

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2014 – 3:30 P.M. – 110 AIME**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Carol Duffy, Richard Fording, Rainer Schad, Jennifer Shoaff, William Rabel, Dwight Hooper, Dan Albertson, Aaron Kuntz, Dennis Sunal, Paul Puzinauskas, Heath Turner, Jill Grogg.

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Tricia McElroy/Seth Panitch, Ed Stephenson/Stacy Morgan, Clark Midkiff/Bob Taylor, Pamela Melton/Amy Traylor, Chapman Greer/Jullet Davis.

GUESTS: Dr. Carl Pinkert, Vice President for Research; Cathy Butler, Dialog; Ed Enoch, Tuscaloosa News; Mark Hammontree, Crimson White; Members of the Faculty Senate Task Force for Excellence in Equity, Inclusion & Citizenship (Norm Baldwin, Mary Meares, Meredith Bagley, Osiris Molina, Utz McNight, Stephanie Robinson, Brennan Johnson, Kirkland Back). (Unelected alternate for Dennis Sunal).

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

The minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting on January 21, 2014 were approved.

President's Report – *(Steve Miller)* President Miller read an email from Dalton Howard, campaign manager for SGA Vice President for Academic Affairs candidate, Chris Simmons, requesting a meeting to discuss tangible solutions for students looking for support from diverse groups on campus and other issues. President Miller will be meeting with these gentlemen on Friday morning.

Norm Baldwin, chair of the Faculty Senate Task Force for Excellence in Equity, Inclusion and Citizenship, introduced the members of this committee. The first draft report titled, "Working as a University to Help Shape a Model of Excellence for Student Government Elections" was distributed. The Faculty Senate requested this committee look into SGA elections and focus on discovering potential areas for election reform to be implemented before the 2014 SGA elections. The task force agreed to monitor the 2014 elections and then determine if more stringent methods should be implemented. The committee will also focus on inclusion, diversity and citizenship issues. The committee is meeting today with Greek representatives to discuss integration of the Greek system and broader diversity concerns. One of the main issues before the committee in the last few weeks has been the right to voting privacy and the method to accomplish this goal. The committee has worked closely with numerous groups and officials to establish a model system for student government elections. March 4th will be the first open to the public meeting allowing questions and feedback. Another open meeting will follow in two weeks. Some questions and issues brought forth from senators included code violations, monitoring, policing and enforcement, campaign spending limits, financial penalty amounts and jurisdiction. One of the goals of the task force is to educate and develop a culture emphasizing responsible behavior. One senator's request was to tweak the language to reflect an academic and civic responsibility under the Student Honor Code to report voting violations. The task force decided to put their faith in the Office of Student Conduct rather than propose any new policing or regulatory bodies. Another suggestion was to publicly request UA administration and the SGA to actively monitor and police the elections this year. President Miller asked the committee

to tweak the draft with the suggestions made in the meeting today. The consensus of the Faculty Senate supports the task force report.

Dr. Carl Pinkert, Vice President for Research, was introduced and gave an overview report on the goals set for UA's research efforts through his office. The six goals are to continue to enhance externally funded research activities, increase the efficiency of grant submission and award management, support economic development, increase the scholarly productivity of UA faculty, increase the number of national awards and increase the involvement of undergraduate students in research activities. Improvements can be made in the recognition of UA's research internationally. Dr. Pinkert will meet with Deans and Associate Deans to get their perspective and specific needs for campus and their particular areas.

The **Research Grants Committee Grants Program** has been charged to facilitate and support grant funding opportunities and creative scholarship to heightened UA program visibility and greater breadth of opportunity.

The **Research Advisory Committee** has put together recommendations to strengthen research enterprise on campus.

The **Research Stimulation Program** is providing support for postdoctoral fellow funding. Through this program six new proposals requesting postdoctoral fellow support were awarded in 2014 and has now funded or agreed to fund 40 postdoctoral fellows.

Through the **Strategic/Cluster Hire Initiative** the Research Advisory Committee, a seventeen member panel, has been charged to focus on existing UA strengths, interdisciplinary/cross-college appointments, cost-sharing, two stage-award mechanism, leveraging state funding and explore opportunities to expand the number of endowed chairs. Workshops, networking, training sessions are being held.

A comprehensive master list of UA research resources is being compiled and will be invaluable to new faculty. It is possible that all the institutions in the state can share their resources and facilities.

The **Limited Submission Policy** is designed to support an equitable review process while preventing any submission disqualifications due to submissions from The University of Alabama beyond the allowed number. User friendly activity interaction as well as flexibility will be maintained.

The University of Alabama subscribes to **Pivot**, <https://pivot.cos.com/>, a valuable search tool for funding opportunities and research collaborators. University researchers have free access to Pivot which will send weekly updates on funding opportunities meeting the search criteria. All faculty, staff and students may create a Pivot account which will send weekly Funding Alert emails matching the saved funding searches. More information will be published in Dialog.

