

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 8, 2013 – 3:00 P.M. - #213 AIME**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Steve Miller, Donna Meester, Rona Donahoe, John Vincent, Sierra Turner, Carol Duffy, Charlotte Herrin, Reuben Cook, Rainer Schad, Mangala Krishnamurthy, Margaret Garner, Ed Stephenson, Steve Burch, Melondie Carter.

ABSENT: Amy Taylor, Clark Midkiff, Jeannine Lawrence.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of September 10, 2013 were approved.

President's Report – (*Steve Miller*) President Miller has been meeting with nominated and highly recommended students to serve on the newly formed ad hoc task force addressing systemic changes in the SGA and the Greek system. The Dean of the Graduate School has nominated a student to serve from that area.

Dean Milla Boschung and the University Club will make a presentation at the October 15th Faculty Senate meeting.

President Bonner will speak at the October 15th Faculty Senate meeting. President Bonner will be sending out queries to every department concerning UA growth.

There is concern with computerized classroom assignments. There is a problem with the time needed to go across campus for classes. The technologies and materials used in each classroom were discussed.

President Miller met with the Professional Staff Assembly, and the Office, Clerical & Technical Association to discuss their goal of reducing parking costs for lower paid employees. Their proposal would be for parking fees to be based on salaries. A suggestion was to have Parking Services supply their base number. More parking decks are being built for students and parking fee increases are being used to subsidize student parking decks.

Feedback is being sought from the Faculty Senate concerning a SGA proposed resolution concerning the cost of books. Discussion included faculty turning in book lists on time, the Supply Store's method of ordering books and not ordering enough books, books for special needs students, purchasing books from other sources, the rental book program and publishers moving to a new text book with limited editing changes. A special email reminder for faculty to turn in books lists on time will be sent from the Faculty Senate next spring.

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

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) The Faculty Senate constitution and by-laws are being reviewed and revised for posting on the web page.

Information Technology – (*Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff*) The Information Technology Committee met last Tuesday. An email was sent out from the committee requesting faculty forward **any technology problems** to the committee. A couple of emails were received reporting problems with servers, Outlook, calendar and email snafus. The committee will send another email next week. Any reported problems will be discussed with John McGowan.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) The Faculty Life Committee continues to work on a date and location for a meeting with Lynda Gilbert, Vice President for Financial Affairs.

Faculty Life – (*Carol Duffy & Jeannine Lawrence*) The Faculty Life Committee met Monday. The **non-smoking** report will be sent to President Miller following reformatting and editing. Several institutions were contacted with questions concerning the implementation of a non-smoking campus. Issues discussed were smoking in Bryant Denny stadium, UA the only SEC institution not smoke free, education/enforcement of a smoke free campus and inclusion of a student survey.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Joanne Hale*) Mary Wells, SGA representative, is working with the Student Affairs Committee on the scholarship application project. There will be a meeting October 15th to discuss the establishment of a budget, approval and other issues.

The Student Affairs Committee met last week to discuss the “**Alabama Reach**” program. The number of needy students has dropped significantly from last year due to double reporting. The OCTSA group wants to co-sponsor this program. The online donations are used for student scholarships. Gift cards from grocery stores, Visa or Master Card or Supply Store would be more appropriate for students. Students may have a transportation problem when restaurant gift cards are given. The committee will check on faculty inviting students to their homes during the holidays.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Amy Taylor*) A draft **Task Force** ballot was distributed. Four Faculty Senate senators have put their names forward to run for two places on the Task Force. Nine faculty at-large have been nominated. The election will held at the beginning of the Faculty Senate meeting next week. The voting procedure will be reviewed before the election. Only senators are qualified to vote. Parliamentarian Bob Riter will certify/review election process/results.

The Ombudsperson election will also be held.

Cecia Lo is rotating off the Merger and Discontinuance Committee and will need to be replaced at an election in December.

President Miller met with Jimmy Taylor, SGA President, to award funding for sustainability projects. A professor is needed to assist with this project.

Research & Service – (*Steve Burch & Ed Stephenson*) Confidentiality agreements from IRB and IACUC is an issue referred to the Research and Service Committee.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) A meeting was held to address methods to increase membership in **HEP**. The Capstone Agency has worked on other projects with outstanding results. President Bonner has approved employing this award-winning agency to plan, evaluate and implement a membership campaign and to establish a plan to sustain membership. Hopefully the blueprint could be transferred and implemented on other campuses.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Sierra Turner*) The Academic Affairs Committee will meet with Provost Joe Benson on October 22. The committee continues to monitor the progress of the Faculty Handbook. This Faculty Senate committee has not received their assigned section for revision but will begin work on **Faculty Handbook** sections discussed in a meeting with the Provost.

UA **intercollegiate athletes** are excelling in academics with Brooke Pancake, Women's Golf, winning last year's Academic Heisman and Barrett Jones, Football, being the 2013 winner. UA has the most SEC All-Americans. UA softball team has the highest GPA of any team in the SEC. UA gymnastic team is similar in their academic standing. John Dever, Associate Athletic Director of Student Services, and his staff are doing an outstanding job.

Block seating at football games (determined by the Student Government Association) was discussed.

Flu shots are available and 5,000 faculty members and students have received shots. Employee Health Fair is Wednesday, October 9th.

Faculty Staff Benefits Committee – A tobacco-free resolution will be circulated among the committee members for approval. There will possibly be an increase in health care premiums. There are reserve funds, however, the effects of the Affordable Care Act are not known. November 1 is the open enrollment period.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 P.M.