

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 17, 2015 – 3:30 p.m. - #1092 Shelby Hall

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Jon Benstead/Stephen Secor, Sheila Black/Harold Stowell, Hilary Green/Rich Fording, Andreas Piepke/James Wang, Steve Miller/Steven Yates, Joy Burnham/Janie Hubbard, Steven Jones/Derek Williamson, Jen Nickelson/Andy Harcrow, Mirit Eyal-Cohen/John Gross, Mangala Krishnamurthy/Mark Siciliano, Olivia May/Cassandra Ford.

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: John Blitz, Merinda Simmons, Emily Wittman, Jim Brown, Todd DeZoort, Walt Robbins, John Petrovic, Ed Back, Reuben Cook, Lori Greene, Michelle Lee, Paul Horwitz.

GUESTS: Ms. Lane McLelland – UA Crossroads, Dr. Ginger Bishop – Director of Institutional Effectiveness.

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

Ms. Lane McLelland, UA Crossroads, distributed a flier with images of organizations and activities under the UAC banner. The Crossroads Community Center focuses on building relationships across cultures through innovative programs and initiatives designed to prepare students for a global and multicultural society. It also serves as a resource for intercultural issues on campus and in the community. A breakfast meeting is held the first Wednesday of the month at 8:30 A.M. for establishment of relationships and collaboration on diversity issues. A newsletter includes opportunities to engage in diversity and inclusive excellence. If the newsletter is not received, contact elmyers@ua.edu. Tours, lectures and campus reads are among the multiple activities offered by UAC.

Dr. Ginger Bishop, Director of Institutional Effectiveness, addressed the Faculty Senate and presented a draft of a policy for institutional planning and evaluation. An evaluation process must be in place to assure the continuous improvement of UA's mission, values and vision. The implementation must include a system wide quality improvement process for this plan to be successful. The policy should be broad enough to cover institutional effectiveness as it differs from college to college. The final version will be presented for approval following review and input by various entities on campus.

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

The Faculty Senate minutes of October 20, 2015 were approved with one correction.

President's Report – (*Donna Meester*) The efforts to publicize the functions, activities and accomplishments of the Faculty Senate are ongoing. An insert in Dialog included the composition, committees, meetings and work of the Senate. Informational emails about Faculty Senate workings from the Deans are being sent to their faculty members.

President Meester met with the Council of Deans and Vice Presidents. They expressed great appreciation for the work of the Faculty Senate.

The Strategic Planning Council has been appointed and has two meetings scheduled.

There will be a question and answer section added to the Faculty Senate web site.

The Supe Store will be sending out a survey next week focusing on factors concerning text book orders.

Faculty Senate speakers for the December 8th meeting will be Gordon Stone or Higher Education Partnership representative and Dean Francko, Dean of the Graduate School.

Vice President's Report – (*Ed Stephenson*) VP Stephenson represents the ad hoc committee reviewing Diversity Task Force Report #3 which deals with student conduct and diversity of the Greek system. The committee has been interviewing students concerning SGA election issues. The committee will be meeting tomorrow with the Executive Director of Student Conduct, Todd Borst, to discuss topics including the prevention of unethical student behavior and priority issues brought forward by the Task Force committee.

The Research and Service Committee has been assigned the complaints and issues concerning the Office of Research.

The Academic Affairs Committee has been asked to review the class registration policy. The non-Honor seniors are faced with filled classes of those courses they must have to graduate and are filled by Honor juniors and sophomores.

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) Summaries of Task Force Report #1 and Additional Recommendation Prioritization Survey Results and Task Force Report #4 Recommendation Prioritization Survey Results were distributed. There was better participation in the second survey than the first survey due primarily to the sending of a reminder email. Task Force Report #4 dealt with SGA and community elections. The prioritized issues in Task Force Report #1 were reprioritized in this survey. The issues in Task Force Report #1 will remain with the Student Affairs Committee. Report #4 is being reviewed by the ad hoc committee.

Academic Affairs Committee – (*John Vincent & Chapman Greer*) The Academic Affairs Committee met with Ivon Foster, Assistant to the Provost for Special Projects and Academic Technology, to discuss audio-visual capabilities in the new classroom building. Improvement is definitely needed particularly in the chemistry classrooms.

The committee continues to work on the Faculty Handbook revision with different sections to be parceled out to the appropriate committees.

Community Affairs – (*Amy Dalton & Kim Severt*) No report.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Robert Riter*) Joy Burnham and Steven Hobbs have been elected to the Mediation Committee. Nominations are needed for one vacancy on the Merger and Discontinuance Committee.

