

FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2015 – 3:00 P.M. - #213 AIME

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Donna Meester, Ed Stephenson, Rona Donahoe, Chapman Greer, John Vincent, Amy Dayton, Kim Severt, Charlotte Herrin, Bob Riter, Brian Gordon, Rainer Schad, Clark Midkiff, Steve Burch, Steven Jones, Joanne Hale, JoAnn Oliver, Dominic Yeager.

ABSENT: Reuben Cook, Pamela Payne-Foster, Mangala Krishnamurthy, Steve Miller.

GUESTS: UAPD Officer Evonda Collins, Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of August 11, 2015 were approved.

Sgt. Evonda Collins, University of Alabama Police Department, addressed the Steering Committee concerning bike lane issues. A "Safer Living Guide" covering emergency preparedness, theft prevention and personal safety was distributed along with a map of designated bike lanes and shared roadways on campus. Concerns expressed were cyclists riding across the Quad where there are no bike lanes and the lack of enforcement of University policies. UAPD has added a new bicycle unit of three officers manned from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. daily. Safety programs are conducted concerning bicycle safety on campus which is poorly attended. A warning ticket is usually issued when cyclists are pulled over the first time. If the officer deems it to be a dangerous situation, a citation will be issued and it goes into the UAPD data base. There are bottlenecks on campus and locations of those were discussed. If the City of Tuscaloosa issues a citation, it usually involves a fine and a court appearance. University personnel and others park illegally including fire lanes causing parking problems and could possibly cause a dangerous situation in an emergency response. Freshmen spend 20 minutes with the police department reviewing proper and lawful campus transportation. Tips were given for safety including never being out alone at night and to stay in well lighted areas. UAPD has special units patrolling the outskirt areas of campus. UAPD works with the Tuscaloosa Police Department to investigate any crimes committed in UA's district. At the end of the semester the department gathers information and statistics to analyze and focus on the campus problem and hot spots. There are 91 officers working three shifts 24/7 with three openings that will not be filled until a new police chief is named. The direct line for Sgt. Collins is 348-8361 and email address is vcollins@uapd.ua.edu.

Enforcing a smoke free campus is lacking due to this being a policy, not a law. The agency to enforce the policy is blurry and has not been exactly determined. Other campus policies are enforced by UAPD but would mainly respond to if an altercation or confrontation followed a request to stop smoking. Students are violating the policy and following a verbal warning which is entered into the data base can be issued a non-academic citation.

Escorts to cars during late hours can be requested from Security Resources – 348-9494 – for those working late.

Active shooter and emergency preparedness presentations are available to any department and assists putting into place a plan in the event of an emergency on campus.

President's Report – (*Donna Meester*) President Meester will be meeting with Kathy Butler, Assistant Director of Internal Communications, regarding efforts to make the Faculty Senate's workings and issues more visible.

Interim Kevin Whitaker and President Meester will give the charge to the NTRC committee – Amy Dayton & Joanne Hale, (*Tenured/Tenure Track Faculty*); Chapman Greer (Teaching), Rachael Frazier (Research), Jim Leeper (Clinical), Brian Gordon (Teaching) (*Contract Faculty with Terminal Degree*); Lori Greene (HES), Nancy Payne (SW) (*Contract Faculty without Terminal Degree*); Lisa Rhiney (FA), Jennifer Greer (AA), (*Administrators*) with the addition of two Deans. A final and approved NTRC document is needed before the committee meets.

The University of Alabama Board of Trustees will meet September 17 and 18, 2015. President Meester will be meeting with UAB and UAH Faculty Senate Presidents to discuss the lack of a national search and lack of transparency in selecting a new Chancellor for the UA system. Chancellor Robert Witt has announced his retirement and named Ray Hayes as his replacement.

Dean Francko is retiring as Dean of the Graduate School. Interim Provost Whitaker has asked for input regarding the search committee composition for filling this vacancy. He suggested five or six faculty, four from Academic Affairs and one from Faculty Senate.

Interim Kevin Whitaker and David Grady, Vice President of Academic Affairs, will speak to the Faculty Senate meeting on September 15, 2015.

Vice President's Report – (Ed Stephenson) The Faculty Senate Diversity Task Force Reports one and two are in the hands of the Student Affairs Committee and the Faculty Senate Governance Committee. An ad hoc committee will be handling the Task Force Report number three. The committee is composed of Darrin Griffin, Norm Baldwin, Chapman Greer, Silas Blackstock and Meredith Bagley. Pamela Payne-Foster was added to this committee later. Ed Stephenson will meet with this committee on Wednesday, September 9, 2015. Some of these committee members have asked to be relieved of their Senate committee duties to concentrate on this report. Some members of the Steering Committee objected and suggested the co-chairs of each committee could adjust workloads to accommodate those committee members.

