

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

12-8-15 – 3:30 PM – SERC #1059

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Pamela Payne-Foster/Nelle Williams, Steve Miller/Steven Yates, Kagendo Mutua/Janie Hubbard, Grace Lee/Heather Elliot, Monica Wedgeworth/Paige Johnson.

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Martin Evans, Ozzy Molina, Merinda Simmons, Jim Brown, Joanne Hale, John McDonald, Miguel Mantero, Reuben Cook, Lori Greene, Brian Blair (PSA Rep).

GUESTS: Dr. Kevin Whitaker, Interim Provost, Dr. David Francko-Dean of Graduate School, Brett Johnson-Higher Education Partnership (HEP).

PRESS: Cresandra Smothers (Dialog), Ed Enoch (Tuscaloosa News).

Interim Provost Kevin Whitaker announced The University of Alabama has earned reaffirmation of its accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). SACSCOC made the announcement at its annual meeting in Houston, Texas, on December 8, 2015. UA's accreditation was accepted without any further recommendations or any further reports required.

Dean David Francko made a presentation to the Faculty Senate concerning Graduate School goals, growth, graduation rates, retention, funding and activities. Part of the strategic plan is to develop partnerships to continue to develop a top-tier, student-centered research university. Part of this plan will be to increase the size, quality and diversity of the graduate student body. From the 2000's to 2012, the Graduate School had one of the strongest growth records in the United States. From 2012 until last year new acceptances and new enrollments were up only slightly. This could be due to record number of graduations, loss of external funding and more student retentions. Graduate School student travel funding is higher than any other SEC school. The focus should be to establish graduate education as a higher priority and using full-time, tenure track faculty as cornerstones. The decline in external position funding must be reversed along with the trend of static new acceptances and enrollments versus record graduations. Funding GTA's and RS's and contract funding was discussed. There are several programs in the Graduate School including the Graduate Parent Support Program, Sitters for Service and Tide Together Mentoring Program.

Mr. Brett Johnson, Higher Education Partnership, distributed brochures with information about membership and professional liability insurance through this organization. Higher Education Day will be February 25, 2016 in Montgomery, Alabama. Transportation and lunch will be provided. This is a rally to bring attention to higher education funding. The HEP has the sole mission of representing the collective voice of all fourteen Alabama public universities. Through advocacy for higher education the lives of Alabamians are enriched and the State of Alabama receives benefits. The funding of the Education Trust Fund of Alabama comes through sales tax and income tax. This funding is never a fixed number and fluctuates from year to year. There are three levels of HEP membership and those were explained.

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

The Faculty Senate meeting minutes of November 17, 2015 were approved with corrections.

President's Report – (*Donna Meester*) The Strategic Planning Council will meet Wednesday, December 9th and will meet the following Wednesday, December 16th. This council will have various sub-committees and information will be available on their website.

JoAnn Oliver will be the Faculty Senate representative at the South Carolina Collaboration Conference workshop titled “United Voices for Social Change”.

State Representative Bill Poole will be the speaker for the January Faculty Senate meeting.

Vice President's Report – (*Ed Stephenson*) Vice President Ed Stephenson gave an update on Diversity Task Force Report #3. There have been several meetings with SGA representatives. By agreement their names will not be shared for privacy. The meetings have been helpful in understanding the dynamics of independent and SGA representatives.

The committee met with Kelli Knox-Hall and Todd Borst with the Office of Student Conduct to consider several recommendations from Task Force Report #3. These included outlawing particular student behavior and actions and placement in the Code of Student Conduct document.

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) Secretary Donahoe has submitted a request to the Office of Institutional Research for the annual faculty head count. This information is used for the apportionment of senators for each division.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Chapman Greer*) The Academic Affairs Committee will meet Thursday, December 10, 2015.

Community Affairs – (*Kim Severt & Amy Dayton*) The Community Affairs Committee is working on the organization of the Legislative Breakfast.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Bob Riter*) The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee has compiled recommended amendments to the Faculty Senate Bylaws. The revisions are primarily instructional, grammatical and some codifying of voting procedures. The voting procedures are in Section 3 of the Faculty Senate Bylaws.

The committee is organizing a Faculty Senate member's manual with three sections – introductory, rules and procedure for voting and online voting. This document will be presented to the Faculty Senate in February with a vote in March. Any suggestions should be sent to Bob Riter.

A meeting was held with Dr. Grady, VP for Student Affairs, to discuss Task Force Report #2 recommendations. Work continues on the development of data categories and translation of the data into useful categories.

Ballots were distributed for the Faculty Senate to vote on a representative for the Merger or Discontinuance of Academic Units. Professor Steve Miller was elected.

Faculty Life – (*Pamela Payne-Foster & Brian Gordon*) No report.

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

Information Technology – (*Clark Midkiff & Mangala Krishnamurthy*) No report.

Research & Service – (*Steve Burch & Steven Jones*) The Research and Service Committee has attended some of the pilot meetings being held by the Office of Research and Economic Development. Information about these meetings had not been made widely public with many faculty members unaware the meetings were being conducted. Notices with information about times, dates and places have since been posted following an email to the Office of Research. These focus groups will discuss research visioning and initial input for research strategic planning.

Student Affairs – (*JoAnn Oliver & Joanne Hale*) The Student Affairs Committee has met with the Election Board to discuss Task Force Report #1 recommendations. Meetings with the Student Affairs Office and the Vice President for Student Affairs have been scheduled.

The committee continues to pursue the organization of a Graduate Student Association with a meeting to be scheduled in the near future.

Alabama Reach program has received 545 gift cards, \$1,050 and other donations totaling \$2,315.00 for UA students in need.

Other Committee Reports –

Meredith Bagley gave a tribute and announced the death of a faculty member, Dr. Janis Edwards.

Work continues toward the completion of the NTRC document and should be ready by the first of January.

Meeting adjourned 4:50 P.M.