

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**May 14, 2013 – 3:00 PM – Room 213 AIME**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ATTENDING:** Rona Donahoe, Donna Meester, Steve Burch, Ed Stephenson, Mangala Krishnamurthy, Clark Midkiff, Joanne Hale, Amy Taylor, John Vincent, Rainer Schad.

**ABSENT:** Steve Miller, Carol Duffy, Jeannine Lawrence, Melondie Carter, Charlotte Herrin, Margaret Garner, Sierra Turner, Reuben Cook.

**GUESTS:** Kathy Butler, Dialog.

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

Meeting conducted by Faculty Senate Vice President Donna Meester.

Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes of March 7, 2013 were approved. The April 9, 2013 Steering Committee meeting was cancelled.

**Vice President's Report** – (*Donna Meester*) The new commencement format focusing more on faculty seemed to have been successful. All robes with the exception of one were loaned to faculty for commencement. An additional fifteen could have been loaned if we had more donated. The expense of renting and availability of regalia was discussed.

**Secretary's Report** – (*Rona Donahoe*) The Steering Committee was reminded that the meeting with the Provost would be on Thursday, May 16, 2013 at 3:00 PM in 254 Rose Administration Building. The Steering Committee meets through the summer on the second Tuesday on the month (June 11, July 9 & Aug. 13) in 213 AIME. The first full Faculty Senate meeting will be in 110 AIME on August 20.

**Research & Service** – (*Steve Burch & Ed Stephenson*) No report.

**Information Technology** – (*Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff*) No report.

**Faculty Life** – (*Carol Duffy & Jeannine Lawrence*) No report.

**Student Affairs** – (*Melondie Carter & Joanne Hale*) No report.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – (*Charlotte Herrin & Amy Taylor*) The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee continues to check into Faculty Senate bylaw revisions.

**Academic Affairs** – (*John Vincent & Sierra Turner*) A report on the Humanities 197 should be received from the Provost on Thursday. Vice President Meester will check with President Miller to determine if such a report is received. The Humanities 197 issue has been an issue since last October. If a student takes the AP exam in both English Composition and English Literature and passed both, they only received credit for English 101 & English 102. Other institutions give credit for English 101, English 102 and three semesters of literature. Our administration asked the English Department to look at this issue and their decision was to only give credit for English

101 and English 102. Consequently administration had a talk with Arts & Sciences which resulted in the decision that it was up to the English Department to make the determination. Therefore the administration created a course titled Humanities 197, made it a core course without consulting the Core Curriculum Committee and it counts as a Humanities course. A complaint came from a faculty member in Humanities that students were being lost due to this course. The issue is the course was created without being initiated from a department or departments. The course was granted status as a core course without going through the Core Curriculum Committee and was created without consulting any department in that area bypassing the joint faculty administration governance of the university. Administration has been consulted and was told that a core curriculum proposal would be created to send to the committee. The Steering Committee is basically asking that the course be eliminated and if they wanted to go back to English and appropriate departments and create the course in the proper and correct manner. Further discussion included the proper method to create a course, prolific use of the number 197, composition of a core course, a plan in the event a proper response is not forthcoming and passing a resolution. Vice President Meester will contact President Miller asking if he has received any information from the Provost concerning this matter. The Steering Committee will bring the issue up again in the meeting with the Provost.

The search for a Vice President of Research and a UA Provost is moving toward conclusion.

**Financial Affairs** – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) There was an article on the front page of The Tuscaloosa News containing salary information about President Bonner of The University of Alabama and the president of Auburn University. The Auburn president is making two million dollars ranking number two in the nation and Dr. Bonner makes a little over one-half million dollars ranking 69th. Possible raises for UA employees were discussed. The budget meeting with the Provost is overdue.

#### **Reports from Other Committees –**

**Institutional Bio Safety Committee** – The Institutional Bio Safety Committee regulates the use of hazardous materials and organisms and recombinant DNA. Ed Stephenson reported recombinant DNA is regulated by the National Institute of Health (NIH). The NIH sent a representative for a site visit and some discrepancies and lack of information in records were found. A two week extension has been granted to make corrections and show progress. This issue will continue to be monitored.

**Parking & Transportation** – There continues to be a lack of faculty input and communication from administration concerning parking/construction decisions. Decisions are being made and then the information is passed on to the committees. The Kilgore House is being demolished and a student plaza and food service facility is being constructed on that site. The Campus Master Plan is presented to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee once a year. Changes occur that are not communicated to the appropriate committees that should be involved in the decisions. Identification of the origination of the decisions is needed. The section of the UA Board of Trustees minutes pertaining to facilities will be requested from President Miller.

Ed Stephenson and Rona Donahoe presented the new Faculty Senate web page. The old Senate web page software has been converted to a Word Press site.

Meeting adjourned 4:35 P.M.

