

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2014 – 3:30 P.M. – AIME #110**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE – Sheila Black, Richard Fording, Walt Robbins, Eyun-Jung Ki, Carol Donovan, Glenn Tootle, Reuben Cook, Pamela Melton.

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Steve Bunker/Stacy Alley, Pat Parmelee/Jennifer Shoaff, Harold Stowell/David Ainsworth, Paul Puzinauskas/Alan Lane, Brian Gordon/Kimberly Boyle.

GUESTS: Hamilton Bloom, SGA President; Norm Baldwin & Gina Johnson, Faculty Senate Task Force members; Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Ed Enoch, Tuscaloosa News.

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

Minutes of the September and October Faculty Senate meetings will be approved at the Faculty Senate meeting in November.

President’s Report – President Miller announced that President Bonner had been called to a meeting in the Systems Office. SGA President, Hamilton Bloom, was introduced.

Hamilton Bloom expressed the main priority of the SGA is improving communication between the SGA and the Faculty Senate.

The major initiatives of the SGA are:

- 1) Establishing an External Scholarship Data Base with a base of 2,500 external scholarships. The data base would include student information. The University of Arizona is the only other institution with this program.
- 2) Conducting a joint meeting with other student organizations in November or January.
- 3) Coordinating with Gina Johnson for student transportation for locations such as off campus apartments, working and shopping.
- 4) “Say Hey, SGA” would be the logo on a tent located on the Quad to advertise events and poll the student body about issues they want addressed.
- 5) Composing a SGA resolution requiring Safe Zone training. All SGA members will have training by the end of the year.

What is Safe Zone training? The University of Alabama Safe Zone program is committed to providing an environment in which every student and employee is free to thrive on an academic, professional, and personal level within a community that is based on respect and dignity. The Safe Zone Program provides a visible network of volunteers for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and other individuals seeking information and assistance regarding sexual orientation, gender identity, harassment, and/or discrimination. The Safe Zone offers monthly training for any individual interested in becoming a UA Safe Zone Ally.

Faculty and administrative assistance should be consulted in including diversity.

Norm Baldwin, facilitator of the Faculty Senate Task Force for Excellence in Equity, Inclusion, and Citizenship, reported that the addition of gender identity to the University Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) statement has been accomplished. There was concern about where the extra course work hours would be found with the addition of three hours of diversity, inclusion and multiculturalism coursework since some curricula are already full. Suggestions included incorporating the coursework into existing core courses, inclusion into a revised core and could be included in HU and SB courses. Meredith Bagley suggested this would be an excellent opportunity for experiential learning.

Administration feels diversity officers exist in each college and work is being done in that area. They do not see the need for a central diversity office although centralization would make efforts more effective. Based on the University of Mississippi model a separate building could be used for a Center for Diversity and Inclusivity. The Task Force will research data concerning this issue and incorporate into their report.

The Faculty Senate Faculty Life Committee is developing a climate survey and President Miller indicated President Bonner is very interested in such a survey.

What is needed to make operational or enforce student behavior requirements was a question. Norm Baldwin responded that Student Affairs deals with these issues and the Task Force did not feel it should suggest penalties. Engineering faculty feels extra coursework is not an option and recommended rewording to clarify that an extra course is not required. For all students to receive this exposure the coursework must be a part of the core.

Report II was accepted by a Faculty Senate voice vote with no opposition or abstentions.

Report III was reviewed with the most contentious item being the postponement of rush and the creation of a unified rush. Some houses are opposed due to finances. The point was made that all students should be expected to be inclusive with terminology singling out a segment of the student body by using terms such as Greek System, Sororities and Fraternities.

A question posed by a senator was “Should loans and other financial arrangements be reviewed and based on citizenship/behavior of organizations”. Part of the thinking behind this could perhaps include more expansive statements about financial issues. A suggestion was made to require students going through rush to pay up front into a pool which would be split between Greek organizations. This would be problematic to require delayed rush if other organizations can add members earlier. The Task Force was commended for the reports. High school seniors can become de facto members of fraternities before stepping foot on campus. The private organization status is an issue in the minds of Greeks but they are not truly independent. UA has the largest Greek population in the U.S. making it an important segment of the student body. Some questions asked concerned statistics on freshmen retention for UA and Greek houses and language frame requirements in terms of all organizations requiring a certain time commitment. Excessive party atmosphere, date violence, assault and other behavior are not addressed. There were objections that the Greek System and bad behavior are not necessarily linked. President Miller suggested Report III recommendations be prioritized so the Senate would not have to accept all the recommendations to vote. Concern was expressed that financial help for minorities excludes poor white students. Appendix A data is self-reported and difficult to verify. There

was a call to question. The Faculty Senate voted to approve Report III with one opposed and one abstention. The report will be referred to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee for re4commendations on further action.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Patricia Parmelee*) The changes in the Faculty Handbook regarding the benefits statement consisted of deleting the word “staff” and other minor changes. The Faculty Senate approved unanimously to accept the changes and the revised statement has been forwarded to the Provost. The Core Curriculum issue continues to be reviewed and a meeting with Kevin Whitaker was held. The Academic Affairs Committee will meet to review the history of the Core Curriculum. The Clinical Faculty document continues to be reviewed.

Faculty Life – (*Pamela Payne-Foster & Ed Stephenson*) The Faculty Life Committee is in the process of composing a climate survey. Requests for submission of survey questions have been sent to each individual committee with a second week of November deadline. Assistance and cooperation is needed for a successful and comprehensive survey.

Legislative Agenda – (*Kim Severt*) A meeting was held with Higher Education Partnership representatives, Jo Bonner, SGA leaders and others to discuss a video conference call and dates for the first Legislative Breakfast.

Student Affairs – (*Joanne Hale & JoAnne Oliver*) There will be 52 students in the Alabama Reach program this year. Donations for gift cards (\$25.00) or more will be accepted with a November 21 deadline.

Meeting adjourned