

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2014 – 3:00 P.M. - #213 AIME**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ATTENDING:** Steve Miller, Rona Donahoe, Ed Stephenson, Pamela Payne-Foster, Charlotte Herrin, John Vincent, JoAnn Oliver, Rainer Schad, Pat Parmelee, Joanne Hale, Marilyn Handley, Bob Riter, Clark Midkiff, Andreas Piepke.

**ABSENT:** Donna Meester, Steve Burch, Mangala Krishnamurthy.

**GUESTS:** Bernadette Chavira-Trull, Ashley Newman (Supply Store), Peter Schulte (Representative to Research & Grant Committee).

**PRESS:** Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of August 12, 2014 were approved.

**President's Report** – (*Steve Miller*) The Legislative Breakfast will be held in November with funding provided by the Provost's office. Faculty members will be invited and will be required to confirm their attendance.

Appreciation was expressed to Rona Donahoe for the survey of senators to establish the six most important issues from the Faculty Senate Task Force for Excellence in Equity, Inclusion, and Citizenship's first report. Those six issues are:

In the first Task Force Report, fourteen recommendations were made. The Faculty Senate then surveyed itself, with Qualtrics, to establish the six most important recommendations. They are:

1. Modify the SGA Elections Manual to add regulations aimed at preventing obstruction of SGA Elections.
2. Add language to the SGA Elections Manual that prohibits coercing students to vote.
3. Encourage the Elections Board, or other relevant bodies, to establish mechanisms to monitor and enforce new and existing election codes.
4. Modify the SGA Elections Manual to extend the statute of limitations for being held accountable for voter fraud.
5. Modify the SGA Elections Manual to increase the financial penalties for election code violations.
6. Modify the SGA Elections Manual to add language prohibiting mobile voting stations off campus.

Fifty-six of sixty-eight senators responded giving 82% participation. Following discussion the follow up of the six issues will be done by the Student Affairs Committee headed by JoAnn Oliver and Joanne Hale. Specific polling stations with campaign free areas will be a specific item to be addressed.

President Miller wrote a letter to President Bonner including the six Faculty Senate priorities with copies to Joe Benson, (Provost), Kelli Knox-Hall (Office of Student Conduct), Tim Hebson (Dean of Students), Hamilton Bloom (SGA President) and Steven Hood (Housing & Residential Community Director).

Hamilton Bloom, President of SGA and Provost Joe Benson will speak to the Faculty Senate meeting on October 21, 2014.

Bernadette Chavira-Trull and Ashley Newman with the Book Department of the University of Alabama Supply Store met with the Steering Committee to address the shortage and incorrect ordering of text books. The Book Department including all inventories was moved out of Ferguson Center in May for renovations then moved back in July along with the installation of a new on-line book ordering system. This on-line adoption tool will have submitters, reviewers and worthy approvers. The submitter is the faculty member submitting the book order, the reviewer will be determined by the academic department and the Book Store will be the approver. There was further explanations concerning the workings of the new ordering system and training will be ongoing. Questions included email frequency, clickers, and over-ordering text books. The Book Store staff would be happy to meet either individually or for departments to answer any questions concerning the new book ordering process.

There was a break down in communication between the Book Store and faculty members, delayed deliveries from the publishers, callous attitudes on the part of Book Store employees, and books not arriving on time for classes beginning the semester. Measures have been taken to correct these problems and support will be provided to the University faculty in every way possible.

**Secretary's Report** – (*Rona Donahoe*) A Faculty Senate representative is needed for a CUC appointment. Steve Bunker was mistakenly appointed to two committees. There is a vacancy for the Interim Program Coordination Committee. Ed Stephenson volunteered to serve in this position.

The Faculty Senate representative to the Research and Grants Committee, Pete Shulte, addressed the Steering Committee meeting. In efforts to determine time and place for RGC meetings, several emails were sent by Shulte but he was sent to several different people. Angie Shotts, RGC Coordinator, responded to him by stating that to her knowledge no previous Faculty Senate representative had asked to attend the committee meetings. According to Shotts, Shulte would not be eligible to sit on reviews of RGC grants since he would be a potential applicant. Faculty Senate committee representatives are full voting members of standing committees and he would only recuse himself when his application is being reviewed. Shulte, also on the Faculty Senate's Research and

Service Committee, had a meeting where several questions developed concerning the role of research in the institution and RGC grants. The RGC grant process has undergone major changes including a three-tier system of funding implemented solely by Dr. Pinkert based on his previous experience. He consulted with the Deans of the three colleges and possibly others. There will be training for reviewers and applicants. The manual outlines the three-tiers of funding which supposedly would make more funding available primarily through cost sharing. Interdisciplinary collaboration will be prioritized at the highest tiers of funding. It does appear that the \$6,000 grant will still be available with the colleges providing half of this amount. The new manual looks different and is seemingly contradictory. At the top of the manual is a statement concerning committee membership, "Faculty Senate Representative and Liaison Members from University Administration". The Faculty Senate Research and Service Committee will follow up on these issues.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – (*Marilyn Handley & Charlotte Herrin*) The question this committee is addressing is online course development and CCS. Communication is a big issue. Final copy is not received until early January making it problematic to make major changes, response is slow and access is difficult. A list of items will be composed for input showing where the problems are and making it user friendly for students and faculty. The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee will continue to follow up on this situation. Joanne Hale proposed the senior student team developing an automated work flow system make a presentation. The Steering Committee is in total agreement with this.

