

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 – 3:30 p.m. – 1092 Shelby Hall

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: John Blitz/Jennifer Purvis, Martin Evans/Drew Lewis, Merinda Simmons/Stacy Alley, John Vincent/Harold Stowell, Darrin Griffin/Rachel Raimist, Steve Miller/Steven Yates, Kagendo Mutua/Janie Hubbard, Steven Jones/Derek Williamson, Jen Nickelson/Alvin Niuh, Jody DeRidder/Mark Siciliano.

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Osiris Molina, Jim Brown, Walt Robbins, Reuben Cook, Mirit Eyal-Cohen, Mangala Krishnamurthy.

GUESTS: Interim Provost, Dr. Kevin Whitaker and Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. David Grady.

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

Interim Provost, Dr. Kevin Whitaker, began the meeting expressing appreciation for a warm welcome to his new position. Dr. Whitaker began his administrative duties by requesting his staff to look at the workings of the Office of Academic Affairs and ask why that particular procedure or process is being used. Some of the questions included - does it serve the purpose efficiently, is the correct department handling that particular document or issue and is there a process that would better serve progress. Another concern is the flow of information and the way it was done in the past is not serving well. A better document and policy management system is needed. Revisions, additions, deletions should be dated and the most current document/policy be available.

UA has 37,100 students enrolled this year. The University has grown 5% per year for the last ten years. Ten years ago UA had a freshman class of 7,200 enrolled. Out-of-state enrollment is over 60% and UA is recruiting nationwide. There are over 17,000 students from Alabama enrolled exceeding the total enrollment of a decade ago. The average ACT score is 26 and over 27% of the freshman class have a 4.0 GPA or higher. The growth of the graduate program over the last ten years has been 2% and has not kept pace with the general growth of the University. Ten years ago the fraction of graduate students was 16% of the total enrollment and this year is 12 ½%. In the SEC the fraction of graduate students of the total enrollment averages 20 to 25% so there is work to do in this area. Faculty has grown about 5% and total enrollment has grown about 5% for the last ten years. In ten years the growth of tenure and tenure track faculty has grown less than 1%. Clinical, full-time temporary, part-time temporary faculty and etc. accounts for growth in this area putting this growth at 117%.

Dr. Whitaker said the University needs a road map/strategic plan for the future addressing the identity of the University and the direction UA will take in the future.

Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. David Grady, began his comments with a short review of his background. He has been getting acquainted with campus. There are three areas of focus for his office which are civility, engagement and wellbeing. Students spend a large amount of time in class and studying so the Student Affairs Office wants to make sure the student's outside class activities actually apply and connect to in-classroom activities. The goal of OSA is to provide assistance to students moving toward graduation, finding a place in the work force and help them achieve success. This office is also looking at ways and exploring policies and programs to increase retention, help students graduate

on time and to have a feeling of belonging to this institution. Copies of the 911 guide have been distributed. This booklet provides guidance on how to deal with a student under stress. The question of how scholarship funding is distributed between out-of-state and in-state students was raised. The opinion was expressed that moving forward the Diversity Task Force reports and recommendations through cooperative workings of each affected area would continue. Further discussion included research status, graduate program increase, retention rate, retaining out-of-state students in Alabama and growth of tenure track faculty. Better research programs will attract those to the graduate program. Growth in these areas will need funding.

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

The Faculty Senate meeting minutes of August 18, 2015 were approved with one correction.

President's Report – (*Donna Meester*) President Meester reported the NTRC (Non-tenure-track renewable-contract faculty) document has issues that need to be addressed and a pre-committee meeting will be held October 5th. The NTRC committee consists of the following: Amy Dayton and Joanne Hale (Tenured/Tenure Track Faculty); Chapman Greer (Teaching), Rachael Frazier (Research), Jim Leeper (Clinical), Brian Gordon (Teaching) – (Contract Faculty with Terminal Degree); Lori Greene (HES), Nancy Payne (SW) – (Contract Faculty without Terminal Degree); Lisa Rhiney (FA), Jennifer Greer (AA) – (Administrators); Vikki Vandiver (Academic Dean), Tricia McElroy (Associate Dean Humanities & Fine Arts, A&S).

Sgt. Evonda Collins, University of Alabama Police Department, addressed the Faculty Senate Steering Committee concerning bike lanes and rules. Sgt. Collins took note of the complaints expressed and will refer them to UAPD's Assistant Police Chief.

Dan Wolfe, Financial Affairs University Planner & Designer, presented the Campus Master Plan to the Steering Committee meeting in G-54 Rose Administration Building.

An issue that will be reviewed is the academic misconduct policy and classroom training for faculty.

