

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

FEBRUARY 16, 2016 – 3:30 P.M. – 1092 SHELBY HALL

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Fred Whiting/Bob Findlay, Emily Wittman/Paul Houghtaling, Charlye Adams/Paan Jindapon, Carol Donovan/Janie Hubbard, Ajay Agrawal/Yuping Bao, Emily Mitchell/Kim Andrus, Jen Nickelson/Stephanie Sickler.

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Hilary Green, Theodore Trost, Jim Brown, Tom Lopez, Miguel Mantero, Kagendo Mutua, Ed Back, Steven Jones, Clark Midkiff, Paul Horwitz, Dominic Yeager.

Guests: John McGowan, CIO and Vice Provost of Information Technology for The University of Alabama System; Walt Maddox, Mayor of Tuscaloosa.

Press: Ed Enoch, Tuscaloosa News; Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

John McGowan began the meeting with a review of support from the administration and committees under the research banner. The Technical Research Advisory Committee composed of research faculty has been formed to work with the high performance community area. The campus network is getting a close review enabled by a National Science Foundation grant of \$500,000. Specific areas will focus on internal technology, high concept computing and large storage for data. These efforts will connect buildings involved in research with big data such as business, engineering, chemistry and physics.

There have been problems with the help desk and calling in after hours for technical support. A new web site is underway for the complete OIT structure. Another area of concern is cyber and data security environment for the whole campus. Cyber insurance has been secured for the complete UA system with ten million dollars of coverage in the case of a breach. Data classification is an important element of risk management regardless of the technology used. Denial of service and network attacks can sometimes result in network outages in some areas of campus. McGowan discussed network access for faculty, staff and students and addressed the lack of communication from OIT. A hire has been made with the responsibility of communication management which should resolve this problem. The wireless access upgrade on campus is not complete but provides 6,000 access points and there are approximately 100,000 devices on the network daily. Approximately three million dollars were allocated to this project during the past year. Other issues addressed were heavily visual storage, Internet II (a major network for research and education, for example symphonies in Miami, Chicago and Beijing, China were online simultaneously), UA box with unlimited storage, regional optical network upgrade (100 gigabits per second), and support desk tech experience and improvement. McGowan offered to make an Internet II presentation to any area.

Mayor Walt Maddox began his comments expressing appreciation to The University of Alabama for a long standing partnership with the City of Tuscaloosa. The University has a \$1.6 billion dollar impact on Tuscaloosa's economy. UA is the largest employer and students also drive the city's economy. The biggest issue facing Tuscaloosa is outside the city's control with the Legislature confronting the budget general fund crisis. Prisons in Alabama are at 192% occupation level with efforts to reduce the number to 170%. The Department of Corrections will release 10,000 non-violent prisoners. In Tuscaloosa there are 2,000 on parole with 10 people to supervise those parolees. Court cases are backed up and prisons

are overcrowded. For the most part those in the corrections system are not provided opportunities for education, rehabilitation or job training. Eighty percent of substance abusers return to prison. The city of Tuscaloosa sued the State of Alabama in 2010 to keep Bryce Hospital. There are 50 less beds in the new facility than was in the old Bryce Hospital. Tuscaloosa is open to new partnerships and new ideas. Tuscaloosa collaboration with different colleges and schools on campus such as Social Work, Nursing or other areas will be researched. Tuscaloosa has offered to pay for monitoring those on parole. Mental health issues have not been solved by building a new Bryce Hospital and building new prisons will not solve the problem. Local governments partnering with the local community is the only way to move ahead with solutions to these problems. The student growth of the University has caused severe traffic congestion and problems. Mayor Maddox reviewed the road expansion projects in the immediate future and those to be done over the next five to ten years. Part of those projects will be red light replacement technology, future lane addition for the Woolsey-Fennell Bridge, rebuilding Jack Warner Parkway, paving projects, McWrights Ferry Road improvements, City Walk, bike lanes, and McFarland Boulevard improvements.

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

The Faculty Senate meeting minutes of January 19, 2016 were approved.

President's Report – (*Donna Meester*) UA, UAB and UAH Faculty Senate Steering Committee members attended the Board of Trustees meeting in Birmingham on Friday, February 5th, 2016. The members met in a group meeting for discussion. It was found there were several issues common across all three campuses. It was decided the combined meetings were very beneficial and should be continued. UAH (Huntsville) will host the next meeting on Friday, April 8 and will be in conjuncture with the Board of Trustees meeting in the same location.

The Strategic Planning Council has composed a survey requesting opinions concerning 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 respond. Some of the issues coming forth from the survey include family leave, parking, child and elder care. A Committee for Research has been formed under the Strategic Plan with more committees to be named based on data and survey results. A town hall meeting open to all faculty will be Tuesday, February 23 at 3:30 P.M. in #205 Smith Hall. There is a Strategic Planning Council web site with all meetings, times and locations listed.

UA's "No Weapons on Campus" policy will not in any way be changed.

Vice President's Report – (*Ed Stephenson*) Vice President Stephenson is coordinating the Diversity Task Force Reports (1&2) from Student Affairs Committee and Faculty and Senate Governance Committees. An ad hoc committee is working on reports 3 & 4. A composite list will be made of the major objectives recommended and include actions and/or results. A written report will be submitted for the Faculty Senate meeting in March.

