

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

AUGUST 18, 2015 – 3:30 p.m. - #1092 Shelby Hall

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Jon Benstead/Stephen Secor, Osiris Molina/Andrea Cevasco, Lesley Reid/William Martin, John Vincent/Pat Parmelee, Jim Leeper/Grier Stewart, Steve Miller/Steven Yates, Ajay Agrawal/Alan Lane, Mirit Eyal-Cohen/John Gross.

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Charlye Adams, Walt Robbins, Carol Donovan, Kagendo Mutua, Paul Horwitz.

Guest: UA President Stewart Bell.

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

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

The Faculty Senate meeting minutes of April 21, 2015 were approved.

The University of Alabama's President, Dr. Stuart Bell, addressed the Faculty Senate meeting. President Bell was a UA faculty member and assistant professor beginning in 1986 for sixteen years. In 2002 Dr. Bell went to Lawrence, Kansas as Dean of Engineering serving there for ten years. From there he went to LSU as Executive Vice President serving for three years in that capacity. In July, 2015 Dr. Bell assumed the role of President of The University of Alabama. Dr. Bell enjoys working with colleagues, young people, and faculty members to assist students in their efforts and aspirations toward their careers. The first and foremost quality of a flagship institution in any area of academics is discovery and engaging students in that process. President Bell has been meeting with various campus and community organizations, students and faculty to explore efforts to continue to move UA forward. The Faculty Senate has been instrumental in providing information to President Bell through the officers and faculty surveys.

President Bell addressed the critical issue of the current State of Alabama budget for higher education. In 2008 UA's funding from the General Fund was \$200 million dollars and the allotment was \$149 million dollars last year. The concern is the Legislature will take Educational Trust Fund monies to transfer to the General Fund for the budget shortfall. Tuition has been increased to address the yearly loss of \$50 million permanent dollars. Higher education should make certain to broadcast, educate and relay the message of the value of education in every educational division to the State of Alabama public.

Freshman enrollment for 2015-16 has increased. UA's enrollment is approximately fifty-fifty percent in-state and out-of-state students. Out-of-state students bring cultural knowledge and experience from their areas both nationally and internationally and UA students in like manner transfer their cultural knowledge and experience. UA has more in-state students than any other state institution. Approximately 2,300 incoming students will be members of the Honors College. The Honors College last year had an average ACT of 30.4 and average GPA was 41.3.

President Bell reviewed the vice president positions in administration. The first was Vice President for Development position which should be filled within the next couple of weeks. The second was Vice

President for Strategic Communications giving this position the responsibility of strategic communication and social media utilization among other duties.

President Bell's philosophy of faculty governance is faculty members are the primary moving force to develop research themes and great curriculum and these efforts must be made through shared governance. Communication is a primary and integral part of these efforts to be a benchmark institution. The University of Alabama is at a great launching point and positioned well to move forward.

One question pertained to President Bell's research support and diversity issues, particularly the creation of a Chief of Diversity Office which is a top priority in the Diversity Task Force report. Research status should be evaluated and discussions organized to determine steps to address problem areas to advance UA to a top level research institution. Diversity could cover several aspects including ethnic, gender and geographic. If an institution does not have diversity, it does not have the best minds to have a first rate faculty. President Bell will be evaluating the diversity issue – progress has been made but more progress is needed.

President Bell expressed appreciation and thanks to the faculty for their passion and a job well done.

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

The Faculty Senate meeting minutes of April 21, 2015 were approved.

Clark Midkiff expressed the sadness of many at the death of Tom Zeiler. Tom served as a senator for many years.

President's Report – (Donna Meester) President Meester announced the demise of Jeffrey Tangeman, Assistant Professor in the Theatre and Dance Department, and the death of student, Peyton Trueblood, in an explosion in Texas.

Dominic Yeager of the Department of Theatre and Dance was introduced as the Faculty Senate Parliamentarian.

Interim Provost Joe Benson retired July 31 and Kevin Whitaker has been appointed Interim Provost.

Approximately 150 new faculty members attended the new faculty orientation.

The Faculty Senate will meet for the fall and spring semester in #1092 Shelby Hall.

President Meester has met with the new administration members and the Deans with shared governance, communication and collaboration as positive outcomes.

There is an ongoing search for a Dean of Libraries with everyone invited to attend the three interviews in Gorgas.

The senators were encouraged to attend their committee meetings. Senators should inform the co-chairs if they are unable to attend. If a senator is unable to attend the Faculty Senate meetings, they are to notify an elected alternate to attend in their place. The roster and alternate list is on the Faculty Senate web page.

Dr. Kevin Whitaker was the chair of the Intercollegiate Athletic Committee as the faculty athletic representative. As Interim Provost, Dr. Whitaker will no longer be able to serve in this capacity. Dr. James King, Associate Professor of Management, has been appointed to serve in this position making Dr. King the first African American male in the Southeastern Conference to be appointed to this position.

