

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 2015
3:30 PM – 1092 Shelby

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Martin Evans/Drew Lewis, Margaret Peacock/Jennifer Shoaff, Steve Miller/Steven Yates, Steven Jones/Alan Lane.

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Peter Schulte, Theodore Trost, Fred Whiting, Jim Brown, Walt Robbins, Carol Donovan, Kagendo Mutua, Paul Puzinauskas, Brian Gordon, Jen Nickelson, Mirit Eyal-Cohen.

GUESTS: **Dr. Michael Parker**, School of Social Work, UA/UAB joint appointment; **Ms. Karen Burns** – Instructional Developer, Office of Multimedia Services

PRESS: Cresandra Smothers (Dialog).

Dr. Michael Parker (Age Ready Assessment) – Dr. Parker related his personal history which led him to his area of research on aging and elder care. At the end of his presentation, he mentioned an Age Ready Assessment Website (www.parentcarereadiness.com) aimed at helping lead faculty and staff through the steps needed to ensure readiness for aging and elder care issues.

Ms. Karen Burns (Faculty Website Development) – Ms. Burns directed Senators to <http://people.ua.edu>, a simple Web development tool devoted to help faculty and students create personal, research, or teaching Websites in real time within a Web browser, using three easy steps. The created Websites can contain photographs and video, are externally hosted, have no security issues, and require little maintenance after set-up. Bama Websites should migrate to the people.ua.edu platform before the Bama server is taken down. Multimedia Services provides workshops (2-3 per month) and personal technical support. Workshop attendance is encouraged, but not required. Workshops can be offered for a department. An online training guide is also available.

Roll Call and Quorum Check (*Rona Donahoe*)

Approval/Corrections to the Minutes for September 15, 2015 (*Rona Donahoe*)

President's Report – (*Donna Meester*)

Linda Bonnin, the new VP for Strategic Communications, will start November 2, 2015. She was previously at LSU. Robert Pierce, the new VP for Advancement, began work on September 1, 2015. He was previously at the University of Mississippi.

Meester reported that President Bell spoke about Strategic Planning at the Fall University Faculty & Staff Meeting. Provost Whitaker is chairing the Strategic Planning Committee, which is currently being formed. Meester expects the committee to be finalized within the week. The Provost search will begin after the Strategic Plan is developed.

A Graduate School Dean Search Committee has been formed: six faculty members were elected by a vote of the Faculty; a graduate student representative and administrative members were appointed.

Climate Survey – President Meester asked who has read the narrative comments collected by the Climate Survey. Several Senators raised their hands. She stated that many of the comments clustered into specific issue areas which will be assigned to FS Standing Committees for follow-up.

Meeting with Representative Bill Poole – Senate Officers and co-chairs of the Community Affairs Committee met with Rep. Poole to discuss state funding for Higher Education, an ongoing concern.

Senate Communication – President Meester reminded Senators of their responsibility to communicate with their units, and used CCIS Senators as role models in this regard. She encouraged them to refer faculty to the Senate Website and invite faculty to come to Senate meetings. Meester is trying to make the agendas more informative and will post each one on the Senate Website several days before each meeting. She requested Senators to send her items for the agendas. Upcoming speakers include Representative Bill Poole, John McGowan, Lane McLelland and Mayor Walt Maddox. Her goal is to improve communication with the faculty.

Three volunteers are needed to review SGA undergraduate student research grant applications during November 2-6 or November 9-13. An email message requesting volunteers was sent the previous week to all Senators, but received no responses.

President Meester asked Senators to arrive on time to meetings and thanked them for staying until the end of meetings.

Vice President's Report – (*Ed Stephenson*)

Task Force Report #2 Update – The Faculty & Senate Governance Committee met with Dr. Grady, VP for Student Affairs, on 10/21. The primary topic of discussion was revising the Capstone Creed to reflect the University's commitment to diversity, inclusivity, and pluralism. The committee also met with Provost Whitaker on 10/21 to discuss how the data gathering measures recommended by the Task Force can be aligned with the University's ongoing strategic planning process.

