

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2013 – 3:30 PM - #110 AIME**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Tricia McElroy, Aaron Kuntz, Wesley Church, Eyun-Jung Ki, Clark Midkiff, Amy Taylor, Reuben Cook, Rona Donahoe.

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Margaret Garner/Nelle Williams, John Van Zee/Alan Lane, Jill Grogg/Josh Sahib.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog;

Roll call and quorum check by Faculty Senate Vice President Donna Meester.

The minutes of the April 16, 2013 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

President's Report – (*Steve Miller*) President Miller began the meeting with a review of the issues addressed during the summer monthly meetings by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee.

President Miller shared that he was in the dunking booth in the Coliseum during the “Week of Welcome” activities. He was dunked twenty-five times.

The **SACS** reaffirmation process establishes new standards requiring exactly perfect transcripts and resumes and every faculty member will be checked.

The Faculty Senate and the Steering Committee were instrumental in increasing the base line pay for **part-time instructors** from \$2,500 to a \$3,000 minimum. Departments may exceed the minimum but cannot pay any less.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee met with Planning and Grounds officials concerning **parking and construction**. They vowed to make their plans more transparent. Construction plans were forwarded to the Steering Committee.

Joe Benson has been appointed by President Bonner as **Provost**. He will serve in that position for eighteen to twenty-four months. This was in light of replacing department chairs and SACS reaffirmation.

The University will begin a **mini-campaign** to develop endowments for professorships.

The **smoke-free campus** issue is ongoing. The student survey has been done with a margin of approval. The Faculty Life committee will continue to address this important issue.

Sections of the **Faculty Handbook** have been distributed for editing with the hope it will be finalized this year.

The Faculty Senate will follow the “**guns on campus**” policy of the University in light of new legislation to make certain all elements are in place for the safety of students, faculty and employees.

The effect and impact of **enrollment** increases or decreases is another important issue being monitored by the Faculty Senate. Effective utilization of classroom space is a concern.

Suggestions of important issues from the Senate membership included **transgender and gender mutual student** UA policies (assigned to the Student Affairs Committee).

It was also suggested the faculty members working in a building undergoing renovations be completely involved in the changes being made. This would avoid making changes and adjustments after the faculty members move back into the renovated building.

The spring **commencement** program was outstanding with the faculty being honored. The Karen Steckol Regalia Loan Project has been very successful. All robes were loaned with ten to fifteen more requests than robes.

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

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

Faculty Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Amy Taylor*) President Miller will send an email announcement to the entire faculty requesting nominations for an **Ombudsperson**. The nominee must be tenured, associate or full professor, and from Engineering or Business. This is a very responsible and service-oriented position.

Information Technology – (*Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff*) The Information Technology Committee met with John McGowan, Vice Provost of Information Technology, to discuss **technology support** for research, fiber optics, Internet II and Net Plus. McGowan is the co-chair of the UA Information Technology Committee. The Information Technology Committee will set up a meeting with the new Vice President of Research, Dr. Carl Pinkard.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Joanne Hale*) The UA SGA has requested the Student Affairs Committee assist them in creating a **searchable scholarship data base** for UA students to use at no charge. Planning and working on this project should be complete and the site made available next spring semester.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) The annual organizational meeting of the HEP advocacy group, Starz, was held August 7-9 with UA SGA member, Parker Graham, being elected Vice Chair for the state.

Dr. Robert Brooks of The University of Alabama’s College of Commerce and Business Administration announced he was running as a representative for the Teachers Retirement System. This is an unpaid position with civic responsibilities. The election will be held in September with information provided in Dialog.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) The Financial Affairs Committee will meet with Dr. Lynda Gilbert, Vice President for Financial Affairs, to discuss the University’s

financial contingency plan for enrollment fluctuation. Any other issues to be considered should be emailed to Reuben Cook or Rainer Schad.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Steve Burch*) The search for a new Vice President for Research has been completed with the employment of Dr. Carl Pinkard. President Miller and Ed Stephenson will be meeting with him next week to welcome him and discuss the **research and service structure** of the University. Ed Stephenson has completed his work on the establishment of a new Faculty Senate web site. He requested some photos to display on the site.

Faculty Life – (*Carol Duffy & Jeannine Lawrence*) The Faculty Life Committee will be meeting in the next two weeks. Among the topics for discussion will be moving forward the **faculty life initiatives** proposed by Cory Perdue.

Dr. Bonner requested a report on situations encountered by other institutions implementing a **smoke-free campus policy**. Over 500 campuses across the country are now smoke free areas. Some institutions encountered some student protests. Programs for quitting smoking and signage seem to be the primary educational tools.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Sierra Turner*) The Academic Affairs Committee continues to monitor the progress of the **Faculty Handbook**. Sections have been distributed to various departments for correction and editing. When the sections are compiled the Council of Deans and the Faculty Senate will vote on the completed handbook. A review of the Faculty Handbook issue was given for background information for new senators.

The Academic Affairs Committee has been asked to review the **Faculty Senate mission statement**. Senators were asked to look at the document online and send any suggestions to the committee. The committee is waiting to see if the **Classroom Design Committee** will be created. Faculty classroom assignments caused some problems over the summer with **classroom designations** on one side of the campus and the next assignment on the other side of the campus. This caused some faculty to be late if they remained after class for any discussion with a student.

Reports from Other Committees –

Institutional Biological Safety Committee – (*Ed Stephenson*) The Institutional Biological Safety Committee regulates research or overseas research with infectious agents (bacteria, viruses) that might cause illness. The National Institute of Health regulates recombinant DNA (genetic engineering) requiring every institution to adhere to their rules. In February the NIH made a site visit and in March sent notification of deficiencies in registering the PI's doing the research and then asked that over the summer a survey be conducted. They required 100% compliance of three departments – Biology, Chemistry and Chemistry Biological Engineering - every single member had to respond to the survey answering yes or no if they were doing research in regulated recombinant DNA research. If the answer was affirmative, another set of forms were to be filled out. Improvements had to be made in record keeping, identification of recombinant DNA research and in the process. A progress report will be made to NIH in August.

Campus Security & Safety – (*Tom Zeiler*) This committee has not met.

CUC – The CUC has completed committee assignments but letters have not been sent.

Equal Opportunity – (*Priscilla Davis*) This committee has not met.

The Alabama Reach program was initiated last year to assist needy students. A gift card program allows donations to be distributed to those students. Contributions can be sent to Tamika Hartley.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 P.M.