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) The OIRA Faculty Head Count Report was displayed. The Faculty Senate will gain seven senate seats – (A&S-2, CCIS-1, ED 1, Honors College-1, University Libraries-1, and Nursing-1). Letters have been sent with the names of the nominees for Ombudsperson campus-wide election. Election letters for new senators have been sent with a completion date of March 21 and a

reporting date of April 4. Following election results a committee preference form will be sent to all senators to be used as input to make committee assignments.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Chapman Greer*) The Faculty Handbook Committee has not met since the last Faculty Senate meeting. Wording was changed to address several inconsistencies between the Faculty Handbook and OIRA's syllabus tool so they would match. There were also complaints concerning sending out the syllabus with the course inventory form. The recommendation is to use the suggested syllabus on the OIRA web site. The Academic Affairs Committee is reviewing the monies returned to departments by Continuing Studies. Some colleges decided to keep a larger portion of the funds due to a larger number of courses.

Community Affairs – (*Kim Severt & Amy Taylor*) Higher Education Day will be held in Montgomery on Thursday, February 25, 2016. Transportation and lunch are provided.

The Legislative Breakfast tentatively will be held on Friday, April 15 with the time to be determined (7:30 or 8:00 A.M.). R. B. Walker is the Legislative Liaison for the UA system.

Faculty & Senate Governance - (*Charlotte Herrin & Robert Riter*) Nominations for Faculty Senate officers are Donna Meester for President, Rona Donahoe for Vice President and Robert Riter for Secretary. Nominations will be closed if there are no other nominations from the floor by the end of this meeting.

There are two nominations for Ombudsperson – Dr. Subhadra Gupta, Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, and Dr. Heath Turner of Chemical and Biological Engineering.

The committee continues to investigate the use of Qualtrics for online voting. Any feedback or suggested improvements concerning the voting should be forwarded to the committee co-chairs.

The Capstone Creed revisions should be completed by March. The Faculty Senate Manual is in progress and should be completed by March.

Faculty Life – (*Pamela Payne-Foster & Brian Gordon*) Faculty life, particularly child care, seemed to be a priority discussed in the combined meetings of UA, UAB and UAH Steering Committees. A system-wide child care committee will be formed with Brian Gordon and Pamela Payne-Foster as members of this committee. They will be researching options to provide this benefit.

The Faculty Life Committee will open the Family and Medical Leave policy for review and comments for two weeks. Suggestions were made to reformat the document with a title and highlighting the proposed changes comparing them to the policies in place. The policy now in place is available on the Human Resources and the Provost's web page. The document will move forward following approval by the Faculty Senate.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) There was a question concerning the financing of the Family and Medical Leave policy implementation.

The statement that refund checks were being sent to faculty members was actually a credit to the individual's retirement account for overhead and management fee overcharges.

Information Technology – (*Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff*) The Information Technology Committee submitted questions and issues to OIT, particularly calling the lack of communication to faculty and staff to their attention. Questions concerned VPN access and the need for announcements

on the OIT or UA web site concerning system shut downs for maintenance and when that time needs to be extended. OIT is working to improve after hour tech service and work is being done on a new web site that should address these concerns.

Research & Service – *(Steve Burch & Steven Jones)* The Vice President for Research held pilot meetings beginning last fall. Announcements concerning the meetings were sparse. Following complaints relayed by the Research and Service Committee, the meetings began to be publicized and attendance increased from 12 at the first meeting to 70 at the last meeting. Some of the members of the Research and Service Committee attended all meetings and acknowledgement of the committees concerns seemed to register with the panel. A memo was sent out by Dr. Pinkert, VP of Research, with information concerning submitting a proposal for grant funding (\$2,500) by March 7 which is less than three weeks to respond with a proposal and to find anyone available for a collaboration initiative. The timeline has been extended to six weeks. The suggestion was made to establish a research calendar noting the yearly research items. Comments included the amount would not buy much and the task to be accomplished is not clear. The committee will approach Dr. Pinkert concerning the amount of the grant and the time line.

Student Affairs – *(JoAnn Oliver & Charlye Adams)* JoAnn Oliver along with three UA students represented the Faculty Senate and the University at the SEC Academic Collaboration Award Workshop held in Columbia, South Carolina at the University of South Carolina. The institutions share many of the same issues and a written report will be submitted to the Faculty Senate.

The Diversity Task Force Report #1 is completed and will be forwarded to Ed Stephenson.

New Business – Nominations for the Buford Peace Award is being sought from faculty, students or others. There will be an award ceremony and monetary award to the recipient. The award is granted annually to a UA faculty member whose teaching, research, practice and professional life have demonstrated exceptional levels of involvement in mediating human disputes, helping overcome prejudice, promoting justice and establishing peace. Dr. Mary Meares in the College of Communication and Information Studies was selected the winner in 2015.

It was announced there is a student movement to rename Nott Hall due to the man's history of racism, lack of contribution or relation to the University. The students have met with President Bell and the senator recommended the Faculty Senate support this movement.

President Meester suggested questions concerning the NTRC document be emailed to Amy Dayton or Brian Gordon. The document is in the formative stage and is not addressing implementation of the policy at this time.

Meeting adjourned 5:15 P.M.