

FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

JANUARY 12, 2016 - #213 Aime – 3:00 P.M.

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Ed Stephenson, Rona Donahoe, Chapman Greer, John Vincent, Charlotte Herrin, Pamela Payne-Foster, Reuben Cook, Rainer Schad, Mangala Krishnamurthy, Clark Midkiff, JoAnn Oliver.

ABSENT: Amy Dayton, Kimberly Severt, Robert Riter, Brian Gordon, Steve Burch, Steven Jones, Charlye Adams, Dominic Yeager, Donna Meester, Steve Miller.

Press: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

President's Report – (*Donna Meester*) Ed Stephenson presided in the absence of President Meester.

The Strategic Plan Council has been formed and meetings are being conducted. An article will be in Dialog on Monday listing the council's goals and a survey to make comments about those goals.

The speakers for the next Faculty Senate meeting On January 19th will be Alabama State Representative, Bill Poole and UA Vice President for Strategic Communication, Dr. Linda Bonnin.

UA's Board of Trustees will meet Friday, February 5th in Birmingham. The Steering Committees of UAH, UAB and UA have been invited to attend the meeting and/or have lunch following the meeting. Transportation will be provided. Departure and return times were discussed.

Vice President's Report – (*Ed Stephenson*) No Report.

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) A request for a faculty head count was sent to OIRA and was received January 8th. This data will be used for the Faculty Senate Senator elections to be held by the first of April.

Academic Affairs – (*Chapman Greer & John Vincent*) The Academic Affairs Committee met with the Faculty Handbook Revision Committee. A draft of the sections assigned to the Academic Affairs Committee was presented, and potential changes were discussed. There is a possibility the Academic Affairs Committee will have to accept other portions of the handbook for review. It was recommended to have an annual review of the Faculty Handbook. Some issues should not be deferred to the staff handbook. There is a meeting scheduled for the last part of this month.

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

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Robert Riter*) There are two eligible nominees for the Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans and Department Chairs and in the Evaluation of Academic Units Committee. The Provost has requested three names for this position. If there are no further nominees, the two names will be forwarded to the Provost.

Methods of electronic voting for Faculty Senate elections were discussed. BigPulse has some drawbacks causing delays in voting particularly when the names of nominees are slow coming forward. Roberts

Rules of Order states meetings cannot end until elections are completed. Other methods discussed were Qualtrix, paper ballots and the preparation of electronic ballots by the Faculty and Senate Governance Committee members.

Faculty Life – (*Pamela Payne-Foster & Brian Gordon*) The Faculty Life Committee is developing a university-wide family leave policy, promotion of non-tenure track policy, tenure clock stop policy, and recommendations for increased childcare facilities on campus for consideration by the Faculty Senate. Thirty-three SEC and SUG institutions (including UA) were contacted to gather data to examine policies from peer institutions. Two have a family leave policy exceeding FMLA as required by federal law, twenty-two have a tenure clock stop policy and twenty-nine have childcare facilities on campus. The committee believes that many colleges and/or departments within most universities have formal or informal policies regarding family leave, but that information is extremely difficult to gather.

The committee is currently reviewing the content of the policies that are in place at other universities. Plans are to present policy proposals to the Faculty Senate during the February meeting. In the meantime, there will be meetings with UA administrators in March and April to present policy proposals.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) No report. The question has been asked concerning UA's debt which is one billion dollars. Almost all of this debt is bonds. Rates are low and UA's bond rating is high.

Information Technology – (*Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff*) The Information Technology Committee is working on the resolution of technology complaints they have received.

Research & Service – (*Steve Burch & Steven Jones*) No report.

Student Affairs – (*JoAnn Oliver & Charlye Adams*) The Student Affairs Committee is continuing the follow up work on Diversity Task Force Report #1. The process of checking information will require a meeting with Dr. Grady.

The work on a separate Graduate Student organization continues.

A meeting was held with Dr. Grady concerning diversity, student conduct and other issues related to discriminatory practices brought forward in Diversity Task Force Report #3. The Capstone Creed is in the process of being reviewed.

The NTRC Committee continues to address changes and implementation of the NTRC document.

Reuben Cook brought forward the issue of Monday, Wednesday, Friday classes or Tuesday, Thursday classes. Classroom scheduling seems to be a main consideration.

The question was asked if winning a football National Championship increases enrollment. The consensus was it was not a major impact on enrollment.

Reports from Other Committees –

The Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee report a change from Blue Cross/Blue Shield pharmacy to OptumRx. There will be an increase in co-pays. Any problems should be referred to the Committee.

This is reportedly saving UA one million dollars. The deduction will remain the same. It was suggested to have David Bertanzetti, Human Resource Director of Benefits, speak to the Faculty Senate meeting.

There will be a march on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day starting at Foster Auditorium. The rally will begin at 11:00 A.M. with the march ending at City Hall at noon and ending at 1:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 P.M.