The by-law revisions continue and include the creation of a composite section on Faculty Senate voting to encompass the electronic voting recently used in elections. These changes will be presented at the December Faculty Senate meeting allowing a vote at the January meeting. The changes will incorporate the standing committee rules revision.

The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee have been working on the Task Force Report #2 and the Capstone Creed. Dr. David Grady, Vice President for Student Affairs, agrees with the recommendations but wants more expansive language regarding respect for the University community and external environment and constituencies.

Data gathering and document preservation and incorporating these into the strategic planning process will be one of the priorities. Any questions or requests for information should be addressed to the co-chairs of this committee.

Faculty Life – (*Pamela Payne-Foster & Brian Gordon*) The Faculty Life Committee is preparing a preliminary report on family leave, tenure clock issues and daycare policies. Data has been gathered from thirty-three peer institutions. The committee hopes to present a draft document in January or February.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) The Financial Affairs Committee has met with Dr. Lynda Gilbert, Vice President for Financial Affairs. The University of Alabama has revenue projected for 2016 of \$926 million dollars. Of that amount \$100 million is used to pay \$10 million capital equipment and principle on bond debt. The operating budget in 2015 is 71% salaries and benefits, 3% scholarship and 26% supplies and other services. Tuition and fees are a primary source of revenue – 45% with State appropriation at 16%, grants and contracts 13%. The Athletic Department has operating budget of \$151 million with \$134 million in operating expenses. The University's debt is \$1 billion dollars with interest payments at \$40 million per year which is part of operating expense and \$15 million paid on the principle. The University has about 8,000 beds on campus plus approximately 1,000 Greek housing. There are over 7,000 students employed by the University with wages at \$31,900,000.

Rainer Schad will continue to research the benefits of retirement investment options and more information about TIAA-CREF. Fees are charged for handling these accounts and Rainer will find out more about reduced costs.

Information Technology – (*Clark Midkiff & Mangala Krishnamurthy*) The Information Technology Committee along with the Academic Affairs Committee met with Ivon Foster, Special Assistant to the Provost for Special Projects and Academic Technology. The OIT/CIT response to the Faculty Climate Survey recommendations were: (1) Help Desk – nice but not knowledgeable (2) after hours help desk support and (3) variation in equipment across campus. If there are technology problems needing further assistance, please send to Clark or Mangala. There are some difficulties with compatible technology in completing the online compliance training.

Research & Service – (*Steve Burch & Steven Jones*) The Research and Service Committee met with Dr. Carl Pinkert, Vice President for Research. The committee is working on a research vision statement. The committee has been invited to pilot meetings to get responses in terms of putting together a report for President Bell.

Student Affairs – (*Joanne Hale & JoAnn Oliver*) The Student Affairs Committee met with Dr. David Grady, Vice President for Student Affairs, to review priorities of Task Force Report #1. The committee is in the process of setting up a meeting with the SGA election board. Establishing a Graduate Student Government organization is in process. Dr. Grady will be meeting with Graduate School representatives.

The Alabama REACH gift card and donation program will end November 20th. The donations will be for UA students with needs.

NTRC – The committee plans to develop a draft with committee consensus on the content in approximately two weeks. The document will be sent to individual colleges asking it be distributed to each member of their faculty. Target meetings will be set up for faculty members eligible to make

application for those type positions. Feedback will be gathered and sent back to the committee. Committee members who have been involved in this process will be present at those meetings to answer any questions. The goal is to understand the issues not yet recognized in the policy contents and the implementation of the policy. This policy deals with faculty with terminal degrees. When this policy moves on beyond the committee, attention will be turned to faculty with non-terminal degrees.

The Faculty Senate representative to the United Way campaign is Rona Donahoe. These agencies are vital to our community. Everyone was encouraged to donate and participate in this most important charity.

The Faculty Senate will be meeting in the South Engineering Research Center – Room 1013 – on December 8, 2015 at 3:30 PM.

The Faculty Staff Benefit Committee met and open enrollment flexible spending plan and coverage change deadline was Sunday, November 15th. There are no changes in the health care plan or deductions. There is a small increase in dental coverage for 2016. Mail order pharmacies are being switched to those no longer under Blue Cross-Blue Shield. An account must be set up and a card must be used. There is a small increase in the flexible-spending plan. A full benefits statement will be received in January as required by the Affordable Care Act requiring a 1095C form for the IRS. After December 2016 sponsored dependents (unmarried dependents) must be married to receive benefits.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 P.M.