

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2014 – 3:00 PM – 213 AIME**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Steve Miller, Rona Donahoe, Donna Meester, Marilyn Handley, Charlotte Herrin, Steve Burch, Ed Stephenson, Patricia Parmelee, John Vincent, Mangala Krishnamurthy, Clark Midkiff, Reuben Cook, Rainer Schad, JoAnn Oliver, Kim Severt, Bob Riter.

ABSENT: Joanne Hale, Pamela Payne-Foster, Andreas Piepke.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of November 11, 2014 were approved.

President's Report – (*Steve Miller*) Steve Burch, Patricia Parmelee and President Miller were the faculty representatives participating in the review of the SGA Research Grant applications.

President Miller listed the points to be discussed with the Provost concerning SACS reaccreditation. LLM program length in the Law School is 24 credit hours with SACS wanting 30 credit hours. The Law School says that people are required to have basically the equivalent of an undergraduate law degree before they come into Law School at UA.

Administrative Support Services - one of the five areas of institutional effectiveness – SACS wants numbers on how the administration supports the institution and meaningful targets for student support services primarily at the undergraduate level.

SACS wants research to be within UA's mission such as an explanation of specific targets of all the centers. The UA systems office is in the process of evaluating all the centers on all three campuses.

External degree programs - acceptance of academic credit – mostly connected to distance learning – explanations of experiential learning, explaining not the process but the intent. UA has to produce the letters of collaborative agreements with other institutions. What the process is for credit hour acceptance in adult education will need clarification.

SACS wants to understand the general education competencies – ways to track and target what core competencies are, not just class grades. Twenty-nine faculty competencies were questioned.

SACS wants numbers and targets for student achievement – it is not enough to say we are going to improve our numbers – retentions, portfolios, employment, etc. Goals should be connected to the targeted numbers.

QEP has been up for review and the first review letter is back with a fairly positive response. Suggestions are to redefine how UA looks at experiential learning, define experiential learning as a way to enhance learning, not just numbers – a goal not methodology.

There will be meetings scheduled with Dan Wolfe of the Campus Planning Committee.

There must be approval from the Provost for faculty international travel due to political situations, ebola and other diseases. An official policy statement will be released after the first of the year.

The organization of room scheduling and usage was discussed. This will be discussed with the Deans and Assistant Deans and in the Thursday meeting with the Provost and Steering Committee.

Vice President's Report – (*Donna Meester*) No report.

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) Only twenty-four have responded to the Task Force Report #3 priority survey. A reminder email will be sent since the closing date for responding is Friday, December 5th.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Marilyn Handley*) Parliamentarian Bob Riter recommended normal procedure should be followed for Faculty Senate elections. The elections held at the November Faculty Senate meeting ended without a majority of fifty plus one in a runoff of eight nominees for the Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans and Chairs Committee. The first round of voting gave a majority of votes for four of the nominees. The names of the four nominees with a majority vote were sent to the Provost along with an explanation of the election. There are three nominees for the Merger and Discontinuance Committee. The committee has three members – John Wheat 12/31/15, Miguel Mantero 12/31/14 and Ana Corbalan 12/31/14. Corbalan has served only one of a two year term. The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee will check on this and, if correct, only one replacement will be needed. There were suggestions to add a short bio of each nominee for any election and the possibility of electronic elections for the Faculty Senate.

Research & Service – (*Steve Burch & Andreas Piepke*) The committee is being canvassed regarding the report given two weeks ago by Andreas Piepke. Problems or situations needing attention should be emailed to one or both co-chairs of this committee. There is concern that there is not a research strategic plan and the committee will wait to address some issues until a response is received. Concerns also exist about lack of announcements of hires, purchasing issues and research grant money. There will be a Research Day on April 8 of next year.

Faculty Life – (*Pamela Payne-Foster & Ed Stephenson*) The Faculty Life Committee is working on the climate survey and will have survey questions prepared for the Steering Committee in January.

Academic Affairs – (*Patricia Parmelee & John Vincent*) Academic Affairs will hold a special meeting next Tuesday to work on the non-tenure track renewable contract document. Misinterpreted language has to be corrected and legal counsel will review the final document. The administration has not yet made final decisions in regards to the status of the core curriculum.

Information Technology – (*Clark Midkiff & Mangala Krishnamurthy*) The Information Technology Committee will meet December 16.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) The Financial Affairs Committee will meet with Dr. Lynda Gilbert, Vice President of Financial Affairs, on Wednesday, December 4. The UA general budget presented by Dr. Gilbert to the Board of Trustees will be discussed. A meeting will also be held with Kevin Stevens, Director of the Office of Procurement, to address questions concerning purchasing equipment, supplies and the bid process for the University.

Student Affairs – (*Joanne Hale & JoAnn Oliver*) The Alabama Reach program for students in need has been successful so far with over \$2,000 donated from the Faculty Senate alone. The committee continues to explore the possibility of separate SGA and Graduate Student government organizations. The committee met with Dr. David Francko of the Graduate School in November and will meet with Dr. John Schmitt also of the Graduate School concerning this issue. They will also meet with Student Affairs. The committee is following up the recommendations of Task Force I with the Interim Vice President of Student Affairs.

Legislative Agenda – (*Kim Severt*) The Establishment of a date and time for the Legislative Breakfast is being addressed.

The discontinuance of UAB's football program was discussed. UAB is the largest employer in the State of Alabama. The reason give for ending the program was financial concerns and the resources would be redirected toward education and research.

The United Way campaign chaired by Reuben Cook topped their goal of donations. UA accounts for ten percent of the goal for the local area.

The Vice President for Development search committee has not met.

Meeting adjourned 4:10 PM.