

## FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES

APRIL 14, 2015 – 3:00 P.M. - #213 AIME

### APPROVED MINUTES

**ATTENDING:** Donna Meester, Ed Stephenson, Rona Donahoe, Charlotte Herrin, Steve Burch, Andreas Piepke, Kimberly Severt, John Vincent, Mangala Krishnamurthy, Clark Midkiff, Rainer Schad, Joanne Hale.

**ABSENT:** Marilyn Handley, Patricia Parmelee, Reuben Cook, JoAnn Oliver, Pamela Payne-Foster, Steve Miller, Bob Riter.

**GUESTS:** Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of February 10 and March 10 were approved.

Faculty Senate President, Vice President and Secretary met prior to the Steering Committee meeting to make committee assignments.

**President's Report** – (*Donna Meester*) President Meester began the meeting with a wrap-up of this past year's issues. There will be many changes to come in UA's administration and the goal of the Faculty Senate will be to continue the excellent working relationship established with those presently in the soon-to-be vacant positions. The UA presidential search seems to be moving forward rapidly. The provost search has been slowed to coordinate with the new president's wishes to fill that position.

President Meester will be attending the meetings of the Council of Deans beginning in May.

The Faculty Senate position of Parliamentarian needs to be filled. It cannot be filled by a senator.

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

**Secretary's Report** – (*Rona Donahoe*) A meeting was held to replace vacancies on committees that are not continuing as senators. The list will be distributed at next week's Faculty Senate meeting. The committees will then break out in groups to elect co-chairs.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – (*Charlotte Herrin & Marilyn Handley*) The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee will continue to research information pertaining to online electronic voting (BigPulse) for future Faculty Senate elections.

James D. Hamilton, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences, has been elected as Ombudsperson with his term ending in 2018.

**Research & Service** – (*Steve Burch & Andreas Piepke*) The Research and Service Committee has requested a meeting with Dr. Carl Pinkert, Vice President for Research. A date and time has not been set at this time.

**Legislative Agenda** – (*Kim Severt*) Attendance for Higher Education Day seemed to be down this year. The timing of the rally could have been better since it was close to the end of the semester. Students met with

Representative Bill Poole, had photo opportunities and lunch was provided. Governor Robert Bentley spoke to the group. The new Community Affairs Committee could address the lack of participation in this event.

**Academic Affairs – (John Vincent & Patricia Parmelee)** The Academic Affairs has several unfinished items from this past year. The lack of a draft defining UA's Core Curriculum policy has not been done which would come from the Provost's office. This will be address in the meeting with the Provost on Thursday. In 1997 the faculty voted saying, "This ballot assumes the following is the Core of the University of Alabama following the State Core criteria with the possible three modifications". Two of the three passed. Nothing has formally been done since then. Any course on the books with the exception of Computer Science and Writing designations that has not been approved by the Articulation Committee is technically null and void. This could be immediately corrected by a statement from the Provost. The Core Curriculum Oversight Committee guidelines were taken back to the original provided by Ed Stephenson. Following an agreement the committee has gone back to CCO committee meeting minutes were they approved to approved the temporary core designation and wants to put this back into the document.

The Academic Affairs Committee will continue to address the Non-Tenure Track, Renewable Contract Faculty document.

The new position of Student Advisory and Success will be discussed in a meeting with the Provost on Thursday.

**Information Technology – (Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff)** No report.

**Financial Affairs – (Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad)** Reconsidering options for University retirement funding is a long term process. Proposals from vendors for other choices will be forthcoming.

**Student Affairs – Joanne Hale & JoAnn Oliver)** The Student Affairs Committee members are waiting for the new Vice President for Student Affairs to get in place to continue progress on several issues.

**Faculty Life – (Pamela Payne-Foster & Ed Stephenson)** Implementation of the faculty climate survey has been done with survey results to be sent to the Faculty Life Committee to sort and will become a public document. A reminder email will be sent to faculty the importance of responding to the survey.

Efforts will continue to establish a relationship with the Student Government Association. The continuity of a relationship is difficult since SGA officer positions change yearly.

The Research Advisory Committee recognized Outstanding Research Faculty with 220 attending. The Dean of each college submits the name of the faculty member to be honored.

Meeting adjourned 3:55 P.M.

The new senator orientation will be next Tuesday, April 21 at 2:45 P.M.