

FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES
May 12, 2015 – 3:00 pm - #213 Aime

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Reuben Cook, Amy Dalton, Rona Donahoe, Pamela Payne-Foster, Brian Gordon, Chapman Greer, Charlotte Herrin, Mangala Krishnamurthy, Donna Meester, Clark Midkiff, Steve Miller, JoAnn Oliver, Bob Riter, Ed Stephenson, John Vincent.

ABSENT: Kim Severt, Rainer Schad, Steve Burch, Steven Jones, Joanne Hale.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of April 16, 2015 were approved.

President's Report – (*Donna Meester*) The Faculty Senate Parliamentarian appointment of Dominic Yeager, Assistant Professor-Theater and Dance, was approved unanimously.

The Code of Conduct, Continuity of Instruction Plan draft and length of semester changes will be among the issues to be discussed in the Thursday, May 14th meeting with the Provost. Several situations concerning changing semester length included placing residents in the dorms, financial aid, summer interim classes, classroom space and holidays.

Faculty attendance was down for spring commencement. The Community Affairs Committee will discuss methods to increase attendance. The Provost has approved the purchase of twelve additional robes for the Karen Steckol Regalia Project.

The new Faculty Senate Standing Committee co-chairs were urged to identify goals for the upcoming year and to find a time to meet convenient for the majority of the committee members. Suggestions for speakers for Faculty Senate Steering Committee and full Faculty Senate meetings would give additional information concerning priority items. It was suggested to have The University of Alabama Board of Trustees President Pro-Tem speak to the Faculty Senate once a year.

The new meeting space for Faculty Senate monthly meetings will be #1092 Shelby Hall at 3:30 P.M. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee will continue to meet monthly in #213 Aime at 3:00 P.M. Meetings on Thursdays with the Provost will be in #254 Rose Administration Building at 3:00 P.M.

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

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) Secretary Donahoe reported the calendar updates on the Faculty Senate web site are almost complete. The University had not updated some of the Faculty Senate elections such as the Mediation Committee and the Merger and Discontinuance Committee. The Merger and Discontinuance Committee terms of service are in question. Traditionally the Faculty Senate has held the election for the faculty

member on this committee in March with the term ending at the end of the academic year. The posting has the term ending in December. The Provost has not selected anyone for the Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans and Chairs Committee.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Chapman Greer*) The clarification of the core curriculum has not been issued from the Provost's office. Copies of the 1997 memorandum from Provost Nancy S. Barrett concerning the state-mandated general studies curriculum and the core curriculum faculty ballot adopting the state-mandated general studies curriculum as the core curriculum for the University were distributed. Ballot items one and three were adopted. Item number two was rejected which reads, "In addition to the pre-calculus algebra course mandated by the State's General Studies Curriculum, we recommend that The University of Alabama require completion of three semester hours in courses for the mathematics (M) designation". The problem is the statement on the ballot which states, "Only courses approved by the State General Studies and Articulation Committee will meet these requirements". This means the University cannot have any core curriculum courses in the areas of English Composition, Humanities and Fine Arts, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, History and Social Behavioral Sciences which are not approved by the State Articulation and General Studies. Foreign language and writing requirements were not kept. A draft of a memorandum concerning the core curriculum was distributed and will be copied to the Provost. Record retention, preservation and location was lacking in researching the history of this policy. The points were made to organize, centralize and electronically preserve institution documents. Changes made in the policy over the years were not dated.

Faculty members would like more time to grade and post final exam grades.

The Academic Affairs will be reviewing and updating the Faculty Handbook in the coming year.

Community Affairs – (*Kim Severt & Amy Dayton*) The Faculty Senate Community Affairs Committee was asked to review the HB 574 bill which would change the structure of the board of control. After contacting Gordon Stone of the Higher Education Partnership organization the committee felt there would be no advancement of this bill. The issue will continue to be monitored. It was suggested to have updates on pending education legislation from appropriate representatives.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Robert Riter*) The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee reviewed elections to be held in the coming year and reviewed the Faculty Senate calendar for the timing of those elections. The Faculty Handbook states the Mediation Committee election by the Faculty Senate would be held in November. The Faculty Senate held the election in December. There were other calendar discrepancies to be corrected. There are elections to be held by the Faculty Senate which are not stated in the Faculty Senate Bylaws. The committee will be codifying Faculty Senate documents. A meeting will be held with Kelli Knox-Hall concerning electronic elections for the Senate.

Faculty Life – (*Brian Gordon & Pamela Payne-Foster*) The results of the Faculty Climate Survey have not been received. Ed Stephenson will be temporarily attached to this

committee to analyze the results of the survey and prepare those to be distributed to the entire faculty.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) The Vice President for Advancement search continues with the number of candidates reduced to a low number. The University's advancement office is small. With new administrators coming in that could change with fund-raising being one of the top priorities. The new president of the University could spend as much as sixty percent of their time in fund-raising efforts. Compensation for faculty and staff remains a prime concern.

Information Technology – (*Clark Midkiff & Mangala Krishnamurthy*) The Information Technology Committee will make plans to meet with John McGowan, Vice Provost for Information Technology, in the near future. Gorgas Library has undergone renovations to extend wireless service.

Research & Service – (*Steve Burch & Steven Jones*) No report.

Student Affairs – (*Joanne Hale & JoAnn Oliver*) The Student Affairs Committee has a written plan prepared for discussion with the Vice President for Student Affairs. The committee will continue to meet prior to the full Faculty Senate meetings.

Steve Miller, past president of the Faculty Senate and member of the UA presidential search committee, reported the search continues and candidates have been narrowed to a small number. The decision is expected in the very near future.

Mike Hardin, Dean of Culverhouse Business School, has resigned to accept the position of provost at Samford University.

Reports from Other Committees –

The impact of the **no smoking policy** on campus was discussed. Enforcement, education, orientation and adjustment for this policy will take time. There have been instances where the University police declined to speak to this enforcement. Ticketing bicycle riders was discussed.

The **Campus Master Plan Committee** met last week. Improvements and changes to the Bryce property were presented. Old bricks from the Bryce property are being used to reface some of the buildings. There will be road construction including roads through and around campus along with those improvements. The new classroom building should be ready for occupation in the fall of 2016.

Transportation and Parking - The location of the bus terminal will be moved to the Partlow property making it one mile to the location instead of five miles. The Magnolia Parking Deck should be open for faculty and student parking this fall with first come-first serve parking. The deck will be open for student parking during football season. The power on the Quad will be discontinued one and one-half hours following the completion of each football game. Road construction in Tuscaloosa, Alberta City, bridges and I-20/59 will complicate and delay traffic this fall. Turn lanes will be added on McFarland Boulevard.

Reuben Cook emailed comments from his colleagues concerning the tenure track document to the Steering Committee. The document cannot be specific in some instances since the college/school places their own specific plan.

Concern was expressed about the lack of a permanent **Animal Care Facility** director. An advertisement for the position has not been placed and Tanta Myles has been serving as interim director. This position has among its responsibilities the oversight of facility maintenance, animal treatment and inspections. The facility comes under the responsibilities of the Office of Research. President Donna Meester will consult with Steve Burch, a member of the Faculty Senate Research and Service Committee, concerning this issue.

There is an UA **equestrian** club which keeps horses close to campus. These horses are the only animals on campus that fall under the USDA control. There is no problem as long as those horses are not used for teaching or research. However, extensive compliance problems would be manifested under those circumstances. The co-chairs of the Research and Service Committee will follow up on this issue.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 P.M.