

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2014 – 3:30 p.m. - #110 AIME**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE – Nikhil Bilwakesh, Andrea Cevasco, Martin Evans, Sky Shineman, Charlye Adams Pamela Payne-Foster, Karen Spector, John Vincent (Ed), Glenn Tootle, Heath Turner, Pamela Melton.

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Merinda Simmons/David Deutsch, John Van Zee/Alan Lane, Olivia May/Casandra Ford.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers (Dialog), Gordon Stone, Director of Higher Education Partnership.

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

The minutes of the September and October Faculty Senate meetings were approved.

President's Report – (*Steve Miller*) The Task Force Report II has been taken by the Faculty and Senate Governance Committee. Secretary Rona Donahoe has composed a survey to prioritize issues in Task Force Report III to be sent out on November 19, 2014. The suggestions made by the Faculty Senate have been included in the revised Task Force reports. Those reports will be moved forward.

The University of Alabama campus will become smoke-free beginning January 1, 2015. The Faculty Life Committee and the Faculty Senate continued to pursue and monitor this project over the last few years to the establishment of this policy for the entire campus and which will now be implemented.

The Legislative Agenda representative, Kim Severt, introduced Gordon Stone, the Higher Education Partnership Director. The vision of the partnership organization is to be the voice to spread the message of the importance of higher education. Membership in this organization is only twelve dollars a year. The partnership was established in 1997 with the basic function of communicating the importance of higher education to better the lives of the people of Alabama. The partnership also communicates to the elected officials of the State of Alabama the importance of funding higher education. The partnership works with all fourteen higher institutions in Alabama to make sure their combined voices are heard at the table where decisions are made. Those institutions are made up of over 150,000 people and should be regarded as people, not numbers on a spread sheet. Membership registration can be accessed by going online to higheredpartners.org. The debt to the Rainy Day fund has been paid and will make available \$35 million dollars new revenue. Education revenue resources are growing a little bit. A state-wide survey of the qualitative and quantitative impact of higher education on the economy of Alabama will be conducted early next year. Higher Education Day will be April 9, 2015 in Montgomery, Alabama. It was suggested to make

the communication of the partnership more of a grassroots effort. The expansion of the Legislative Agenda to a full Faculty Senate committee was discussed and encouraged.

Vice President's Report – (*Donna Meester*) Vice President Donna Meester met with the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee. The new gymnastics coach, Dana Duckworth, was introduced to the group. Vice President Meester read the following press release: “Alabama athletes lead the SEC in NCAA graduation success rates. In addition to leading the SEC in the overall Graduation Success Rate (GSR), the Crimson Tide was first, or tied for first, in seven different sports, including its two-time defending NCAA champion men’s golf team which led the league with a perfect GSR score of 100. Alabama’s women’s golf, soccer, softball, women’s tennis, volleyball and men’s swimming and diving teams also led the SEC with GSR scores of 100. The average GSR for all NCAA Division I student-athletes is 82. The Alabama football and men’s basketball teams both ranked second in the SEC with scores of 80 and 87, respectively. Men’s track and field was also second in the SEC with a score of 95. Football jumped seven points from a year ago while men’s basketball jumped 10 points. In addition to having all 16 programs scoring 80 or above, 13 Alabama squads ranked in the top five in the SEC”.

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) A link will be posted for the Task Force III priority survey. Registration forms were distributed for Higher Education Partnership membership.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Patricia Parmelee*) The Academic Affairs Committee has submitted their questions for the **faculty climate survey**. The committee approved the “History of the Core Curriculum at the University of Alabama” document. The official **core curriculum** from 1997 has not been followed in recent years. The guidelines have been in a state of flux so efforts are being made to determine what the current core contains and then the core will be revisited. Provost Benson and Associate Provost Kevin Whitaker met with the Steering Committee. The non-tenure track renewable contract document is being reviewed line by line in a special meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee. Input concerning the document is welcomed.

