

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 18, 2014 – 3:30 PM - #110 AIME**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Nikhil Bilwakesh, Osiris Molina, Dwight Hooper, Dan Albertson, Karen Spector, Heath Turner, Jason Scofield, Paul Horwitz.

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Tricia McElroy/Seth Panitch, Jennifer Purvis/Stacy Morgan, Lenka Nolan/Bill Petty, William Rabel/Doug Cook, Pamela Melton/Amy Traylor.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Sean Dyer, Victoria Lewis, Phil Hampy, Spencer Riley and Jordan Schrenk (students in MIS working with Dr. Joanne Hale on Scholarship Search Website/Application Form).

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

The minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting on February 18, 2014 were approved.

Faculty Senate officer elections were held with the following elected unanimously: Steve Miller, Faculty Senate President; Donna Meester, Faculty Senate Vice President; Rona Donahoe, Faculty Senate Secretary.

President Miller thanked the outgoing Faculty Senate senators for their service the past year.

President Miller read the following article from the March 17, 2014 issue of Dialog –

“Margaret Garner is the recipient of this year’s Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, the highest honor given by The University of Alabama. Garner is interim director of the University’s Student Health Center, part of the College of Community Health Sciences. The award recognizes excellence of character, the practical application of noble ideas and service to humanity. It is presented by the Division of Student Affairs.”

President Miller reiterated the smoke and tobacco free campus remains one of the highest priorities of the Senate.

Among accomplishments of this past year is the agreement between the Faculty Senate, the UA system and the Board of Trustees concerning the future use of the Shepherd Bend property. The agreement is posted on the Faculty Senate’s web site. A result of this agreement is the gathering of Faculty Senate Presidents from all three campuses and others following the Board of Trustees meeting to determine if there could be collaboration on any issues.

Fall of 2013 began with great disruption concerning segregation of the Greek system and local election interference. The Faculty Senate served as a channel for the outstanding response of faculty members. The Faculty Senate Task Force for Excellence in Equity, Inclusion and Citizenship was established to focus on potential areas for election reform and inclusion, diversity and citizenship issues. There are very serious and upsetting issues involving harassment and hurtful situations expressed in a listening session attended by President Miller

and Secretary Donahoe. The Task Force must deal with these issues and determine what their next steps will be for the health and safety of students.

Vice President's Report – (*Donna Meester*) Vice President Meester expressed her thanks for the service of senators this past year and is looking forward to the coming year.

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) Secretary Donahoe expressed concern about the issues in the listening session and work must be done toward inclusiveness and tolerance. A central channel should be available to report any harassment or disturbing situations.

All colleges have not reported their election results with a March 21 deadline.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Amy Taylor*) Nominations are needed for Ombudsperson. Nominees cannot be from Arts & Sciences, Engineering or C&BA. The senators were requested to talk to their colleagues concerning the need for nominees.

New Business – A new business item is the process of a faculty or staff member taking a course, particularly a course to enhance their teaching responsibilities. The example given was a faculty member enrolling in a language course requiring a \$40 registration fee, high school and college transcripts, an additional \$250 extra credit fee and another \$40 in student fees. President Miller will discuss this with the Provost. A copy of the steps the faculty member had to follow will be emailed to President Miller.

Information Technology – (*Clark Midkiff & Mangala Krishnamurthy*) The Information Technology Committee has met with John McGowan, Vice Provost of Information Technology and others several times over the last six or seven months. McGowan is scheduled to speak to the Faculty Senate meeting on April 15th. Senators were asked to email specific information technology problems to this committee to bring as questions to McGowan. There has been little or poor communication concerning the usage of Internet 2 and availability of UA Drop Box. The upgrades causing work stoppages and email security issues are of great concern.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Patricia Parmelee*) The Academic Affairs Committee met with Provost Joe Benson and discussed issues such as interruption of online courses, tenure, tenure-track faculty ratio, classroom assignments causing delays which has resolved itself, abandoned the 15 minute between classes proposal, reviewed and edited sections of the Faculty Handbook, reviewed the document assigning credit hours to courses, reviewed and edited UA Mission Statement, proposed the professor emeritus resolution and discussed Social Work's resolution concerning global citizenship recommending incorporating it into the Core Curriculum structure. The committee is waiting on the final Handbook revision, the final resolution of the proposed classroom design committee, and the definition of clinical faculty for the Handbook.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) The Higher Education Partnership held the STARS retreat in August with 100 students including ten from UA. Over 2,500 attended Higher Education Day in Montgomery with about 100 from UA. They met with Legislators following the rally. The students partnered with the SGA and Honors College to put on "From the Capital to the Capstone" dinner with a senator and three representatives responding to questions.

