

FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 10, 2013 – 213 AIME – 3:00 P.M.

APPROVED MINUTES

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

ABSENT: Amy Taylor, Joanne Hale.

GUESTS: Mark Hammontree, Crimson White; Kristen Feyt, 90.7 Radio; Steven Bunker, UA History Department; Chris Lynn, UA Anthropology Department; Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of August 13, 2013 were approved.

President's Report – (*Steve Miller*) President Miller welcomed the guests to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting. President Miller called for an open discussion of faculty concerns surrounding the Tuscaloosa city election for the District 4 Board of Education representative. The following email and resolution was sent to President Miller and was read:

The following resolution was adopted by unanimous vote at a meeting of the Faculty of the Department of Anthropology on Friday, September 6, 2013:

“The Department of Anthropology authorizes Jason DeCaro to represent our concerns by asking the University to thoroughly and actively investigate the role of students and student groups in the August municipal elections, and take responsive actions to the extent any students or sanctioned student organizations are found to have violated UA rules, and as a public university with a special civic responsibility, assume a leadership role in educational programs and policy actions designed to encourage ethical and civically responsible behavior in the future.”

Other emails and communications indicated dissatisfaction with the timing of/and the official response of UA's administration to student conduct in the disputed city elections. In speaking for the University as a whole all facts must be known and considered. President Bonner in her official UA statement included the following: “The municipal election was administered by the City of Tuscaloosa and governed by the laws of the city and state. The University of Alabama does not have the authority to investigate the outcome of a municipal election, including allegations about which students chose to vote in that election, for whom they voted or why they cast the votes they did. As soon as the courts and appropriate state and/or local agencies have completed their investigation and the facts are known, the University will be in a position to take the appropriate action, including an internal investigation if necessary. Any students who are found to have violated the Student Code of Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action.” The discussion included these points: the SGA's method of conducting an election, lack of candidates for offices, peer pressure, networking student

organizations and ways to use this situation as a catalyst to address campus politics and student life issues.

Steve Bunker stated a constructive course would be to enhance the Student Code of Conduct framed in a positive manner and work with organizations to educate students and develop a leadership role through this learning and teaching opportunity. Concern about the prestige and ethics of the University should take precedence over concern about the criminal investigation and should be addressed. The three areas to be addressed are the Student Code of Conduct, enforcement and education. An additional issue suggested was a long term evaluation of changes to the student voting system. Some suggestions were to conduct a lecture series, reduce SGA incentives and Greek community sponsorship of a candidate forum with other co-sponsors. The Higher Education Partnership conducts meetings every year to educate student groups on citizen advocacy.

It was stated to leave the investigative role to those qualified and focus on the issue of the value and role of being a good citizen, being well informed and clearly being a part of the process on campus as well as off.

Vice President's Report – (*Donna Meester*) Vice President Donna Meester met with the Executive Vice President of UA's Student Government Association, Will Pylant, to discuss collaboration concerning the Higher Education Partnership, establishing a test bank and the issue of a no smoking campus.

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) Some changes have been made in Faculty Senate Standing Committee assignments and the web page will be updated to reflect those changes.

It was called to the secretary's attention that the Faculty Senate does not have a senator from the Honors College. The regular election letter was sent to the college but a response was not received.

Research & Service – (*Steve Burch & Ed Stephenson*) The committee has met with the new Vice President for Research, Carl Pinkert. He is very willing to meet with any and all committees and to speak to the full Senate, if needed.

Information Technology – (*Clark Midkiff & Mangala Krishnamurthy*) Clark Midkiff and Mangala Krishnamurthy has met with Vice Provost for Information Technology, John McGowan, and Executive Director of OIT Operations, Patty Benton. The discussion included Internet 2 and storage of financial and medical records. Any questions should be emailed to the Information Technology committee co-chairs.

Faculty Life – (*Carol Duffy & Jeannine Lawrence*) The Faculty Life Committee is working on compiling a five institution report on the implementation of their no smoking policies. Discussion included the institution's leased property, stadium, fraternity and sororities locations. Some institutions designated areas around the stadium for smoking and penalties for smoking in non-smoking areas were accessed. Some campuses have heavy penalties.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Joanne Hale*) The Student Affairs Committee continues to work on the scholarship aid information web site for students. They are continuing their efforts to set up a gift card web site for needy students.

Melondie Carter, Steve Miller and Osiris Molina greeted the new freshmen with welcome bags sponsored by the SGA.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Amy Taylor*) The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee reported there are no nominees for Ombudsperson. The nominees must come from C&BA and Engineering. The respective Deans of those colleges will be contacted to provide names to be considered for the Ombudsperson position.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) There will be a meeting on September 17th with Faculty Senate President Steve Miller; the Office, Clerical and Technical campus organization; the Professional Staff Assembly; UA's Student Government Association; Margaret Garner of the Faculty Senate's Legislative Agenda Committee; Cliff Davis of Alumni Affairs and Gordon Stone of the Higher Education Partnership to discuss strategic methods of increasing membership and participation of faculty and staff in the Higher Education Partnership organization.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Sierra Turner*) The Academic Affairs Committee distributed copies of "The University of Alabama's Mission and Objectives Statement" and a copy of the committee's revised statement. With some minor wording changes the Steering Committee accepted the statement. It will be presented to the full Senate meeting next week for a vote.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) The Financial Affairs Committee will meet with Lynda Gilbert, Vice President for Financial Affairs, in October. The discussion will cover the topics about the budget and percentages allotted for salary increases.

In the discussion of the Credit Hour Definition/Policy, Draft #14, it was pointed out there are some changes in the document. John Vincent will contact Joe Benson to clarify where those changes originated.

Meeting adjourned 4:55 P.M.