

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2014 – 3:00 P.M. – ROOM 111 AIME**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Steve Miller, Donna Meester, Rona Donahoe, Mangala Krishnamurthy, Clark Midkiff, Margaret Garner, Rainer Schad, John Vincent, Melondie Carter, Charlotte Herrin, Amy Taylor, Ed Stephenson, Reuben Cook, Pat Parmelee.

ABSENT: Steve Burch, Carol Duffy, Joanne Hale.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of December 3, 2013 were approved.

President's Report – (*Steve Miller*) Adding an additional phrase to the UA equality statement is under discussion in the Faculty Life Committee.

Vice President for Research, Carl Pinkert, will address the Faculty Senate meeting on January 21st.

Several faculty members have questioned the regularity of meetings and accomplishments of UA Standing Committees, particularly the Textbook Committee. At the next Faculty Senate meeting Secretary Rona Donahoe will ask the Faculty Senate senators serving on standing committees if their committee has been active and meeting on a regular basis. This information will be forwarded to the CUC. Committees are required to report minutes to the CUC and a final annual report should be sent from the committee chair. There was further discussion concerning textbook prices, order shortages, textbook changes by faculty at the last minute and the textbook rental program. President Miller will connect the faculty members with the Textbook Committee.

Vice President's Report – (*Donna Meester*) Vice President Meester has continued to receive complaints about the shortage of textbooks, primarily not enough books being ordered. Another issue was scholarship students being required to purchase their books at the Supe Store.

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) The correct Faculty Senate meeting dates have been posted.

Information Technology – (*Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff*) The Information Technology Committee will meet with John McGowan, Vice Provost of Information Technology and Ivon Foster, Assistant to Provost for Special Projects & Academic Technology, on January 23 at 2:00 P.M. in Room 107 Rogers Library. It was suggested to discuss the location of the new classroom building in this meeting.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) A December meeting was held with Gordon Stone, Higher Education Partnership Director; Alumni Association; Capstone Agency representative

and the Professional Staff Assembly. A campaign class will be conducted for faculty and staff to bring a deeper awareness of the value and benefits of the Higher Education Partnership.

There is no update on the proposed age of majority change. The issue remains in committee and is waiting to be put on the agenda.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) The Financial Affairs Committee is planning a spring meeting with Lynda Gilbert, Vice President for Financial Affairs.

Academic Affairs – (*Patricia Parmelee & John Vincent*) There are questions concerning the new classroom building location and other building expansions. It was suggested to invite Dan Wolfe, University Planner, to meet with the Steering Committee. There seems to be no input from faculty concerning the design of classroom space and the proposed classroom design committee has not been formed.

The Faculty Handbook will be returned to Provost Joe Benson by the February Faculty Senate meeting.

The Academic Affairs Committee will present a faculty emeritus policy resolution at the Faculty Senate meeting in February.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Joanne Hale*) The Alabama Reach gift card program collected over \$3,000 for needy students.

The co-chairs of the Student Affairs Committee will meet with the SGA Executive Council to share with them the role of this committee in the Faculty Senate. They will gather input on how to better facilitate serving as the SGA liaison to the Faculty Senate.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Amy Taylor*) Announcements have been sent out for Ombudsperson nominations. Another announcement will be sent for nominees to fill vacancies on the Mediation Committee. It was suggested to possibly broaden the tenure requirement to serve on these type committees. However, this particular faculty group would have the knowledge to deal with the issues presented to these committees.

Charlotte Herrin recommended tabling the diversity designated courses and resolution discussion until later in the spring.

Research & Service – (*Steve Burch & Ed Stephenson*) The Research and Service Committee will meet with Vice President for Research, Carl Pinkert, on February 4th. Any questions should be forwarded to Steve Burch or Ed Stephenson.

There was discussion concerning the deadly flu outbreak and prevention measures.

Jeannine Lawrence has stepped down as co-chair of the Faculty Life Committee.

Reports from other committees –

The Child Care Committee, sub-committee of the Faculty & Staff Benefits Committee, has met twice to devise a child care needs survey instrument to be sent to everyone with the exception of

part-time employees. It will be structured to address child care needs and elder care needs. There is no Bryce property available for a child care facility. There was further discussion of the availability of facilities possibly available for this child care center location.

An update on the UA mission statement will be requested in the meeting with the Provost.

The issue of posting parking information in advance when construction blocks a parking area continues to be a concern.

The location of faculty during graduation ceremonies was discussed.

The projection of a decrease in high school graduates will eventually affect The University of Alabama's enrollment.

Meeting adjourned 4:15 P.M.