

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

JANUARY 19, 2016 – 3:30 P.M. - #1092 SHELBY HALL

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Fred Whiting/Bob Findlay, Emily Wittman/William Martin, Joanne Hale/Richard Doherty, Pamela Payne-Foster/Anne Halli-Tierney, Joy Burnham/Janie Hubbard, Jen Nickelson/Hunter Galloway.

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Jon Benstead, Martin Evans, Lesley Reid, Jim Brown, Ruth Ann Hall, Tom Lopez, Carol Donovan, John Petrovic, Paul Puzinauskas, Brad Tuggle, Reuben Cook, Brian Gordon, Paul Horwitz.

GUESTS: State Representative Bill Poole, Vice President of Strategic Communication Linda Bonnin.

PRESS: Cresandra Smothers (Dialog).

Representative Poole began the meeting with a review of his and his family's background. A review of the 2015 Legislative session included the passing of the 2016 budget, distribution of new discretionary funds, rolling appropriation gaps, establishing the education budget, addressing general fund deficits, \$80 million dollars in new revenue (added taxes), \$80 million dollar cuts in the general fund, threat of budget consolidation, distribution of the use tax, Rolling Reserve Tax amendment (built-in increments), and PACT program appropriations support (cap, re-amortization, allocation changes). The education budget passed without a dissenting vote.

The Legislative session will begin in two weeks to consider the 2017 budget. Medicaid is requesting \$156 million dollars more than was allocated last year. Prisons and DHR along with many other agencies are requesting more funding. The Legislature needs to make some hard decisions to fix the serious situations in the General Fund other than shifting funds for a temporary solution. In 1994 Medicaid and Corrections consumed 33% of the budget. This year it has almost doubled at 60%. There are increases in Alabama's population, medical, health care costs and other expenses. Representative Poole will introduce a bill to change the State budget to a two-year cycle rather than a one-year cycle. The Educational Appropriations Committee in the House of Representatives has begun meetings to solidify the 2017 education budget.

Several State offices will vacate in 2018 including the Governor, Lt. Governor, possibly Secretary of State, Attorney General, Chief Justice and State Treasurer. Questions from Faculty Senate Senators included the lawsuit concerning district boundary distribution and Medicaid expansion which could bring in more money but the State would have to come up with millions to fund the expansion.

Alabama Unites for Education is a group formed to present a united front to protect funding for education in Alabama. Faculty members were urged to join in this effort.

Vice President of Strategic Communication Linda Bonnin addressed the Faculty Senate meeting giving information about her background at the University of Memphis and Louisiana State University. A revised UA web site has been developed which is www.ua.edu. The site is more engaging and dynamic. Slides were displayed showing the new site with new search tools for campus tours, student application

forms and employment applications along with other action tabs such as videos rotating weekly at the top of the page. Events and editorial content are at the bottom of the page. The web page is very visual, easy to navigate and optimizes all devices. The 2015 Football National Championship is featured in colorful photos on the web site, billboards and digital ads for visibility and attention. There were 37,000 students in Dallas and 11,000 students in Phoenix contacting UA in various ways for enrollment information as a result of the football play-off and championship ad campaign. The next six months for VP Bonnin will include learning, meetings, questions, social media and marketing, communications and establishing relationships with the goal of defining the future together. Bonnin prefers being proactive rather than reactive with transparency and input. Senators posed questions concerning news cycles and listing fans first in some ads and separation of UA, UAH and UAB.

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

The Faculty Senate meeting minutes of December 8, 2015 were approved.

President's Report – (*Donna Meester*) The Strategic Planning Committee has met twice and a number of separate committees have evolved under that banner. A survey is being conducted for opinions regarding the status of the University. There are four questions (where have we been, where are we now, where are we going and how do we get there?) and everyone was encouraged to participate. There are web sites and links to the survey giving narrative space for additional comments.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee has been invited to attend a luncheon following the Board of Trustees meeting at UAB on Friday, February 5. The meeting begins at 11:00 and usually takes no more (often less) than an hour. Lunch will be served immediately following. Dr. Whitaker will provide transportation. Please RSVP to President Meester by noon Tuesday, January 19.

Vice Provost of Information Technology John McGowan and Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox will speak at the Faculty Senate meeting in February.

Vice President's Report – (*Ed Stephenson*) Ed Stephenson announced that he will not seek the office of Faculty Senate Vice President for the coming year. In the interest of officer transition, he urged anyone wishing to seek this office to submit their name and letter of intent to the Faculty and Senate Governance Committee. Nominations are due in February and the election is held in March.

