

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 11, 2014 – 3:00 p.m. - #213 AIME**

APPROVED MINUTES

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

ABSENT: Bob Riter.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of October 14, 2014 were approved.

President's Report – (*Steve Miller*) President Miller reminded the Steering Committee members about the reception for UA Deans this afternoon from 5:00 until 6:30 P.M. at the Gorgas House.

President Miller attended The University of Alabama Board of Trustees meeting last Thursday and Friday and spoke concerning the smoke free policy going into effect on January 1, 2015. There were seven UA financial items concerning bond issues and building construction. Being proposed are extension and remodeling of the Music School building providing rehearsal facilities for the UA marching band and orchestras and parking decks. Funding for the parking decks was questioned. The Board of Trustees approved the first stage of this plan.

Reuben Cook has been recommended to be the faculty member on the Vice President for Development search committee.

Provost Benson reported SACS progress is on schedule. There possibly would be a few areas to which UA will have to respond.

Vice President – (*Donna Meester*) No report.

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) No report.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Marilyn Handley*) Nominations and elections for the Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans and Chairs Committee and the Mediation Committee are in progress. It was suggested to email the selection and election process to the committee nominees. Faculty climate survey questions have been sent to Ed Stephenson.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Andreas Piepke*) The committee met with Dr. Carl Pinkert, UA Vice President for Research. A lack of a broader vision for the University's research future, collaboration and other issues were discussed.

The SGA has requested three faculty members for the application review committee undergraduate research grant. More information is needed concerning time required and meeting details.

Faculty Life – (*Ed Stephenson & Pamela Payne-Foster*) The Faculty Life Committee is working on the faculty climate survey. The committee will meet on Tuesday before Thanksgiving to consider formats and framework. Some committees have not submitted their questions for the survey.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Patricia Parmelee*) The Academic Affairs Committee has submitted their faculty climate survey questions. The committee is working on the non-tenure track renewable contract faculty personnel policy. There are some objections because it would be a two-tier system. Establishing equality with some faculty members being job secure and some renewable every three years would be impossible. There was discussion concerning teaching responsibilities, policy issues, duties beyond those assigned and promotion issues. This committee will meet in two weeks to work on this document.

The Academic Affairs Committee approved the History of the Core Curriculum at The University of Alabama document. There were multiple Core Curriculum documents causing confusion about the original policy. Changes were made without dates. Word came from Kevin Whitaker that the original document has been found. This will be discussed in the meeting with the Provost on Thursday.

Information Technology – (*Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff*) The Information Technology Committee has submitted their faculty climate survey questions.

There was concern about the University providing and not providing site licenses for several software programs (EndNote \$63,000-3 yrs), Refworks (\$56-57,000-3yrs) and MathLab). Which software has the most usage would determine what the University would provide and will bring about more discussion. There was further discussion about software storage (3 years) and accessibility.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) The Financial Affairs Committee has been researching TIAA investments, benefits and pensions. The committee will request information from other vendors next year. There is an oversight committee here on campus that monitors TIAA-CREF. It was suggested the benefits office could do a better job informing potential candidates of the benefits offered by the University.

The purchasing process of the University is cumbersome and does not always make the most economical decisions concerning those purchases. The State bid law does enter into those decisions. Collaboration with the other two UA system institutions when making

purchases would result in better and wiser use of University funds. Some of the regulations are in place to prevent kickbacks. Further discussion included purchasing lab equipment and research supplies.

The surplus program for computers has been discontinued according to the IT department. Two year institutions are allowed to give away equipment but the four year institutions must put equipment for sale.

The Financial Affairs Committee will be meeting with UA's Vice President for Finance, Dr. Lynda Gilbert, next week.

Student Affairs – (*Joanne Hale & JoAnn Oliver*) The Alabama Reach Gift Card Program for students in need is ongoing. An announcement will be made at the Faculty Senate meeting requesting donations. The goal is fifty-two gift cards for various items such as gas and groceries. The deadline is November 21 for donations. President Miller will send an email as a reminder before next week's Faculty Senate meeting.

The committee continues to work on the election manual and the faculty climate survey questions.

Legislative Agenda – (*Kimberly Severt*) Gordon Stone, Executive Director of the Higher Education Partnership will speak at the Faculty Senate meeting on November 18th and will stress the importance of membership in this organization. Rona Donahoe will bring enrollment forms to the meeting. Higher Education Day will be April 9, 2015 in Montgomery to advocate for higher education.

The Legislative Agenda Committee has consisted of one person in the past. There was discussion concerning the addition of another representative and duties and changing the status to a member of the Steering Committee. The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee will follow up on this issue.

The Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee sub-committee has recommended increasing co-pays next year. The UA administration did not approve this recommendation.

In the three to five year for parking fee will increase \$20.00 per year. Parking and Transportation has to provide their own funding.

November 15th is the deadline for open enrollment.

Meeting adjourned 4:50 P.M.

The reception for the Deans was held at the Gorgas House and was well attended.