There have been changes made in the **IRB** process. Eighty percent of expedited protocol submissions that come into IRB used to take 55 days. The turnaround time has been reduced to 18-21 days. The national average/benchmark is 28.9 days. At the end of 2013 UA is now below the national average in every category. Communicating changes in Federal requirements in a timely fashion and anything can be moved faster administratively will be done. Additional

IRB initiatives will develop new strategies through presentations, discussions, workshops, webinars and didactic sessions. These will improve relationships among researchers, IRB members and staff. Limited submission proposal of major research instrumentation through NSF policy has been changed. Announcements will automatically show up on Pivot as well as deadlines for internal letter of intents and what is required in a standard letter of intent. For something that is annual the aim is to have enough advanced time for preparation and submission. Where an individual faculty member or a team has been selected for a submission it is incumbent upon them to actually submit the application. If the approval is given and they do not follow through, there must be some type sanction or follow up because it is a lost opportunity and someone else has been omitted. The objective for the review panel is to have as unbiased a review as possible. A problem with internal or external reviews has been lack of communication concerning the denial of a submission. Feedback will now be communicated whether the proposal is accepted or rejected. Constructive information will be provided about the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal. Last minute submissions cause problems but extensions may be requested. Available resources, support, return on investments, cluster hires, academic and government partnerships, scholars with funding, competitive offers to the best and brightest faculty were other subjects discussed.

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

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) Faculty Senate senator elections are underway. Changes are the loss of one seat for the College of Education, the addition of one seat for the College of Nursing and one additional seat for the College of Business Administration. The total for senators for 2014-15 will be 70 if all seats are filled.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Amy Taylor*) Nominations are being sought for Ombudsperson. Nominations from the floor for Faculty Senate President, Vice President and Secretary were requested with no nominations made for these offices. The nominations were closed at the end of the Faculty Senate meeting.

Heather White, English Professor in Arts & Sciences, and Seth Appiah-Opoku, Associate Professor of Geography in Arts & Sciences, were elected to The University of Alabama **Mediation Committee**.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Patricia Parmelee*) The Academic Affairs Committee has completed the editing and comments pertaining to the Faculty Handbook. The list has been forwarded to the Provost. The committee is waiting for wording from the Council of Deans regarding clinical faculty positions on campus. It appears no action has been taken to form a Classroom Design Committee. Social Work will be sending their proposal regarding Global Citizenship Designation. No further complaints have been received regarding travel time between classes and issues seem to have been resolved. Increasing time between classes from ten to fifteen minutes has been dropped by the administration. No official word has been received about the UA mission statement submitted by the Academic Affairs Committee.

The Academic Affairs Committee brought forward a resolution regarding emeritus faculty status as follows:

RESOLUTION TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EMERITUS FACULTY STATUS

Whereas department faculty provide opinions in the hiring of faculty in their department and the tenure and promotion process for faculty in their department, and

Whereas department faculty do not have a voice in the process for naming of emeritus faculty in their department despite emeritus faculty utilizing departmental resources,

Whereas the Board Manual of the Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama System, while possessing guidelines for designating holders of Academic Chairs and Professorships, possesses no guidelines for the designating of emeritus faculty,

Be it resolved, the faculty senate requests that department faculty be included formally in the process to develop recommendations for emeritus faculty status for presentation to the Board of Trustees. The faculty senate also requests that a University policy for developing recommendations for emeritus faculty status for presentation to the Board of Trustees be developed. The faculty senate also respectfully requests that guidelines for the designating of emeritus faculty be constructed by the Board of Trustees.

To be sent to President Judy Bonner and Provost Joe Benson.

Passed by UA Faculty Senate
February 18, 2014

The Faculty Senate passed the resolution following the adoption of an amendment and questions regarding department resources available to emeritus faculty, emeritus faculty status definition and the involvement of a department in granting a title that is honorary.

Information Technology – (*Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff*) The Information Technology Committee met with John McGowan, Vice Provost of Information Technology; Ivon Foster, Assistant to Provost for Special Projects & Academic Technology; Fred Whiting, English Associate Professor; Marilyn Staffo, Faculty Resource Center Director; Cathy Rainey, OIT Financial Affairs Director; Patty Benton, OIT Operations Executive Director; and Clark Midkiff and Mangala Krishnamurthy of the Faculty Senate Information Technology Committee on January 23.

The following items were discussed:

- Software availability for distance education students.
- IT Committee will review policies and make recommendations possibly including security updates, social media, use of UA equipment off-campus and encryption requirements.
- Separate email systems on four separate campus areas. OIT does not forward exchange accounts to non-UA emails.

- UA Drop Box is now available – see further information on oit.ua.edu and myBama Tech tab.
- Internet2
- Classroom technology in new buildings, installation, outsourcing and Astra.
- Development of a standard image for all instructor computers in classrooms.
- Microsoft web access.

The Information Technology Committee will follow up on email issues.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) Higher Education Day will be Thursday, February 27 in Montgomery. Transportation will be provided. Bill Jones will be honored with a leadership award.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Steve Burch*) The Research and Service Committee met on February 4th with Dr. Carl Pinkart, Vice President for Research. There remain questions to be answered but the meeting was very positive.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) The Financial Affairs Committee looked at a proposal to grant parking permits based on salary amounts. The overall parking policy of the University is to encourage parking on the outer perimeters. Determining the income of an employee would be extremely difficult with some having other jobs and additional income from other family members. The committee voted against progressive parking fees.

Faculty Life – (*Carol Duffy & Jennifer Shoaff*) The committee has not met.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Joanne Hale*)

The committee was asked to look into the free speech zone issue. There seems to be random enforcement of rules.

Other Committee Reports –

The Campus Security Committee is looking at bike/pedestrian/skateboard and long board issues.

The Faculty and Staff Benefits child and elder care sub-committee has received permission to distribute a survey requesting input and feedback concerning needs of these two groups.

There has been no new information about a Smoke-Free Campus.

The advertising and public relations class will be surveying faculty and staff concerning awareness of the Higher Education Partnership.

The University of Alabama raised over \$13,000 for the West Alabama Heart Walk.

Meeting adjourned 5:05 P.M.