The Faculty Senate has just been made aware there is a Task Force Report number four which addresses the Student Code of Conduct and Citizenship. The purpose of this report was to focus on improving student citizenship. The first Task Force report addressed student elections; the second report referred to equity inclusiveness and multi-cultural richness, climate survey and an inventory of existing programs; the third report regarded diversity and participation in all organizations particularly the Greek system; and the fourth report focused on student citizenship. Task Force report number four approval by the Task Force Committee will be verified.

Secretary's Report – (Rona Donahoe) No report.

Academic Affairs – (John Vincent & Chapman Greer) The Academic Affairs Committee met last week to discuss a student cheating policy. The Academic Misconduct policy does not state faculty's responsibility and how to deal with a cheating classroom situation at the moment it is discovered. Determination of cheating has been made more difficult with advancing technology such as smart phones and watches. There are bogus doctor excuses being presented to account for class absences. Training should be provided for faculty and this will be brought up in the next meeting with the Provost.

Community Affairs – (Amy Dayton & Kimberly Severt) Members of the Community Affairs Committee will be meeting with Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox to reach out to the community and establish dialog.

The Alabama State Legislature is in special session number two concerning the Alabama budget crisis.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (Charlotte Herrin & Robert Riter) The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee continues to consider electronic voting for Faculty Senate elections. Kelli-Knox Hall, Student Conduct Assistant Director, informed the committee that the Big Pulse electronic system would be simpler to use for Faculty Senate elections. Big Pulse can send individual emails for voting purposes. An electronic test vote will be conducted. Bob Riter and Dominic Yeager are reviewing the Faculty Senate bylaws to determine what revisions are needed to address electronic voting and any other changes that need to be made.

The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee is reviewing the Faculty Senate Task Force report number two and are discussing what the duties of a Diversity Office would be in the event one is established. Robert Riter will head moving forward with report number two and will be meeting with the Office of Institutional Research representatives, Dr. David Grady and Elliott Spillers. A priority will be data gathering and comprehensively addressing the composition inventory of existing diversity programs and multi-culturalism. It was recommended that a task force be established with representatives from across campus to address what the University is currently doing in the area of multi-culturalism. It

was suggested to request Samory Pruitt as Vice President of Community Affairs name a committee and have a preliminary meeting. A second recommendation would be a climate study conducted by external experts in conjunction with institution research to supplement the data of the Faculty Climate Survey. The establishment of a Diversity Office and a Chief Diversity Officer continues to be followed by the Faculty and Senate Governance Committee and the Faculty Senate Steering Committee.

Faculty Life – *(Brian Gordon & Pamela Payne-Foster)* The Faculty Life Committee is addressing six areas of concern. The first priority of those issues is day care/maternity leave. An ad hoc committee will be considering those priorities. The second issue is establishing an Office of Diversity, the third issue is no smoking/health. A report will be given at next month's meeting.

Financial Affairs – *(Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad)* The Financial Affairs Committee will be meeting with Chief Financial Officer, Lynda Gilbert, to acquire information about the financial status of the University budget. The committee is also looking at purchasing problem areas and requested any complaint in this area be forwarded to the Financial Affairs Committee.

Information Technology – *(Clark Midkiff & Mangala Krishnamurthy)* The Information Technology Committee met with John McGowan, Vice Provost for Information Technology, and his administrative staff. There seems to be changes coming to access Banner through MyBama making the site more secure. There was talk of unifying UA's email domain. This seems to be taking effect department by department. It was suggested having McGowan address the Faculty Senate in October for an information technology update.

Dan Wolfe presented the long range Campus Master Plan in G-54 Rose on September 10, 2015.

Research & Service – *(Steve Burch & Steven Jones)* The Research & Service Committee has not met since the last Steering Committee meeting. The committee has reviewed all the comments regarding research in the Faculty Climate Survey. There were 163 research comments with 22 comments directly research related. Some of the 22 comments referred to graduate student support or lack thereof, teaching loads, administrative support (purchasing issues, OSP and NSF research mechanisms, monetary and award size, and journal publication, available sabbatical), and the lack of a research plan and vision.

Student Affairs – *(JoAnn Oliver & Joanne Hale)* This committee's co-chairs met with David Grady, Vice President for Academic Affairs, to review the Diversity Task Force Report number one. Dr. Grady will be meeting with the Student Affairs Committee next week.

The Provost search is frozen at this point and will be up to President Bell to move forward on this issue.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 P.M.