

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2014 – 3:00 p.m. - #213 Aime Building**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Steve Miller, Donna Meester, Rona Donahoe, Ed Stephenson, Pamela Payne-Foster, Charlotte Herrin, John Vincent, Rainer Schad, Joanne Hale, Marilyn Handley, Reuben Cook, Bob Riter, Clark Midkiff, Andreas Piepke, Mangala Krishnamurthy.

ABSENT: JoAnn Oliver, Patricia Parmelee

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of September 9, 2014 were approved with one correction.

President's Report – (*Steve Miller*) President Miller attended a meeting concerning the Legislative Breakfast to be held next spring. There will be a three-way video conference call between all three UA campus presidents and UA's chancellor to plan the meeting and the focus of topics.

Task Force Reports #3 and #4 have been distributed to the Faculty Senate for review and discussion at the November meeting. A letter from President Miller and copies of the reports were delivered to President Bonner and Provost Benson.

President Bonner and SGA President Hamilton Bloom will speak at next week's Faculty Senate meeting.

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

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) The new C&BA senators are Charlye Adams filling the vacancy on the Financial Affairs Committee (replacing Tom Downs) and Ruth Ann Hall will fill the vacancy on the Research and Service Committee (replacing Anup Agrawal).

Nominations are due for the Mediation Committee with the election to be held in December. Ombudsperson nominations are due in early November with the election to be held in January. A list of nominees for the Participation in the Selection of Deans and Chairs Committee should be compiled and sent to the Provost in November. The Provost will select two to fill vacancies on the committee.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Marilyn Handley & Charlotte Herrin*) The Faculty & Senate Governance Committee met and discussed course development. There are five

new course developers. It was suggested to add OIT question to the climate survey. It was pointed out that this addition might be too extensive for the climate survey and should be conducted separately.

Research & Service – (*Steve Burch & Andres Piepke*) This committee is planning to have a meeting with Dr. Carl Pinkert. Questions are being prepared for discussion during this meeting.

An animal care proposal expired August 24 and through clerical errors the protocol was not renewed. Several animals went off any protocol causing a violation of animal care protocol. A lack of communication and other violations occurred.

Faculty Life – (*Ed Stephenson & Pamela Payne-Foster*) The Faculty Life Committee met last week and discussed ride sharing programs. Dual career programs to find employment for trailing spouses was also discussed. The University of Alabama is trailing behind other institutions in these efforts. A report is being composed.

The climate survey is an opportunity to create an environment of values for future progress. Data could be longitudinal by using timeless questions to measure progress. The committee assigned issues to separate Faculty Senate standing committees to develop five to fifteen questions per category and forward to the Faculty Life Committee. Questions concerning the knowledge of responsibilities of each Vice President's office were included in a past survey. A short turn-around was suggested due to the holiday breaks in the next two months. The survey will be for all stakeholders and be distributed next spring.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Patricia Parmelee*) The Academic Affairs Committee had a meeting with Associate Provost Kevin Whitaker. The Faculty Handbook revisions were approved.

John Vincent reviewed the history of the Core Curriculum. The highlights are:

- Core Curriculum Oversight Committee (CCOC) was implemented in 1982.
- The number of courses had grown rapidly by 1990 creating concern about the absence of a guiding statement of philosophy, rationale and goals
- Task Force created goals of the core and proposed a prologue and goals.
- A new Task Force was created to consider reforming the core – stopped meeting after a year.
- Faculty adopted the State core with the addition of 6 hour foreign language/computer science (FL/CS) requirement and 6 hour writing (W) requirement.
- CCOC disbanded – functions transferred to another committee proposed – not activated.
- Faculty Senate immediately requested this be addressed.
- CCOC revised, reviewed guidelines and developed electronic system to handle course proposals.

- No approved or dated revisions to guidelines have occurred.
- Faculty Senate passed a Philosophy for the Baccalaureate Degree of a UA graduate to serve as prologue and goals underpinning the core curriculum and was to become a part of undergraduate catalogue which has yet to appear.

There has been no approved change in the actual core curriculum since 1997. The CCOC has been approving courses that do not comply with the established guidelines. The concern is the mathematics requirement which since fall 1998 was three hours of Math 110 or higher. Changing this requirement would require a faculty wide vote. Despite this the CCOC guidelines were changed (with no date or authority indicating the change) to accepting an equivalent to MA 110 or higher.

The Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee met with Associate Provost Kevin Whitaker in October 2014. In searching records his office had found at least six different versions of the core curriculum guidelines without being able to determine which version was the current or correct version. An unadulterated copy of the October 2008 CCOC guidelines has been found. Provost Whitaker and the Academic Affairs Committee feels a thorough examination of the core is due.

Options are to begin with the December 2008 guidelines for review and revisions; discard everything not approved by a State Discipline Committee; or take the core curriculum as it is now and as courses expire and come up for renewal acquire State approval or not or rewrite into the core and get approval. A statement on what the core is should be developed. Dialogue will continue with Provost Whitaker to jointly work on this issue. It takes a faculty wide vote and approval from UA President and Provost to change the core curriculum. CCOC can only make changes to its own guidelines. The core curriculum must hold rigidly to established standards. This issue will continue to be monitored and pursued.

The search committee for a UA Provost has been established.

Information Technology – (*Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff*) The Information Technology Committee met on September 23 to consider the climate survey issue and the cost, availability and contracts of software licensing.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) The Financial Affairs Committee will be setting a date for a meeting with Dr. Lynda Gilbert, Vice President for Financial Affairs. Topics to be discussed will be the University budget and debt, State appropriations, and freshmen scholarship expenses. Twenty per cent of freshmen receive some type tuition break. The University's budget is based on last year's enrollment and tuition continues to be lower than some other state institutions.

A business plan developed by Parking and Transportation Department calls for an increase of approximately \$20 per year for parking permits. Parking permit sales have decreased partly due to increased utilization of the bus system, bicycles, skateboarding and share-a-ride programs. Parking decks are under construction on the south and west

side of campus. It was suggested to have a Parking and Transportation Department representative address the Faculty Senate Steering Committee.

Discussion included the University's procedure and response concerning social media rumors and student and faculty illness. President Miller will consult Dr. Margaret Garner concerning UA's plan for those situations.

Financial Affairs Committee co-chair, Rainer Schad, gave a presentation comparing financial investment advantages and disadvantages of 403 (b), 457 (b) TIAA.CREF and Valic. There are high administrative fees and sometimes funds are discontinued with allocation to something else without any explanation.

Student Affairs – (*Joaqne Hale & JoAnn Oliver*) The Student Affairs Committee continues to address the reports of the Diversity Task Force. The gift card program is underway and the process and structure are in place. The suggested separation of undergraduate and graduate assemblies/associations continues to move forward. The Dean of the Graduate School will be consulted.

The Steering Committee has just received a draft of The University of Alabama's Personnel Policies for Non-Tenure Track, Renewable Contract Faculty document. This will be discussed at the Academic Affairs Committee meeting in November.

A Reception for the Deans will be held following the Steering Committee meeting on November 11, 2014.

Meeting adjourned 5:05 P.M.