Task Force Report #3 Update – The Ad Hoc Committee (Norm Baldwin, Chair) has met three times to discuss several issues related to Greek diversity. Committee members agreed to target 4 priorities for immediate implementation: (1) modify Code of Student Conduct to prohibit social boycotting of chapters that desegregate, (2) Track diversity data; (4) Report data to Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life; (7) Recommend that University funding and new chapters be predicated on diversity issues. Priorities (3), (5) and (7) all deal with member selection issues, will be more difficult to implement, and therefore will be targeted for later implementation.

The Ad Hoc Committee is also inviting guests to its meetings to gather information about Greek life, intake policies, the Machine, etc. The Committee has written a series of questions to ask guests, gathering information on the diversity policies of the national organizations, and is reviewing Report #4 (Citizenship) to determine which recommendations may lay within the Committee's jurisdiction.

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*)

Donahoe reported that a survey link for prioritization of Task Force Report #4 recommendations will be sent to all Senators after the meeting. The survey must be completed by midnight on Wednesday, October 28th. A second prioritization survey for Task Force Report #1 plus Additional Recommendations will be sent on November 2nd.

Senate Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs – (Chapman Greer & John Vincent)

Met with Dean of Continuing Studies to discuss issues raised in Climate Survey with the distribution of tuition dollars, which turned out to be controlled by the divisions. Learned that the Bryant Conference Center will offer discounts for University use of facilities.

SOI issues raised by Climate Survey were investigated. OIRA study indicates that low student response rates are still representative opinions. Academic units can add questions to the SOI survey, but not individual faculty.

Faculty Handbook review is underway. Handbook fragments have been consolidated into a single document, a table of contents and pagination have been added to facilitate review and revision.

New Classroom Building meetings were held to discuss design of AV classrooms and obtain faculty input. Meetings facilitated improvements in the 200 seat classrooms, but many issues identified in 100 seat classrooms have not been addressed.

Community Affairs – (Amy Dayton & Kimberly Severt)

The Committee met with Mayor Walt Maddox to discuss Senate involvement with community-based issues in Tuscaloosa. The Mayor will address the Senate in January. The Committee also met with Dr. Pruitt, VP for Community Affairs. The Council on Community-Based Partnerships will hold its annual awards luncheon in April. The Council provides several seed awards and travel awards with a March 1st deadline for funding proposals. More information is available on the Website. A task force has been formed to examine the Faculty Activity Report and is exploring ways to embed the reporting of community-based research in the FAR with a data base. Goal is to develop an interactive map of Alabama to promote development of collaborative research projects. Faculty interested in participating should contact Dr. Pruitt or Elizabeth Hartley.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (Charlotte Herrin & Robert Riter)

A review of the Faculty Senate's Bylaws is underway. Committee reviewed and discussed practices of faculty senates at other institutions with regard to term limits for senators and officers. The Committee does not recommend any changes in current practices at this time, but sees a need to educate faculty about Faculty Senate rules.

Election of Mediation Committee members was conducted by electronic voting. Steven Hobbs was elected to Seat #1. Only 64% of the Senate participated in the second vote, which did not return a majority for any of the remaining candidates. The Senate voted to suspend the rules to conduct a run-off election between Bocksmeyer and Burnham, who received the most votes of the remaining candidates. A third round of electronic voting will be conducted to fill Seat #2.

Task Force Report #2 Update – Met with Dr. Grady to request integration of Task Force recommendations into the Capstone Creed. The Committee would also like the Provost to include items from Task Force Report #2 in the Strategic Plan.

Faculty Life – (Brian Gordon & Pamela Payne-Foster)

Pamela Payne-Foster reminded the Senate of the Faculty Life Committee's priorities for this year: Childcare, Eldercare, Comprehensive Maternity/Paternity Leave. The Committee is reviewing policies of peer institutions and will make a report on its findings in November.

Financial Affairs – (Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad)

Committee will meet with Lynda Gilbert, VP for Financial Affairs, to discuss budget and procurement problems identified in Climate Survey.

