

FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

AUGUST 11, 2015 - #213 AIME – 3:00 P.M.

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Donna Meester, Ed Stephenson, Rona Donahoe, Amy Dayton, Kim Severt, Bob Riter, Pamela Payne-Foster, Rainer Schad, Mangala Krishnamurthy, Steve Burch, JoAnn Oliver, Dominic Yeager, Steve Miller.

ABSENT: Chapman Greer, John Vincent, Charlotte Herrin, Brian Gordon, Reuben Cook, Clark Midkiff, Steven Jones, Joanne Hale.

GUESTS: Jennifer Greer, Associate Provost; Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of July 14, 2015 were approved.

President's Report – (*Donna Meester*) President Meester announced Jennifer Greer, Associate Provost, would be speaking at today's Steering Committee meeting.

August commencement was well attended and the most of the audience remained for the entire proceedings.

President Meester, Amy Dayton and Kim Severt attended the STARS meeting in Montgomery.

Information concerning Associate Professor of Management, James E. King, was distributed. The Steering Committee supports his selection as the Faculty Intercollegiate Athletics Committee representative.

The University of Alabama President Stuart Bell has created a new vice presidential position titled, "Vice President of Strategic Communications". This position will oversee strategic communications, outreach, and marketing and branding for the university's operation. The search is ongoing to fill this new position.

The Research and Service Committee, co-chairs Steve Burch and Steve Jones, will review the request for the Faculty Senate to endorse the University of Chicago's "Freedom of Expression" report.

The University of Alabama's President, Stuart Bell, will speak at the Faculty Senate meeting on Tuesday, August 18th which will meet in #1092 Shelby Hall at 3:30 P.M.

Vice President's Report – (*Ed Stephenson*) The Faculty Climate Survey was administered to full-time and part-time faculty by the UA Faculty Senate during April 2015. The Faculty Life Committee composed the survey during 2014-15. Vice President Stephenson proposed the review of the Faculty Climate Survey narrative comments be accepted. The redacted sections are available through box folder access. The other information is the numerical responses which have been compiled in several different tables. This information was sorted by college, sorted by sex, race and ethnicity, and sorted by faculty position/rank

including one sheet of demographic data. The question was how to present this document/report to the Senate for approval. The Climate Survey will be announced at the Faculty Senate meeting. The survey will be released following the meeting. The Climate Survey will be sent to President Bell and Interim Provost Whitaker.

It was proposed to review this past year and assemble the projects completed by the Faculty Senate with a paragraph of explanation for each project. It was also proposed to have a bulleted report in Dialog following each Senate meeting listing issues being addressed by the Senate.

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of July 14th, 2015 were approved.

Secretary Donahoe proposed a formal vote be taken for support of Dr. James E. King as the Faculty Intercollegiate Athletics Committee representative. The vote for support was unanimous.

Dr. Kevin Whitaker is officially the Interim Provost.

Chapman Greer's vacancy on the University Technology and Learning Committee with Marilyn Staffo as Chair has not been filled.

Kim Severt is the Research Advisory Committee representative and the meeting time of this committee conflicts with Steering Committee meetings with the Provost. An attempt will be made to replace this position on the Research Advisory Committee. This vacancy will be announced at the Faculty Senate meeting next week and if there are no volunteers, Amy Dayton and/or Kim Severt will attend the meetings with the Provost.

Ed Stephenson will coordinate the Diversity Task Force.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Chapman Greer*) No report.

Community Affairs – (*Kim Severt & Amy Dayton*) Donna Meester, Kim Severt and Amy Dayton attended the STARS conference in Destin, Florida sponsored by the Higher Education Partnership. Speakers at the conference addressed the current budget crisis in Alabama. One of the issues facing this committee is to find methods drawing faculty interest and participation in higher education funding particularly to the State of Alabama's budget. The State of Alabama has two budgets – the General Trust Fund and the Education Trust Fund. There is a critical shortfall and the Legislature is considering transferring some of the Education Trust Fund monies to supplement the budget shortfall with a direct effect on higher education. Some of the options being discussed are taxes on cigarettes, soft drinks, a lottery and establishing legalized gambling at the four dog tracks located in Alabama. The Legislature has just ended a special session without a consensus on funding the shortfall and another session will be called. Letters and phone calls to the legislators would be advantageous. The Community Affairs Committee will research using social media to distribute current and accurate information in an immediate fashion. The University of Alabama's communication system, stationary, or other mediums cannot be used for political activities.

