

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2014 – 3:30 pm – 110 AIME**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE – Nikhil Bilwakesh, Sheila Black, Osiris Molina, Pat Parmelee, Andreas Piepke, Rainer Schad, Fred Whiting, Todd DeZoort, Joanne Hale, Walt Robbins, Dan Albertson, Dennis Sunal, Ed Back, Glenn Tootle, Heath Turner, John Van Zee, Tricia Witte.

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE – Emily Wittman/David Deutsch, Charlye Adams/Paan Jindapon, John Vincent/Karri Holley, Marilyn Handley/Jasmine Hoggle, Pamela Melton/Amy Traylor.

GUESTS – Cresandra Smothers (Dialog), Parents of Meredith Bagley, Randy McCready.

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

The minutes of the November 18, 2014 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

Secretary Rona Donahoe gave a short report on the Faculty Senate Task Force Report #3 – Recommendation Prioritization Survey Results. Forty-one faculty members responded with the Priority Ranking as follows:

1. Enact a new Student Code of Conduct rule prohibiting organizations from socially boycotting other organizations that racially integrate.
2. Implement clear, reasonable diversity criteria and track the progress of individual Greek houses through the collection of data.
3. Require an explanation and activate an alternative selection rule when arbitrary discrimination occurs.
4. Predicate University funding and lending for new Greek housing on the basis of diverse and affordable membership and a commitment to inclusivity.
5. If necessary, loosen or forgo alumni recommendation requirements for minorities who otherwise meet a sorority's selection criteria.
6. Continue to develop resources for alumni recommendations, and conscientiously contact and track minority rushes to help ensure that they have needed alumni recommendations.
7. Charter new Greek organizations predicated on affordability, diverse charter members, and a commitment to inclusivity.
8. Neutralize the effects of legacy preference in evaluating minority rushes.
9. Establish a University standing committee on Greek affairs.

Higher Education Partnership membership forms were distributed.

President's Report – *(Steve Miller)* Provost Joe Benson sent the SACS report as follows: twelve areas to review and respond and will work with the Faculty Senate to develop general education requirements which ties into the work being done on the core curriculum. Seventeen is the average for problem areas in SACS reviews for reaccreditation. March 4 and 5th will be the on-site visit.

President Judy Bonner and Provost Benson are working on a University of Alabama mission statement.

International travel varies and there will be a policy statement after the first of the year.

Randy McCready, retired from the Honors College, gave a presentation proposing the idea of an elephant protection program named “**Tide for Tusks**”. The University of Alabama is the only institution in the United States with the elephant as its mascot. Supporters of The University of Alabama own more elephant memorabilia than any where in the United States. Big Al has been the UA mascot for 80 years. The presentation included the characteristics of elephants including using their tusks to dig for water, sensitive socially and highly intelligent, largest land mammal on earth, they disperse seeds and only leave the herd if they die or are forced out. The possibility of the extinction of the elephant is a real fear. There were five to ten million elephants in 1930, today there are fewer than 500,000. These decreasing numbers are due primarily to poaching and the value of ivory from their tusks. Elephant gestation period is twenty-two months for birth with a seven to ten year period between births. More than one-thousand rangers have died protecting the elephants. The idea is to use the University’s public relations, raise awareness and use influence to bring about stricter laws for protection of the elephants. TideforTusk.org is their website. One senator felt this is a good idea and was supportive but felt the Faculty Senate had other priorities that would take precedence. One senator felt this issue could be built into service learning and diversity. Asia and India have done a good job of elephant protection. This issue and idea will be discussed in the next Steering Committee meeting.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Marilyn Handley*) The election was held for the **Merger or Discontinuance of Academic Units** with printed ballots distributed. Candidate short bios and statements were available. Carol Mills, Associate Professor College of Information Sciences, was elected. Joy Burnham, School of Education, and Danny Wallace, School of Library and Information Studies, were selected to serve on the **Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans and Department Chairpersons and in the Evaluation of Academic Programs Committee**. The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee is researching methods to have electronic elections and checking to make certain this would conform to the Faculty Senate constitution and bylaws.

Student Affairs – (*Joanne Hale & JoAnn Oliver*) The Student Affairs Committee plans to meet with the Vice President of Student Affairs concerning the Task Force Reports. The committee continues to follow and have meetings concerning the proposed separation of the Graduate Student Association from the Student Government Association. The Alabama Reach program to aid needy students raised \$2,758 in the Faculty Senate alone.

Research & Service – (*Steve Burch & Andreas Piepke*) The Research & Service Committee canvassed their member’s notes from the meeting with Dr. Carl Pinkert, VP for Research, and sent those to Dr. Pinkert for his response. This report will be given at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Pat Parmelee*) The Academic Affairs Committee is having special meetings to address the non-tenure track renewable contract document which is being reviewed line by line. The committee will be reviewing other Faculty Handbook issues. There was some concern that the Provost had posted everything sent to them online. The goal was to

approve all the changes at one time. The Academic Affairs Committee continues to evaluate the Core Curriculum and is working with the Provost and Kevin Whitaker in efforts to assess the core. The Provost Search Committee has met once and was given a copy of the job advertisement. Candidate applications will be reviewed beginning February 1, 2015.

Information Technology – (*Clark Midkiff & Mangala Krishnamurthy*) The IT Committee has not met since the last Faculty Senate meeting but will meet next week. There is concern about poor communication between OIT and faculty members who want VPN (Virtual Personal Network) access for their students which can only be requested by the Department Chairs. This allows students off campus to use campus software as though they were logged in on a campus computer. The IT report included testing of ePortfolio software for possible site license.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) The Financial Affairs Committee has met with Provost Benson and Lynda Gilbert, VP for Financial Affairs. Seventeen percent of the University's budget comes from State appropriations. UA's budget is based on last year's enrollment. The number one priority is faculty-staff compensation, employee longevity, new faculty positions, funding for scholarships, libraries, PEEHIP and debt service. The University has a good percentage of the students excelling on the ACT score. The parking deck located behind Rose Administration will be used by faculty and students only.

Parking Services under a five-year plan will increase fees by \$20.00 per year. The new parking deck at Moody Music Building will be paid for with parking fees. The parking deck will increase operations by \$900,000 or 10%. This deck will provide parking for faculty and students only and will be named the Magnolia Deck.

New Business – The United Way campaign chaired by Reuben Cook exceeded the set goal.

A senator proposed the Faculty Senate Task Force reports II and III be posted on the FS website.

Beth Howard, Academic Affairs, will address the Faculty Senate in January concerning issues such as sexual assault and other issues.

The Human Resources Council is looking at student transportation when the shuttles stop running and parking problems for vendors on campus.

The discontinuation of the football program at UAB was discussed.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 PM.