Met with Lisa Rhiney re: University funding practices. Course fees differ by college and are distributed to departments by the division. 40% of indirect funds from research grants is distributed to the colleges; it is up to the deans to decide where this funding goes. Of the 60% which stays in Central Administration, 50% is used for start-up costs and 50% funds the Office for Sponsored Programs. There have been no increases in college operating funds in 25-30 years. Continuing Studies has made up the difference in operating costs and also funded renovation projects. Some colleges have an informal policy of holding vacant positions for 1 year; colleges keep this salary money. Raise money cannot be moved from one employee category to another. State funding reductions of more than \$2-3M can no longer be absorbed. Research funding and Advancement fundraising are expected to be major sources of revenue for the future, rather than growth in undergraduate tuition.

GTA and travel fund allocations were issues raised in the Climate Survey. These allocations are controlled by the Deans.

Met with Calvin Brown, National Alumni Association Director. Alumni Association provides >\$4M scholarships each year and has >\$40M in endowed scholarship funds. UA car tag fees are used to help match new scholarship fund contributions. The Alumni Association provides \$100,000/yr to fund the Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Awards. Also conducts one-on-one recruiting of students.

Information Technology – (Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff)

Following up on 3 issues raised in Climate Survey: (1) Lack of training of student Help Desk workers. This is recognized by OIT as a problem and they will take steps to direct faculty to appropriate staff. (2) Lack of commonality of classroom AV equipment. This is caused by frequent upgrades in equipment by manufacturers and classroom renovations. (3) After hours IT help. Not deemed to be cost effective when tried a few years ago, but growth in student body and increase in evening classes may warrant reexamination of this.

The Committee requests help from faculty in identifying IT problems.

Research & Service – (Steve Burch & Steven Jones)

Committee met with Dr. Carl Pinkert, VP for Research, to discuss issues raised in Climate Survey (faculty leaving UA for research-related issues: teaching loads, lack of graduate student support, etc.). Lack of vision (goals and timetable for reaching goals) from the Office for Research was cited as a top faculty concern in a letter sent by the Committee to VP Pinkert. A telephone call and request for a meeting were received almost immediately. Associate VPs for Research are currently preparing a report on research vision for President Bell.

Student Affairs – (Joanne Hale & JoAnn Oliver)

The Committee will have an Oct. 23rd meeting with Dr. Grady and the SGA Elections Board re: Task Force Report 1 priority recommendations. Also looking at Climate Survey for issues related to student affairs.

Reach Gift Card Drive – Cooperating with OCTSA to collect \$25 gift cards to be used as holiday gifts for foster students attending UA. Committee will also accept checks (payable to UA) and cash donations. November 20th deadline.

Concerns about The SOURCE communication with student organization advisors and insufficient training opportunities were raised by Climate Survey responses. These issues will be discussed by the Committee.

Establishing a separate graduate student governance organization will be explored with the Graduate School and the Office for Student Affairs.

Reports from Other Committees:

NTRC Committee (*Joanne Hale/Brian Gordan*) – The Committee will meet every 2 weeks to move forward with clarification of the policy for terminal degree faculty by the end of the calendar year and develop a plan for its implementation by March 15th. The Committee plans to hold town hall meetings in every division to solicit faculty ideas and concerns. Development of a policy for instructors without terminal degrees will then be pursued by the same committee. Only 3 of 13 committee members were qualified NTRC faculty, so additional NTRC faculty have been identified and will be invited to join the Committee. Lisa Rhiney is currently examining the current policy document for factual accuracy; the policy will then be widely circulated, with the Provost's approval.

New Business:

A suggestion was made to distribute Faculty Senate meeting minutes to the entire faculty to dispel any impression that the Senate does not do anything. President Meester does not want to saturate the faculty listserv with emails, but intends to improve the visibility of the Faculty Senate Website. She also challenged Senators to report meeting summaries to their constituents.

Announcements:

There were no announcements.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 PM.