

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2015 – 3:00 PM - #213 AIME**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Steve Miller, Donna Meester, Rona Donahoe, Marilyn Handley, Charlotte Herrin, Steve Burch, Ed Stephenson, Patricia Parmelee, John Vincent, Mangala Krishnamurthy, Clark Midkiff, Rainer Schad, JoAnn Oliver, Kim Severt, Bob Riter, Joanne Hale, Pamela Payne-Foster.

ABSENT: Andreas Piepke, Reuben Cook.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of December 2, 2014 were approved with corrections.

President's Report – (*Steve Miller*) President Miller reported relaying to Dr. Bonner that the recommendation of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee is to suspend the provost search in light of an imminent UA presidential search and the appointment an interim provost for a two-year term. Dr. Bonner is considering this proposal with meetings and conversations to continue. President Miller is a member of the presidential search committee.

Donna Meester will head up the finalization of the Diversity Task Force recommendations.

A request for funding has been given to Provost Joe Benson and the SGA to assist with the expenses of bringing Dr. Damon Williams of Wisconsin to come to campus to speak about diversity issues.

Vice President's Report – (*Donna Meester*) No report.

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) Preliminary numbers for the faculty head count used for determining the apportionment number of senators for each college/school has been received from OIR. To be counted as a regular faculty member you must have at least .5 FTE or greater assigned to teaching research or some professional duty. Senator attendance records are attached to the letters to the Deans stating the number of senators to be elected for their division.

Charlotte Herrin, Kimberly Severt and Mangala Krishnamurthy volunteered to serve on the Student Alumni Award Committee meeting on Friday, January 23 at 11:00 AM in Alumni Hall.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Marilyn Handley*) The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee will be addressing the following issues: exploring broadening the number of committee members and responsibilities of the Legislative Agenda Committee, implementation of Diversity Task Force recommendations, committee membership and reviewing election procedures including electronic voting. Bob Riter has researched Faculty Senate constitutions, bylaws and voting procedures at other institutions and will compile the information into a report and forward to the appropriate Faculty Senate committees.

Research & Service – (*Steve Burch & Andreas Piepke*) For grant proposals where the university can only submit one proposal for the entire campus a competition is held for this slot through the Office of Research, e.g, NSF MRI proposal. The PI of one submission for a large equipment grant (several hundred thousand dollars) with only two weeks left to get everything together got an email from the Office of Research indicating their department had to come up with one-third of the matching funds and their college had to come up with another third, amounts to approximately \$100,000 each. The Office of Research is acting as if it is trying to secure the overhead money paid to colleges, departments, and PI's from a grant leaving the PI unable to use the funds to obtain preliminary results for their next grant proposal. This new procedure mandated by the Office of Research reveals complete ignorance of how colleges (and in turn) departments) receive funding on this campus.

The Research Advisory Council has announced Research Day to recognize research faculty will be held April 8, 2015. Higher Education Day will be April 9 in Montgomery, Alabama.

Legislative Agenda – (*Kimberly Severt*) Several dates for the Faculty Senate Legislative Breakfast will be submitted and the Tuscaloosa delegation will be involved.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Pat Parmelee*) The Academic Affairs Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 27, to further address the non-tenure track renewable contract document. The report should be ready for the next Steering Committee meeting. Following Steering Committee approval the document will be forwarded to Provost Joe Benson. The committee will continue to address the core curriculum status and proposed to invite Kevin Whitaker to their next committee meeting.

Information Technology – (*Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff*) The Information Technology Committee met on December 16, 2014, to prioritize issues for the spring. The issues include the third Diversity Task Force report and delaying the specific information technology survey.

Financial Affairs – (*Rainer Schad & Reuben Cook*) Changes in TIAA-CREF investment vendors and consultants are being suggested and monitored by the Financial Affairs Committee. The committee is working with the Human Resource Benefits office and the Vice President for Financial Affairs.

Student Affairs – (*JoAnn Oliver & Joanne Hale*) An email was received from Steven Hood and the Student Affairs Committee will meet next week to review that information and determine what other issues should be considered. The committee continues to work on the possibility of a separate Graduate Student government organization.

Faculty Life – (*Pamela Payne-Foster & John Vincent*) The Faculty Life Committee presented the first draft of a 107 question faculty climate survey composed of the questions each Faculty Senate standing committee submitted. After pointing out some changes the Steering Committee recommended, it was decided each committee member note the changes they would like to see made and turn those changes in to the Faculty Life Committee at the full Faculty Senate meeting on Tuesday, January 20th. The timeline goal would be for the survey to be distributed the first part of April.

The UA Campus Police is enforcing bicycle and skate board rules and giving citations.

It was suggested that the smoke-free signage recommendation be readdressed in a meeting with the provost.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 PM.