

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
JANUARY 20, 2015 – 3:30 PM - #110 AIME**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE:** Nikhil Bilwakesh, Sheila Black, John Blitz, Theodore Trost, Lenka Nolan, Walt Robbins, Eyun-Jung Ki, Carol Donovan, Karen Spector, John Vincent, Glenn Tootle, Reuben Cook, Brian Gordon.

**ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE:** Pamela Melton/Amy Traylor.

**GUESTS:** Coach Kristy Curry (Women's Basketball), Beth Howard (Title IX Coordinator), Cresandra Smothers (Dialog), Ed Enoch (Tuscaloosa News).

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

The minutes of the December 9, 2014 Faculty Senate meeting were approved with corrections.

**President's Report** – (*Steve Miller*) President Miller welcomed the senators for the first Faculty Senate meeting following the holiday break and to a smoke free campus.

The SACS reaccreditation process is in the closing stages and will wrap up sometime this summer.

President Miller encouraged senators to attend their assigned committee meetings and report back to the Senate any pertinent issues to move forward.

President Miller gave a review of events following President Bonner's announcement that she would be stepping down this summer to return to teaching. President Miller met with Chancellor Witt, Board of Trustees President pro tem Karen Brooks, Provost Joe Benson, a representative of the company hired to conduct the presidential search and others. There is an ongoing search for the position of Provost since Joe Benson plans to retire this summer. There are also ongoing searches for two Vice President's positions as well as Dean's position vacancies. Over the holidays special meetings were held with Faculty Senate officers and past presidents. Once it was clear that Dr. Bonner would be stepping down, the goal was to have a more transparent presidential search with strong faculty representation on the search committee and faculty presence and validation in the search process. President Miller and former Faculty Senate President Clark Midkiff are members of the presidential search committee. There will be faculty representation at all candidate interviews and up-to-date progress reports. President Miller has emailed a request to all faculty members to forward their feedback on what should be the focus of the presidential search committee. The responses will be compiled into one document and presented to the presidential search committee. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee recommended suspending the Provost search and an interim provost appointed which would be preferable to having a presidential and provost search being conducted simultaneously. Dr. Bonner decided the slowing of the Provost search and establishing a pool of candidates would allow the new president, when selected, the choice of a new Provost. Comments from senators included references to the stability of the president's position due to several changes in the last few years and to ask presidential candidates if they would be willing to take disciplinary or other action on campus that might not be popular but was determined to be the appropriate thing to do

and do it. Composition of the presidential search committee is partially composed of four faculty members and two administrators holding academic positions and the presidential search committee is advisory only but the advice can be strong. President Miller expressed appreciation to all those giving their time during the holidays for meetings and special appreciation to the Steering Committee for its work.

**Vice President's Report** – (*Donna Meester*) Vice President Meester will be meeting with various committees concerning the Diversity Task Force report. She will also be meeting with Steven Hood, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, by the end of the month. Dr. Bonner states that she will be ready to move important issues forward.

**Secretary's Report** – (*Rona Donahoe*) Faculty headcount data has been received from the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment. This information will be sent to divisions to check for accuracy concerning part-time temporary or permanent faculty. Letters will then be sent to the Deans with the correct number of senators needed for their division/school and elections will begin. Preliminary numbers indicate there will be an increase in the number of senators in the Faculty Senate. If that comes to pass, an expanded meeting space must be secured.

Vice President Meester introduced Beth Howard, UA's Title IX Coordinator, to speak about what her office does and how to provide a safe environment for employees, students and visitors. The Title IX office oversees all areas of discrimination, harassment, sexual assault or domestic violence or incident of retaliation, gender discrimination and stalking. Flyers were distributed with reporting channel information for any of these violations. The Title IX office responsibilities include conducting an investigation by interviewing the accuser, accused, witnesses and developing a final report concerning the incident. Faculty members were encouraged to provide academic support for any student involved in an incident. Relocation, no contact orders, free counseling and police patrols can be arranged, if needed. Confidentiality and information about campus resources are priorities of this office. A bystander intervention program is being developed this semester. Comments from senators were questions concerning the accumulation of data in domestic violence incidents, statistics on dating violence seem low but reported numbers do not include off campus situations, pressure to not report incidences, male/female rape prevention resources, conducting investigations at the same time police are investigating without obstructing justice and the presence of alcohol on campus.

Women's Head Basketball Coach Kristy Curry was introduced. Her background includes years at Purdue, and Texas Tech in Lubbock. Coach Curry issued an invitation to the senators to attend one of the women's basketball games and stated she would be glad to assist with tickets. Education, leadership, class and integrity were characteristics emphasized for her team.

**Faculty Life** – (*Pamela Payne-Foster & Ed Stephenson*) A draft of the faculty climate survey was presented to the Faculty Life Steering Committee. The Steering Committee thought the survey was too long and too detailed. Each Faculty Senate Committee has been asked to look at their questions and give modifications to the Faculty Life Committee.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – (*Charlotte Herrin & Marilyn Handley*) The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee continues to work on the possibility of electronic elections. Expansion of the Legislative Agenda Committee is being reviewed. There are two nominations for Ombudsperson.

**Legislative Agenda** – (*Kimberly Severt*) Confirming a date for a Legislative Breakfast to be attended by the Faculty Senate only is in process. Hopefully the Tuscaloosa delegates will be involved.

**Student Affairs** – (*Joanne Hale & JoAnn Oliver*) The separation of the Graduate Student Association from the Student Government Association is a primary issue of this committee. The Student Affairs Committee will seek clarity on Steven Hood's response to the Diversity Task Force Report. A meeting was held with the Student Affairs subcommittee to discuss the climate survey and suggested reducing the number of questions to twenty allowing more participation.

**Research & Service** – (*Steve Burch & Andreas Piepke*) The notes from a meeting with Dr. Carl Pinkert, VP for Research, were vetted and forwarded to Dr. Pinkert. A primary concern is the lack of vision in research for the University. Other specific concerns are matching requirements for grants which were rescinded the day before the deadline. Data concerning those applicants or potential applicants that did not apply due to altered requirement will be researched.

**Academic Affairs** – (*John Vincent & Pat Parmelee*) A compromise following the original proposal of 1/3 Office of Research, 1/3 College and 1/3 department has been reached between the Vice President for Research and UA Deans with matching funds from the Office of Research being increased from 1/3 to 1/2 with department and college working out the remainder. Proposals are going out but it is not known what this will look like for the next round of proposals. A special Academic Affairs meeting next Tuesday will focus on the non-tenure track renewable contract document. Kevin Whitaker will address the status of the core curriculum at their next meeting.

**Information Technology** – (*Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff*) This committee will meet next Tuesday to discuss Diversity Task Force Report 3. Other issues are on hold until this document is completed.

**Financial Affairs** – (*Rainer Schad & Reuben Cook*) No report.

#### **New Business** –

The Vice President for Student Affairs search committee is looking at applications with two of those sent to President Bonner. Later another slate of candidates was received and the search committee will meet on Friday to decide if any of the candidates on the second slate will be forwarded.

Notification should be sent to Secretary Rona Donahoe if their University committee has not met.

President Miller will send a reminder email to the entire faculty requesting input about the characteristics and qualifications they wish to see in the next UA president.

Meeting adjourned 4:40 P.M.