

## FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES

JULY 14, 2015 – 3:00 PM - #213 AIME

### APPROVED MINUTES

**ATTENDING:** Rona Donahoe, Donna Meester, Ed Stephenson, John Vincent, Charlotte Herrin, Brian Gordon, Pamela Payne-Foster, Mangala Krishnamurthy, Clark Midkiff, Joanne Hale, Dominic Yeager.

**ABSENT:** Chapman Greer, Amy Dayton, Kimberly Severt, Bob Riter, Reuben Cook, Rainer Schad, Steve Burch, Steven Jones, JoAnn Oliver.

**GUESTS:** Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of May 12, 2015 and June 9, 2015 were approved.

**President's Report –** (*Donna Meester*) Faculty Senate Parliamentarian Dominic Yeager announced the birth of his son, Isaac.

A group of six attended a diversity conference in California with Norm Baldwin representing the Faculty Senate. President Meester will be meeting with Norm Baldwin for a report on the meeting.

President Meester met with Interim Provost Kevin Whitaker to discuss various issues. The suggestion to introduce more diversity in the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee representation seems appropriate at this time.

The new President of The University of Alabama, Stuart Bell, will officially take office on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Judy Bonner's office has been relocated and she will be on administrative leave this fall.

**Vice President's Report –** (*Ed Stephenson*) Vice President Stephenson strongly urged committee co-chairs to respond to his request to review and edit the Faculty Climate Survey narrative comments for any disparaging, potentially liable, non-constructive or specific identification areas. At some point there should be discussion concerning criteria to be followed in the redaction process.

**Secretary's Report –** (*Rona Donahoe*) Chapman Greer's vacancy on the University Technology and Learning Committee has not been filled.

**Academic Affairs –** (*John Vincent & Chapman Greer*) John Vincent and Chapman Greer met with Interim Provost Kevin Whitaker to discuss the Core Curriculum Oversight Committee. The committee of last year met with the guidelines committee securing representation from every college giving an undergraduate degree. The Honors College teaches core courses and does not give degrees but could possibly be offered an ex officio position. However, the Honors College is not officially part of the core curriculum but some of their courses do count. Another meeting with Academic Affairs will follow a

committee membership term update by Interim Provost Whitaker. There is consultation between Joe Benson and Kevin Whitaker concerning issuing a core curriculum statement.

**Community Affairs** – *(Kim Severt & Amy Dayton)* No report.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – *(Charlotte Herrin & Robert Riter)* The BigPulse online voting system has been set up on MyBama for Faculty Senate voting. A test voting period will be held from Tuesday 7-14-15 at 8:00 A.M. until Monday 7-20-15 at noon. After following voting instructions a confirmation email will be sent to the voter's MyBama email account. There is another voting system that could possibly be tested in a few weeks. There was discussion concerning rewriting the Faculty Senate bylaws/constitution to address this method of voting and what would constitute a majority. The slate of candidates would need to be sent in advance to give time if additional voting is needed. The Faculty Senate President would vote in the event of a tie vote after two rounds of voting and this should be stated in the bylaws. Once a senator has voted they could not vote again. A follow up will be done on the cost of using this system.

**Faculty Life** – *(Brian Gordon & Pamela Payne-Foster)* The Faculty Life Committee met two weeks ago to discuss the Faculty Climate Survey. There were six survey areas prioritized beginning with day care/family leave issues and policies. This would include paternity leave, adoption leave, caring for aging parents and tenure clock stoppage issues. The second priority is smoking issues including enforcement of the campus smoking ban. A UA health committee member will give a report to the Faculty Life committee this fall. The third priority is parking. Senator Reuben Cook is the Transportation and Parking Committee Faculty Senate representative and the composition and description of this committee was discussed. The fourth priority is research and the fifth priority is diversity. UA's hiring of a Diversity Officer is a goal of the Faculty Life Committee. The sixth priority is contract faculty needs, support and benefits.

**Financial Affairs** – *(Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad)* A date for an annual budget presentation should be set up by this committee. The meeting should be open to anyone wishing to attend.

**Information Technology** – *(Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff)* Endnote technology is now in place and is licensed campus wide. It was suggested to have someone address the Faculty Senate meeting concerning the details of this service.

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

**Student Affairs** – *(Joanne Hale & JoAnn Oliver)* The Student Affairs Committee will be meeting with the new Vice President for Student Affairs at the end of this month to discuss the Diversity Task Force recommendations.

#### **Reports from Other Committees---**

President Meester requested suggestions for speakers for the Faculty Senate fall meetings. Among the suggestions were Lane McClelland, Director of Crossroads Community Center; John McGowan, Vice Provost of Information Technology; and Teresa Wise/Carolina Robinson, Capstone International

Academic Programs. There will be President Stuart Bell and Interim Provost Kevin Whitaker speaking sometime this fall.

President Meester has requested Faculty Senate Committees set goals for their committees and as the full senate. The completion of the Diversity Task Force recommendations should be high on that list along with the revision of the Faculty Handbook and contract faculty issues.

The next meeting with the Provost will be July 23.

Meeting adjourned 4:15 P.M.