

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
AUGUST 12, 2014 – 3:00 P.M. – ROOM 111 AIME**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ATTENDING:** Steve Miller, Rona Donahoe, Charlotte Herrin, Steve Burch, Andreas Piepke, Pamela Payne-Foster, Ed Stephenson, Patricia Parmelee, John Vincent, Mangala Krishnamurthy, Clark Midkiff, Reuben Cook, Rainer Schad, JoAnn Oliver.

**ABSENT:** Donna Meester, Joanne Hale, Marilyn Handley.

**GUESTS:** UA President Judy Bonner, Provost Joe Benson, Cresandra Smothers; Dialog.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of June 10, 2014 were approved.

**President's Report** – (*Steve Miller*) Plans are being formulated to hold a Legislative Breakfast in the fall.

The Diversity Study Committee has issued an invitation to meet with representatives from the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation to discuss improving culture and ethnicity campus climates. This meeting will be August 14, 2014 from 7:00 – 9:30 P.M. in 354 Russell Hall. Dr. Jennifer Stollman will present strategies and methods to identify diversity issues and collaboration to develop and implement specific programs and initiatives designed to reduce and eliminate bias and oppression.

President Judy Bonner spoke to the Steering Committee concerning sorority recruitment. The bidding was opened last year providing an opportunity to reach out to a diverse group of young women. Fifteen of the eighteen historically white sororities have African-American members. By the end of the semester when officers were elected one of the groups had an African-American president. A tremendous amount of progress was made in a relatively short amount of time. All of the sororities already had minority members. Over three hundred women identified themselves as a minority member. Of that number twenty-two were African-American. President Bonner has met with the sorority presidents and in a separate meeting with alumni advisors asking their opinion about progress in the past year. Sorority presidents were enthusiastic and are reaching out to a diverse group. The sorority advisors were enthusiastic but expressed concern about the financial expense of sorority membership. Parents and family members expressed their wishes to have membership in the same sororities in which they participated when they were in college. The Greek national organization expects prospective members to have recommendations. Alums and other groups have been identified for each sorority to assist with compliance to this rule. President Bonner invited every national chapter to have representatives on UA campus during recruitment. Each has sent one or more to observe and participate in recruitment. Retired Associate

Vice President of Student Affairs, Kathleen Cramer, has been brought back to serve as an ombudsperson to address any recruitment concerns.

Questions and discussion from Steering Committee members included concerns about press coverage, a period of stepping back to allow recruitment progress, students attending community colleges due to costs, facilitation for transfer students, faculty and staff additions due to student growth, recruiting students from other countries, time needed for graduate school application and acceptance has decreased, enrollment numbers, college affordability and student debt, reports to high schools/community colleges reflecting transfer student progress and concerns about State appropriations.

The smoke-free campus issue was discussed and progress is being made.

Fraternities are making progress and have drafted a resolution to follow the lead of the sororities to recruit African-Americans and other minorities. There are approximately 2,250 young women participating in sorority recruitment. This has increased approximately 175 from last year giving the University of Alabama the largest number in the nation. Bids will be extended on Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. Probably less than 800 are from Alabama. Over 70% are from out of state mirroring the number from last year. The out-of-state enrollment assists the University overcome deficits in some areas caused by decreased funding.

**Secretary's Report** – (*Rona Donahoe*) Patty Sobecky, Assistant Provost, has been placed in charge of University committee assignments. Dr. Ana Corbalan, Associate Professor of Arts & Sciences; Modern Languages and Classics, has been elected to replace Celio Lo on the Mediation and Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee. Three or four nominees are needed for the Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans and Department Heads Committee for membership selection by the Provost. An election will be held by the Faculty Senate in November to replace Miguel Montero.

**Information Technology** – (*Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff*) The Information Technology Committee is need of feedback concerning specific technology problems to be addressed.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – (*Charlotte Herrin & Marilyn Handley*) Nominees will be taken and an election will be held at the August 19<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate meeting to replace Tyra Hilliard on the Mediation Committee. There is a question concerning wording of the Mediation and Discontinuance Committee's membership qualification description - "the administration will appoint tenured and tenured track faculty" for their two appointees but the description does not have that stipulation for the Faculty Senate's appointees. The issues addressed by this committee concern tenure and tenure track faculty. This correction or editing will be referred to the CUC.

**Research & Service** – (*Steve Burch & Andreas Piepke*) The Research & Service Committee will follow up on comments made by Senator Andreas Piepke at the June 10<sup>th</sup>

Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting including research grant applications and external funding.

President Miller began a discussion of the reports from the Faculty Senate Task Force for Excellence in Equity, Inclusion and Citizenship. Topics included prioritizing the most important issues and methods to accomplish this. President Miller will number the points in the first report from the task force and email this to each member of the Steering Committee for prioritizing in order of importance. It was suggested to form a Faculty Senate Diversity Committee in the future.

**Faculty Life** – (*Pamela Payne-Foster & Ed Stephenson*) The Faculty Life Committee will continue to pursue the child-care/elder care issue. There will be a report given to the Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee this fall. A report will be compiled to address how the University should respond to this need. A follow up will be done concerning the Diversity Study Committee with the point made that the different diversity organizations and committees should be coordinated into one central entity.

**Academic Affairs** – (*John Vincent & Patricia Parmelee*) The Academic Affairs Committee will be addressing the military academic policy, the Faculty Handbook, the clinical faculty policy and portions of the task force report.

**Information Technology** – (*Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff*) This committee will be scheduling a meeting with John McGowan with a composed list of questions concerning technology issues including establishing a central email domain. President Miller will attend the next meeting of this committee.

The Classroom Committee is active and has sent out a survey concerning classroom needs.

**Financial Affairs** – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) Concerns were expressed about the yearly rally in Montgomery with the Legislators. There is competition for the Legislator's attention from professional lobbyists. The Legislative Breakfast would give one-on-one time for questions about critical issues concerning the University of Alabama.

Senator Reuben Cook is the Chair of the United Way campaign. The University of Alabama has a high percentage of participation.

**Student Affairs** – (*Joanne Hale & JoAnn Oliver*) This committee will continue the gift card program, address graduate student involvement with SGA and items from the Task Force report.

Dr. Margaret Garner, formerly of the Faculty Senate, will be giving periodic reports concerning legislative activities.

Efforts are underway to compose a governing document to unify a non-tenure track clinical faculty promotion policy which will come back to the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee and the Faculty Senate Steering Committee.

Meeting adjourned 4:50 P.M.