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) Secretary Donahoe submitted a request to OIRA for a faculty head count. Letters have been sent to the Deans for verification and to be returned by January 25th. Letters will be sent to the Deans in February with information about seats that will be vacated by end of terms and those senators that will be continuing. New senators will be elected and in place by April 1, 2016.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Chapman Greer*) The Academic Affairs Committee continues work on the Faculty Handbook. The Academic Affairs Committee has forwarded revisions. Other sections of the handbook assigned to other committees have been delayed due to work on the Staff Handbook. The Academic Affairs Committee will be meeting later this month.

Community Affairs – (*Kim Severt & Amy Dayton*) Higher Education Day will be held in Montgomery on February 25 with transportation and lunch provided. A group of students will attend also.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Robert Riter*) Two faculty names eligible for the Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans and Department Chairs and in the Evaluation of Academic

Units Committee have been submitted – Stacy Alley (Asst. Professor of Musical Theater/Dance) and Yuebin Guo (Mechanical Engineering). These names will be sent to the Provost for selection to fill one position on this committee.

Electronic voting methods were discussed with Big Pulse not being the best fit for the elections held by the Faculty Senate. Qualtrics offers more control of the process and electronic voting is certainly the best option for the Senate.

Task Force II changes and discussions with various entities continue to move these issues forward.

Faculty Senate Bylaw revisions were presented at last month's meeting. The motion was made to accept these changes. The motion passed with one abstention.

Faculty Senate officer (President, Vice President and Secretary) nominations are due by February 10 along with a written letter of intent. The nominations for Ombudsperson are needed by early February.

The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee will have a draft of the Faculty Senate Handbook ready in February.

Faculty Life – (*Brian Gordon & Pamela Payne-Foster*) The Faculty Life Committee is working on the development of a university-wide family leave policy, promotion of non-tenure track policy, tenure clock stop policy and recommendations for childcare facilities on campus. Institutions (33) have been contacted to gather data about those policies on their campuses. Two have a family leave policy that exceeds FMLA as required by Federal law, twenty-two have a tenure clock stop policy and twenty-nine have childcare facilities on campus. Plans are to present policy proposals to the Faculty Senate during the February meeting.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) The Financial Affairs Committee has met with administrators concerning UA's budget. The committee solicited input and examples of purchasing problems. Four situations were referred to the committee.

The committee encouraged UA administration to look at competitive retirement investment plans from other vendors with the goal of reduced overhead charges. The committee will look at the issue of over charges being reimbursed.

Information Technology – (*Clark Midkiff & Mangala Krishnamurthy*) The Information Technology Committee will send Vice Provost for Information Technology John McGowan a list of items to be discussed prior to their meeting.

Research & Service – (*Steve Burch & Steven Jones*) The VP for Research held pilot meetings regarding research during the fall. The Research and Service Committee members attended meetings and are in the process of obtaining more information. The committee will be meeting next week.

Student Affairs – (*JoAnn Oliver & Charlye Adams*) Charlye Adams is replacing Joanne Hale who has taken a position with the Governor's Office. The committee continues to work on recommendations contained in Diversity Task Force #1. The committee has met with Dr. David Grady and plan to have a final report for the February Faculty Senate meeting.

NTRC – Amy Dayton has replaced Joanne Hale as co-chair of this committee. A replacement on the committee membership is needed.

The documents on tenure clock stop policy and promotion of non-tenure track policy final revisions will be recirculated, rewritten and finalized to present to the Faculty Senate.

The ad hoc committee on **Diversity Report #3 and #4** met with Dr. David Grady, Vice President for Student Affairs.

Rona Donahoe, member of the **Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee**, requested input on the new pharmacy system now in place. Some denial of claims and other medical situations have been reported. Any problems should be reported to Rona for further action.

There was a request in December from a group wanting to hold an event in the common area but was relegated to an off campus congregational location. The Strategic Planning Committee is addressing this issue. It was suggested the Faculty Senate should be involved in the approval/disapproval of University grounds usage.

A senator suggested the Faculty Senate take a role and get involved in control of arms and gun free zones decisions and policies. This discussion will begin in the Faculty Senate Steering Committee.

Norm Baldwin reiterated that Diversity Task Force co-chairs of the subcommittees continue to reinforce the work done over the past three years.

Meeting adjourned 5:05 P.M.