Dean Francko is retiring from the Graduate School in the fall. The search committee will be composed of representatives in the areas of the Ombudsperson - two from Engineering and Business, two from Arts & Sciences and two from other areas that have graduate programs. Dr. Whitaker will be sending an email concerning nominations. The size of the committee is in accord with University policy with ten members including six faculty members.

The University of Alabama's Board of Trustees will be meeting on Thursday and Friday, September 17th and 18th.

Vice President's Report – (*Ed Stephenson*) Volunteers for an ad hoc committee were requested at the Faculty Senate August meeting to look at the Diversity Task Force Report #3 which addressed diversity in the Greek system. The committee has been commissioned and charged. The members are: Darrin Griffin (CIS), Norm Baldwin (A&S), Chapman Greer (CBA), Si Blackstock (A&S), Meredith Bagley (CIS), and Pamela Payne-Foster (CHS). Diversity Task Force Report #4 has been received and distributed to the Faculty Senate. Additions to Task Force Report #1 resulted from working with the Office of Student Affairs and other discussions. It was proposed to refer Report #4 to the Report #3 committee. The additions to Report #1 will be referred to the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee. The

committees will review these reports and refer those back to the Faculty Senate with the option of acceptance or refer back to the committee for further review. The question was asked if the Faculty Senate would like to conduct a survey with the Faculty Senate prioritizing the recommendations in Report #1 addition. Ron Donahoe will send out the survey for reprioritizing Report #1 priorities plus the addendum. In a separate survey the recommendations in Task Force Report #4 will be prioritized. It was the unanimous vote of the Senate to send the reports to the committees and the survey results will also be sent as soon as possible to those same committees.

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) Secretary Donahoe is working with Academic Affairs to correct University Standing Committee appointments in Animal Care and Mediation committees.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Chapman Greer*) The Academic Affairs Committee is working with Provost Kevin Whitaker to unify and consolidate the Faculty Handbook. The Core Curriculum document is also a priority item for the committee.

Community Affairs – (*Amy Dayton & Kimberly Severt*) The Community Affairs Committee met today. They are meeting with Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox to establish a link between the city and the Faculty Senate.

The committee proposed a letter to Alabama's Governor Robert Bentley, Members of the Alabama House of Representatives and Members of the Alabama Senate requesting they reject further cuts to public higher education funding. The committee consulted legal counsel to make certain there was no breach of University policy in sending the letter. The Faculty Senate unanimously approved the motion to send the letter electronically to those addressed.

Faculty Life – (*Brian Gordon & Pamela Payne-Foster*) The Faculty Life Committee met this month and are addressing the establishment of a Diversity Officer and no smoking/health.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Robert Riter*) The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee has sent out the announcement concerning the end of the year vacancy on the Mediation Committee. Nominations from the faculty at large have been requested to place on the ballot. This election will be conducted electronically. Senators will receive an email with a link to the voting site. There will be a window of one week to vote – September 30th to October 6th. The senators were encouraged to be on the alert for this email and vote for two to replace two tenured faculty members. A reminder will be sent with the voting dates restated. Contact Charlotte Herrin or Robert Riter if the email with the link to the voting site is not received. There will be no test conducted prior to the election.

The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee are working on Diversity Task Force Report #2 strategies. Robert Riter and Parliamentarian Dominc Yeager are working on revision of the Faculty Senate Bylaws to reflect changes including electronic voting.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) The Financial Affairs Committee will be scheduling meetings with UA administrators to address the University's general budget. Any complaints along with examples concerning the purchasing process should be forwarded to this committee.

Information Technology – (*Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff*) The Information Committee met with John McGowan, Vice Provost for Information Technology, and several senior staff members. The

University is working to increase Wi Fi and to increase band width. There is a backup web site system in Atlanta that would be used in the event of a total physical disconnect. The University would continue to be connected through this system. Cloud based Microsoft 365 is available free of charge for up to five devices.

Research & Service – *(Steve Burch & Steven Jones)* The Research and Service Committee are reviewing the Faculty Climate Survey issues and will report at the next meeting.

Student Affairs – *(Joanne Hale & JoAnn Oliver)* The committee is reviewing the Diversity Task Force Report #1 priorities received from the Faculty Senate. The review process has been delayed by waiting until the Election Board is finished with Homecoming elections. The committee is also moving forward the establishment of a Graduate Student Association outside the Student Government Association and a meeting with Dr. David Grady, Vice President for Student Affairs, concerning this issue. The student gift card drive will be ongoing with more information in October and November. The Faculty Climate survey is being reviewed for the issues pertinent to the Student Affairs Committee.

Reports from other committees –

Silas Blackstock requested any issues concerning the Recreation Center be forwarded to him.

Concern was expressed about the naming of a new UA Chancellor without a search committee.

A question was asked about the status of the Provost search.

Meeting adjourned 4:50 P.M.