The Provost announced that anyone vested with ten or more years of service and retired with The University of Alabama is considered having emeritus status. The UA Board of Trustees approving the emeritus status is only a formality. The Academic Affairs requested that this policy be placed in the Faculty Handbook.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Marilyn Handley*) The Faculty & Senate Governance Committee will be moving forward with Task Force Report II recommendations. The expansion of the **Legislative Agenda** to a Faculty Senate community affairs based committee is being discussed. Questions for the **faculty climate survey** are being gathered and on-line course development is being discussed. Ballots were distributed for the Mediation Committee and the Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans, Department Chairpersons, and in the Evaluation of Academic Programs Committee election. It was requested to have a two or three sentence bio next

to each nominee's names in future elections, having a short informational statement concerning the responsibilities of the committee and the possibility of an electronic election. Nitin Chopra, College of Engineering, and Norma Cuellar, Capstone College of Nursing, were elected to the **UA Mediation Committee**. The Faculty Senate selected four candidates whose names have been sent to the Provost who will then appoint two new members to the **Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans and Department Chairpersons and in the Evaluation of Academic Programs Committee**.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) Dr. Lynda Gilbert, Vice President for Finances was unable to make their meeting so the meeting was held with Provost Joe Benson. Discussions in the meeting included **enrollment growth** which is done by head count and by full-time equivalent. Gradual enrollment increase is expected over the next few years. Thirty percent of the freshman class this year made thirty or higher on the ACT. The average ACT score of the freshman class was 26.1. The 24-28 ACT score qualifies freshmen for free tuition at some institutions in Alabama. In the current budget there is 1.2 million dollars for new faculty with a good portion going for raises. Most SEC institutions have not seen the **building and construction** UA has had in the last few years. Parking decks, parking fees, Moody Music Building expansion and State appropriations were discussed. Course fees are approved by the Provost and some of those monies go back to the colleges or departments. That varies across campus and Social Work is the only college that does not charge course fees.

Reuben Cook has been recommended and named to the Vice President for Advancement search committee.

Student Affairs – (*Joanne Hale & JoAnn Oliver*) The Student Affairs Committee continues to work on the **Alabama Reach** program which assists students in need. Donations of gift cards or cash will make this project a success. The deadline is November 21. This committee has submitted their **climate survey** questions. The Student Affairs Committee will meet with the Vice President of Student Affairs to determine what recommendations from the **Task Force Reports** have been implemented and the status of those recommendations that have not been put in force. A report on this meeting will be given at the next Faculty Senate meeting. The proposed separation of the **Graduate Student Association** from the Student Government Association has been researched at other SEC institutions which produced a wide variety of results. The committee will meet with Dean Francko of the Graduate School.

Research & Service – (*Steve Burch & Andreas Piepke*) The Research and Service Committee met with Dr. Carl Pinkert to discuss the enhancement of the University as a premier research institution. An outline was drawn up by the committee outlining faculty and administrative activities. Discussion included personnel, equipment and travel funding, labs, space, and time. The committee asked what research should be stimulated in accordance with the vision for UA research status and reputation. What are the goals, philosophy, policies and strategic plan for research were questions asked. Notes from the meeting will be drafted and shared with the Faculty Senate.

Faculty Life – (*Pamela Payne-Foster & Ed Stephenson*) The Faculty Life committee continues to work on the faculty climate survey and those committees that have not submitted their questions were asked to do so. Hopefully the survey will be completed by the middle of the spring semester.

Information Technology – (*Clark Midkiff & Mangala Krishnamurthy*) The Information Technology Committee met last week and composed their faculty climate survey questions and submitted those to the Faculty Life Committee. The committee is also working on a dedicated information technology survey. There has been discussion concerning several software programs including EndNote which costs \$63,000 for 3 years, Refworks and MathLab. Faculty usage would determine the software made available.

Reports from Other Committees -

The CUC has met and the committee survey will go out after Thanksgiving.

The regalia project has been very successful and several requests have been received for the December commencement.

The Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee reports there will be no increase in premiums although the committee recommended an increase.

One senator suggested writing a letter to the UA President suggesting the building be stopped because there are other needs such as hiring new faculty, providing start up funding, providing support staff and other needs. Construction loans can be secured but there are no loans for providing start up funding.

The Senate was invited to attend a talk by Dr. Bharat Balasubramanian concerning the autonomous (driver-less) vehicle in Gorgas Library Room 205 from 1:30 P.M. until 3:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned 5:05 p.m.