The “changing of the age of majority” issue began two and one-half years ago to change the age of majority for freshmen to participate in research. Bill Jones, Porter Bannister, and Mike Spearing of UA Systems Office were leaders in combining all three campuses in this effort. The bill has now passed the House of Representatives, is out of committee in the Senate and hopefully will pass before the end of the current Legislative session.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Steve Burch*) The Research and Service Committee has met with Vice President for Research, Dr. Carl Pinkert. Steve Burch is a member of a research and grant committee. The committee received a whole series of rubrics in terms of evaluating from Dr. Pinkert’s office. The committee sees this as good but will contact all the groups that went through the procedure to see if there were any glitches and to determine if the rubrics were workable. When that information is attained it will be brought back to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) The Financial Affairs Committee has met with Lynda Gilbert, Vice President for Financial Affairs, and discussed funding for construction on campus, credit rating for UA, general expenditures and funding allotted to Athletic Department. The committee expressed concern about future levels of enrollment and a long-range plan to deal with any decrease in enrollment.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Joanne Hale*) The team from MIS working with Dr. Joanne Hale and the SGA on the development of a Scholarship Search Website/Application Form consists of the following students – Sean Dyer, Victoria Lewis, Phil Hampy, Spencer Riley and Jordan Shrenk. College tuition is increasing every year with students needing scholarships or loans. The development of this external scholarship app for currently enrolled students will give an opportunity to search available scholarship information connected to their field of study and will automatically notify the student when new scholarships become available. It will supply faster transition and application through MyBama home page. The students presented a walk-through for a user. One of the challenges will be to keep the information current. Appreciation was expressed to the students and Dr. Hale for the work done on this project.

This past year the Student Affairs Committee was involved in raising over \$3,000 for the Alabama Reach Gift Card program. Meetings with the SGA have been held to determine what role the Faculty Senate can play in addressing student needs.

John Vincent made the comment that the Diversity Task Force should be addressing the “now” issues. It was questioned how long this committee will exist. The committee will exist until the conclusion of their work. Evaluation will be made at that time to determine if the committee should become permanent. The goal of the Faculty Senate regarding diversity is on the Faculty Senate web site. The issues are constantly being brought before the UA administration. Recommendations from the Task Force coincided with campus elections limiting the number of changes that could be implemented. The committee will look at the elections held last week to determine the areas needing revamping and continues to meet weekly.

Faculty Life – The Faculty Life Committee looked at gender identification and discrimination, worked on a smoke-free campus policy and addressed faculty life initiatives this past year.

Several colleges on campus have declared a smoke and tobacco free environment with several others working toward that status.

Reports from Other Committees –

The Equal Opportunity Committee reviewing the document creating the Faculty Senate Task Force for Excellence, Inclusion and Citizenship Committee does not have an African American student as a member. New student members can be appointed in the fall and a special focus will be on equal minority representation on the committee. It was suggested for the Faculty Senate to be given the charge to recommend a diversity of qualified students to serve on this committee.

The issue of unauthorized use of bike lanes and parking on campus continues to be an issue. This could be brought forward to the Campus Master Plan committee by the Faculty Senate liaison to that committee.

Security & Safety Committee – Skate board and long boards are also being operated in unauthorized areas including the interior of buildings and being pulled by cars. The problems include pedestrian and traffic flow, law enforcement, too many cars on campus, vehicles and delivery trucks blocking parking spaces and bike lanes. The Parking and Transportation Committee requested UA place markers on all the sidewalks stating whether it was for pedestrians or other usage. This was rejected. There are signs on the Quad but no one notices because they are eight feet in the air. Crosswalks are dangerous particularly at the Ferguson Center intersection. There is no interaction between the federally mandated Metropolitan Planning Organization and the city.

Meeting adjourned 4:55 P.M.