social Work and classroom assignments.

Information Technology – (*Clark Midkiff & Mangala Krishnamurthy*) The Information Technology Committee will meet in January with John McGowan, Vice President of Information Technology. A senator reported on campus and off campus engineering students do not have access to the same software. A solution would include financial support of the college or school.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) The Financial Affairs Committee did not have a report. In a meeting with Provost Joe Benson the question of a funding plan for new faculty start-ups was raised. There seems to be no long-range plan for these costs. It was suggested working to develop a pool of money, establish a mechanism and organization dedicated to startup funds to attract talented faculty. Some colleges/schools save money by delaying the replacement of retiring faculty. The opinion was expressed that startup funds for the average incoming faculty member is totally inadequate and seems to have decreased over the past five years.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) Higher Education Day will be February 27th in Montgomery, Alabama. Transportation will be provided. There will be a meeting December

17th with Faculty Senate officers, the Office of Professional Staff Assembly, the External Vice President of SGA Parker Graham and Cliff Davis of the Alumni Office. These representatives will meet with the Higher Education Partnership staff to develop a model membership drive that will be sustainable on an annual basis and be a blue print for other institutions to follow.

The public relations campaign to increase Higher Education Partnership membership is being developed by Teri Henley's Advertising and Public Relations class.

A final decision has not been made concerning broadening the age of consent issue.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Steve Burch*) An invitation has been sent to Vice President for Research, Carl Pinkert, to address the Faculty Senate meeting in January.

Faculty Life – (*Carol Duffy & Jeannine Lawrence*) The Faculty Life Committee will be working on the non-discrimination policy.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Joanne Hale*) Joanne Hale is working with Mark Nelson of Student Affairs for funding the app for students to access financial aid information. This app is being developed by students in the Business School.

Alabama Reach and the Professional Staff Assembly hosted a holiday reception in the Ferguson Center for special students with needs. Twelve to fifteen students attended. Over two thousand dollars were donated for gift cards to be distributed. Donation of gift cards in twenty-five dollar increments can be made any time of the year since student needs continue.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 P.M.