

FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

DECEMBER 1, 2015 – 3:00 p.m. – 213 AIME

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Donna Meester, Ed Stephenson, Rona Donahoe, John Vincent, Kimberly Severt, Charlotte Herrin, Robert Riter, Brian Gordon, Pamela Payne-Foster, Rainer Schad, Mangala Krishnamurthy, Steve Burch, Steven Jones, Joanne Hale, JoAnn Oliver, Dominic Yeager.

ABSENT: Chapman Greer, Amy Dayton, Reuben Cook, Clark Midkiff.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of November 10, 2015 were approved with one correction.

Interim Provost Kevin Whitaker addressed the Steering Committee requesting feedback regarding Strategic Planning Council composition, data gathering and development of the strategic plan for the University.

President's Report – (*Donna Meester*) Meredith Bagley, representing UA's Faculty Senate, will attend the South Carolina Collaboration Conference addressing leadership and social changes.

Speakers for the December 8th Faculty Senate meeting will be David Francko, Dean of the Graduate School and Brett Johnson, Higher Education Partnership representative.

President Meester is compiling Faculty Senate Steering committee reports, time frames and goals to send to the Steering Committee in preparation for spring meetings. Information concerning these reports will be posted on the Faculty Senate web page.

The Student Affairs Committee will be meeting with the Election Board on Thursday, December 3, 2015, and will be meeting with Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. David Grady. The committee realizes the election issues are time sensitive.

Vice President's Report – (*Ed Stephenson*) The Diversity Task Force committee addressing report #3 has met twice since the last Faculty Senate meeting. The committee met with a Student Government Association representative and candidly discussed campus politics.

The committee met with Kelli Knox-Hall and Todd Borst with the Office of Student Conduct to determine the status of Task Force Report #3 recommendations. The Code of Student Conduct policy is 17 pages long. According to Steering Committee members the Code of Student Conduct has not been enforced as strictly as it should be particularly regarding voting intimidation. It was suggested to have an educational campaign and to include specific examples of enforcement. To enforce some situations students have to appear and present a preponderance of evidence. A recent hazing incident has resulted in criminal charges. All three campuses in the system have different student codes.

Ed Stephenson announced he will not run for a Faculty Senate office next spring. Historically the vice president is elected to move up to president.

Secretary's Report – No report.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Chapman Greer*) The Academic Affairs Committee continues to work on carefully reviewing and revising the Faculty Handbook. The goal is to have the revised handbook to the Faculty Senate in February for review in preparation for a Faculty Senate vote at the March meeting. An index will be needed.

Community Affairs – (*Amy Dayton & Kimberly Severt*) Higher Education Partnership representative, Brett Johnson, will speak to the December 8th meeting of the Faculty Senate. The committee is compiling a list of priorities, time lines and goals which will be sent to President Meester.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Bob Riter*) The Faculty & Senate Governance Committee met Monday, November 30th and discussed the Faculty Senate voting cycles. The committee will meet with Faculty Senate Secretary, Rona Donahoe, to codify procedures and policies. Included will be election notification procedures and election outcome posting on web sites. There has been confusion with UA standing committee composition with past member names being posted. It seems changing UA personnel contributes to the confusion.

Faculty Senate meeting attendance is recorded by Faculty Senate Secretary Rona Donahoe. It is then compiled by Linda Knowles, Faculty Senate Administrative Assistant and forwarded to Secretary Rona Donahoe and the Faculty & Senate Governance Committee for action concerning excessive absences. Senators in some instances have difficulty securing an alternate to attend senate meetings in their absence. Each college/school has a list of alternates. New alternates should be elected or appointed when they are consistently not available to serve as an alternate.

The most recently revised version of Faculty Senate bylaws was distributed. The most substantial revision is *Section 3. Voting Procedures* amended to include electronic voting. Some capitalization changes were made. The revisions have been approved by the Faculty and Senate Governance Committee and will move forward for a vote. The committee suggested composing a separate "Faculty Senate Rule Book" consisting of a quick parliamentary procedure summary, codifying rules and customs and codifying practices related to election rules. The committee plans to have this manual ready to distribute at the April Faculty Senate meeting.

The Task Force Committee is working on the development of data categories to give to the Provost and translating the data into useful categories. A review of the Capstone Creed is ongoing. The committee will continue to move along Task Force Report #2 and the manual for the Faculty Senate.

Faculty Life – (*Brian Gordon & Pamela Payne-Foster*) The Faculty Life Committee continues to gather information from other institutions concerning day care and faculty leave. Their meeting time was changed to accommodate committee members. It was suggested to contact Natalie Adams and Deidre Leaver-Dunn for the information they accrued while addressing these issues.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) No report.

Information Technology – (*Clark Midkiff & Mangala Krishnamurthy*) The Information Technology Committee will be sending an email to Vice President John McGowan to address software access. The system upgrade was delayed. There was no notification of the delay.

Research & Service – (*Steve Burch & Steven Jones*) The Research and Service Committee met with Allen Parrish, Public Safety Center Director, and John Higginbotham, Associate Dean for Research and Health Policy. The committee was informed that research pilot meetings were being conducted to gather information and input to be worked into the Strategic Plan for the University. The committee continues to have concerns about the lack of a research vision for the University. It seems there was a lack of information announcing the meetings and the meetings were not all encompassing or transparent. Parrish and Higginbotham will be invited back following the completion of the pilot meetings. The committee will contact Parrish and Higginbotham to relay great concern about why the faculty did not know about the pilot meetings, find out when the next meeting will be and if it is not communicated to the faculty other avenues will be used.

Student Affairs – (*Joanne Hale & JoAnn Oliver*) The deadline for donations to the Alabama Reach gift card program for needy students was November 21 although donations can continue to be made. Donations can be made online. Total collected to date is \$1,595 which does not include online donations.

The committee met with Dr. Grady and Norm Baldwin and has scheduled a meeting with the Election Board on Thursday, December 3. The committee continues to follow up on establishing a separate (from SGA) organization for graduate students.

The **Research Advisory Committee** meeting was attended by a Faculty Senate representative with the main discussion concerned Research Day activities.

A good number of institutions have an **Office of Awards** but UA does this by committee. It would be advantageous to have a central office handle these procedures.

The **NTRC committee** met December 1 and set a goal of finalizing any changes in the draft document by January 8th. At that point it will be sent back to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee and Deans. It will be circulated following reviews by these groups. The goal is to have feedback collected by February 1. The committee is still working on the policy. Once that is completed they will turn their attention to implementation.

New Business – Meredith Bagley has requested support for recognition of the 60th anniversary of Autherine Lucy Foster as the first African American University of Alabama student in 1956. It was suggested to include Vivian Malone and James Hood in that recognition. Amy Dayton questioned how the Faculty Senate can support this and other efforts to address the history of the University and to participate in current conversations about diversity on campus. There is a general issue of the University developing an effective and coordinating structure for remembrance efforts. The University of Virginia has a presidential commission to explore the context of slavery on campus. It was reported that the Strategic Planning Council will be addressing issues such as this.

It was reported that the University will not have a Christmas Tree in front of Rose Administration Building this year.

The Faculty Senate will meet in 1013 South Engineering Research Center on Tuesday, December 8, 21015.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 P.M.