Jennifer Greer, Associate Provost, gave an updated report to the Steering Committee concerning the status of UA's smoke free campus. UA's campus became a smoke free campus on January 1, 2015. Many campus groups and campus media were involved with publishing and communicating information

about the policy. Temporary signage was placed along with stickers on building doors and steel signs in strategic places. There are resources available for those wishing to quit smoking including health care provider benefits. Smoke-free environment enforcement in Bryant-Denny Stadium during football season is a concern. Hydration stations will be located in stadium areas that were previously a smoking area. There are certain spots on campus where smokers congregate to smoke. "Quit for Life" is highlighted on the Health and Wellness web page and on the Smoke Free Campus web page. Another push to communicate and inform the campus population that UA is a smoke free campus should be done.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Robert Riter*) Bob Riter reported on the Diversity Task Force Report #2 titled, "Building on Strengths and Capitalizing on New Opportunities to Realize Our Full Potential for Equity, Inclusivity, and Multicultural Richness". The main focus at the end of last spring was to correlate the recommendations with the appropriate offices and individuals in terms of an action plan and moving forward discussion. The committee is compiling a working plan for next year. The specific recommendations fall into three individual groups – data gathering, obtaining information about existing programs and supportive structures and infrastructure building. Development of a Diversity Center and hiring a Chief Diversity Officer would be main parts of infrastructure building. There are good data gathering models and infrastructure discussions could really be fruitful next year. A formal Faculty Senate statement concerning a Chief Diversity Officer was suggested and is under consideration.

A calendar of Faculty Senate elections for electronic voting has been distributed. The committee has worked with Kelli-Knox Hall and OIT to assure the mechanism is in place for secure voting. Posting nominees will include biographical information and the answers to three questions compiled by the Faculty and Senate Governance Committee. A draft of voting guidelines is being composed and following committee approval will be presented to the Steering Committee for approval. Online voting is not specified in Faculty Senate Bylaws or the Faculty Handbook leaving possible revisions to be made. There will be discussion and reviews made before the first on line voting is done.

Faculty Life – (*Brian Gordon & Pamela Payne-Foster*) The main focus of the Faculty Life Committee will be child-care and maternity leave. There was discussion about administrative support and methods of the smoke-free policy enforcement.

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

Information Technology – (*Mangala Krisnamurthy & Clark Midkiff*) Marilyn Staffo, Faculty Resource Center Director, wants to meet with the Information Technology Committee to discuss the Learning and Technology Committee, Blackboard and classroom technology.

A summary of Diversity Task Force #3, "Entering New Era: Coming Together to Achieve a Greek System with Sustainable Diversity" –

Item D: on the report regarding developing resources for alumni recommendations for minority rushees (Kathleen Gillian might be able to tell us if this is feasible) –

Item J: Establish University Standing Committee on Greek Affairs – Need to contact Chair of CUC to recommend administration to create a committee. For example: Auburn has a committee to charge/representatives that include faculty, students in fraternity and sorority, relevant student affairs officers, alumni and non-Greek students.

RE: Funding may have to be provided for more staff to manage Greek life.

Follow up on these issues have been slowed due to new administrators being put in place.

Research & Service – (*Steve Burch & Steven Jones*) The Research and Service Committee will have their first meeting next week.

Clark Midkiff will speak at next week's Faculty Senate meeting concerning the service of the deceased former senator, Tom Zeiler.

Student Affairs – (*JoAnn Oliver & Joanne Hale*) The Student Affairs Committee is responsible for Diversity Task Force Report #1 – "Working as a University to Help Shape a Model of Excellence for Student Government Elections". The Student Affairs Committee met with the new Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. David Grady, to discuss current issues and share information about their main concerns with SGA elections and the Committee Election Board. Dr. Grady will be invited to speak to the Faculty Senate in October. Dr. Grady will meet with the Student Affairs Committee within the next few weeks.

Other Committee Reports -

Dean Townsley will serve the fall semester term for Sky Shineman with the term ending 2016.

Paul Houghtaling will serve the 2016 spring semester term for Emily Wittman.

President Meester encouraged committee co-chairs to include information about finished projects of this past year and to be on time.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 P.M.