**Research & Service** – (*Steve Burch & Andres Piepke*) The Research & Service Committee met last week and developed an action item list. The six thousand dollar research grants were discussed and the Vice President of Research will be asked to address the committee. President Miller will send an email to the entire faculty requesting any pressing issues be forwarded to this committee to pursue.

NPR reported NIH funding to research institutions continues to drop. UAB receives \$250 million dollars from NIH for research and UAH receives no funding at all from NIH. UA looks pretty much like the national trend.

The Research Compliance Office has not taken action following a massive death of animals being used in research. Other compliance missteps have been taken by RCO and should be documented. The Research & Service Committee stated that written complaints, rules, evidence and names of those responsible be sent to the Research and Service Committee for proper action. New titles and raises have been received by this office.

**Faculty Life** – (*Ed Stephenson & Pamela Payne-Foster*) Copies of the 2006 Community Climate Survey and the 2009 Faculty Climate Survey were distributed. The 2009 survey has no record of being distributed and no results could be found. Reuben Cook sent a list of climate surveys conducted at other institutions. The Provost's office will administered the survey but the Faculty Senate will compose the survey. The main focus of the new

survey should be on the faculty's response to the climate on campus. One of the questions should be directed toward use and condition of facilities. The Faculty Life Committee along with Pat Parmelee will begin composing a survey document and bring back to the Steering Committee.

The Faculty Life Committee met on September 2 and divided the following topics among the members – enhanced child and elder care, car pool issues, spousal hires and recruitment, and climate survey. The elder care web site will advertise their available services.

**Academic Affairs** – (*John Vincent & Patricia Parmelee*) The Academic Affairs Committee proposed no changes in the Military Credit Policy Overview policy. This will be added to the next Senate agenda.

The recent addition of a non-MA course as a core math course issue has been forwarded to Kevin Whitaker, Associate Dean for Academic Programs. He has been invited to the next Academic Affairs Committee meeting for clarification of the course approval process. Years ago a finance course was admitted after the regular deadline for core curriculum proposals. The Vice President for Student Affairs approved the course without any input and it became a core math course. The issue was that an administrator could approve a course without any faculty input. Core Curriculum Oversight Committee guidelines have now been changed so that now the appropriate subcommittee must be consulted. When the temporary approval ran out, the CCOC did not approve the course, twice. It was resubmitted and the subcommittee voted against approval but they have to forward anything they do, positive or negative, to the committee for a vote. The only math faculty member on the CCOC moved to another institution, couldn't make a presentation about it, his replacement was not named until after the vote and the issue passed. Math courses are special in the CCOC which states that a designated math course must be a math course to assure the students were receiving a certain level of math in the course. Three years ago the promise was made to have someone competent to review any math course to assure the basic content was the level of the MA110 course. That was not done in the recent addition of a non-MA course as a core math course. The course passed without a math member of CCOC and it was not assessed by a competent faculty member to determine if the course met the proper level. The online CCOC guidelines wording about math courses, with no dated approved changes, has been changed. It now reads, "Mathematic requirements must be satisfied with a course equivalent to Math 110 or higher instead of the mathematics requirements being satisfied with a course of Math 110 or higher". The committee was given State guidelines not UA guidelines when they voted. The UA undergraduate catalogue states MA 110 or higher. The intent of the Academic Affairs Committee is to determine policies and processes are properly followed and will request Kevin Whitaker review the course to determine the math content and have a competent faculty member to see if it is truly equivalent to Math 110 or not. The committee will also ask about the discrepancy in the wording of the guidelines and to have the course removed for the spring semester until it is properly reviewed. The committee will request that the CCOC chair be restored.

**Information Technology Committee** – (*Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff*) The Information Technology Committee has discussed conducting a survey of faculty. There are different technology offices not under John McGowan’s control. Upgrading of technology on campus is underway with extra funding being made available.

**Financial Affairs** – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) The Financial Affairs Committee will be considering the University’s budget for the coming year, amount of debt, course fee distribution, improving University investments for retiring faculty, administrative and management fees. A professional consultant could be brought in to assess and advise on financial matters.

**Student Affairs** – (*Joanne Hale & JoAnn Oliver*) The Student Affairs Committee will meet next week. The gift card program for students will continue. The student team presented their scholarship app program to Dr. Hood.

**Legislative Agenda** – Kimberly Severt, Associate Professor of Human Nutrition/Hospitality Management, has agreed to serve as the Faculty Senate’s Legislative Agenda representative. The point was made that this position technically is not a part of the Steering Committee so the bylaws would need to be changed to allow participation of this position.

The US News & World Report ranked UA 88<sup>th</sup> of public and private universities and UA ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the SEC. Vanderbilt was 16<sup>th</sup>, Florida was 48<sup>th</sup>, Georgia 62<sup>nd</sup> and Texas A&M 68<sup>th</sup>.

Implementing the smoke-free campus policy could include training for people dealing with the subject.

Meeting adjourned 5:10 P.M.