Vice President's Report – (Ed Stephenson) The Faculty Senate in 2013 following several discussions initiated a Diversity Task Force with Norm Baldwin as facilitator. The Diversity Task Force developed several recommendations which were approved by the Faculty Senate. The recommendations were referred to the faculty to establish priorities of the issues.

Report number one was undertaken by the Student Affairs Committee including student elections, coercion and violation issues. The Student Affairs Committee forwarded these recommendations to Interim Vice President Steven Hood. Progress on these recommendations was delayed due to the naming of a permanent Vice President for Student Affairs which was Dr. David Grady. Dr. Grady will be meeting with the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee and will speak to the Faculty Senate meeting in September.

Report number two referred to measuring, documenting, respecting and increasing diversity in all aspects of the University activities and organizations. The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee have been working on this report. Strategies are being developed to establish infrastructures pursuing these issues.

Report number three addressed the establishment of a Greek system that is truly diverse. This was assigned to the Information Technology Committee due to a lighter work load at the time. This committee also met with Steven Hood to discuss possible initiatives.

The Faculty Senate would like to set up an ad hoc committee of those senators interested in following through on report number three. Any senator wishing to serve should contact one of the Faculty Senate officers.

The Faculty Climate Survey was written by the Faculty Life Committee to assess the attitude and issues of the faculty. The survey was administered in April and the Steering Committee analyzed the results over the summer. One report has the numerical data broken down in groups such as college, race, gender, ethnicity, faculty position and rank. The second report is all the narrative comments edited only when comments were malicious or injurious. The second report breakdown instructions were to not include any data on any department with ten or less respondents. The reports are ready and are posted on the Faculty Senate web page. These reports have been sent to President Bell and Interim Provost Kevin Whitaker.

Secretary's Report – (Rona Donahoe) The Faculty Senate web page includes information including the roster, committees, calendar, meeting dates and committee meeting dates.

There are two University standing committee vacancies due to meeting time conflicts including the Technology and Learning Committee and the Research Advisory Committee.

Faculty Senate meetings begin promptly at 3:30 P.M. and end at 5:00 P.M.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (Charlotte Herrin & Robert Riter) This committee has been working on electronic voting for Faculty Senate elections. Meetings have been with Dr. David Grady and Kelli Knox-

Hall to establish this system. A test was conducted over the summer with 70% of senators voting to use this electronic system. The committee is also working on language in the Faculty Senate Bylaws and the Faculty Handbook to clarify and include this new method of voting. User names are needed to facilitate this system. There will be another test in September.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Chapman Greer*) The Academic Affairs will be meeting with Interim Provost Kevin Whitaker and will have more to report at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Community Affairs – (*Kim Severt & Amy Dayton*) This is a new committee and met for the first time today to establish the scope, goals and responsibilities of the committee. The committee will be meeting with community and UA administrative leaders.

Kim Severt and Amy Dayton attended the higher education conference in Destin, Florida. The State of Alabama's budget was discussed with the committee urging senators to contact their representatives and voice their concerns about taking funds from the Education Trust Fund to shore up the General Fund shortfall. Informational booklets to create opportunities through the Higher Education Partnership were distributed.

Faculty Life – (*Pamela Payne-Foster & Brian Gordon*) The Faculty Life Committee has reviewed and prioritized issues from the Diversity Task Force report number one. The committee will be focusing on child care-elder care/health care leave/maternity leave issues. The committee will be working with other UA committees on issues such as a smoke-free campus, diversity, research support and parking. Their first meeting will be September 8th in Russell Hall at 3:00 P.M. Grace Lee and Dana Patton will be heading up different sections of those issues.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) The Financial Affairs Committee will meet Wednesday, August 19th.

Information Technology – (*Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff*) The Information Technology Committee will be meeting with John McGowan, Vice Provost for Information Technology.

Research & Service – (*Steve Burch & Steven Jones*) The Research and Service Committee met today to discuss issues and will give a report at the next meeting.

Student Affairs – (*JoAnn Oliver & Joanne Hale*) The Student Affairs Committee met over the summer with Dr. David Grady, Vice President for Student Affairs, to discuss the Diversity Task Force report. Pending the transfer of these issues to an ad hoc committee, the Student Affairs Committee will focus on Graduate Student representation separately from the SGA. The Student Affairs Committee will meet September 15 at 3:00 P.M. with Dr. David Grady attending. Dr. Grady brings new ideas to our campus and a very willing attitude to work with the Faculty Senate.

Several new senators were introduced.

The Provost search is ongoing but was slowed for the new University president to be named.

Meeting adjourned 4:50 P.M.