

## FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

FEBRUARY 9, 2016 - #213 AIME – 3:00 P.M.

### APPROVED MINUTES

**ATTENDING:** Donna Meester, Ed Stephenson, Rona Donahoe, Chapman Greer, John Vincent, Amy Dayton, Kim Severt, Charlotte Herrin, Bob Riter, Brian Gordon, Pamela Payne-Foster, Reuben Cook, Rainer Schad, Mangala Krishnamurthy, Clark Midkiff, Steve Burch, JoAnn Oliver, Charlye Adams, Steve Miller, Dominic Yeager.

**ABSENT:** Steven Jones.

**PRESS:** Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of January 12, 2016 were approved with an attendance correction.

**President's Report** – (*Donna Meester*) The Strategic Planning Council meets every Monday at 8:00 A.M. Responses to the survey have fallen off after a good response the first two weeks. Steering Committee members were asked to encourage students in their classes to respond to the survey.

The Strategic Planning Council is in the process of organizing town hall meetings. Times and locations of these meetings will be available on a web site.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committees of UA, UAH and UAB met following the Board of Trustees meeting on Friday, February 5, 2016. The three campuses found there were several of the faculty life issues facing each campus. The structures of each Steering Committee membership requirements and committee responsibilities varied across the board. The consensus of the three Steering Committees was to continue the joint meetings with UAH-(Huntsville) hosting the next meeting on Friday, April 8, 2016. This will be in conjuncture with the Board of Trustees meeting in the same location.

Chancellor Robert Witt announced the centralized purchasing system for all three campuses had saved approximately \$30 million dollars.

Discussion focused on the differences in the resiliency curriculum and campus resiliency in the event of natural disasters.

Speakers at the February 16<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate meeting will be Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox and UA Vice Provost of Information Technology Dr. John McGowan.

**Vice President's Report** – (*Ed Stephenson*) The Task Force #3 committee received information that an email was sent by Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. David Grady, giving students instructions on how to vote.

The Diversity Task Force Committee will compose a complete list of their issues indicating those with action completed and those continuing priorities to be presented at the Faculty Senate March meeting.

**Secretary's Report** – (*Rona Donahoe*) Secretary Donahoe distributed the OIRA Faculty Senate Counts for spring 2016. The Faculty Senate will be seven seats larger due to increased qualified faculty members having FTE .5 assignments to the college. Qualifications for a member of the Faculty Senate states in the By-Laws – “A faculty member holding a regular appointment is a tenured, tenure-earning probationary, or temporary faculty member at The University of Alabama engaged in teaching or research at least half of a normal load during the regular (academic) year, or a librarian having corresponding rank and professional engagement”. Arts and Sciences will have an additional two senators with CIS, Education, Honors College, University Libraries and Nursing each having one additional senator.

**Academic Affairs** – (*John Vincent & Chapman Greer*) The Academic Affairs continues work on the revisions of the Faculty Handbook. The final version will be sent to the entire faculty for a vote. The Core Curriculum document is finalized and is available on the UA web site.

There have been complaints concerning syllabi which stems from the OIRA creation of syllabi submission online to keep our certification with SACS. The sections required did not match up with the Faculty Handbook. The Faculty Handbook was changed to match up with the web page. The weather policy was placed at the bottom. The ethics statement has been added to the bottom as well. OIRA has backed off on the number of required sections. Only half are now required when all of them should be. The issue will be on the agenda for the meeting with the Provost on Thursday, February 11, 2016.

**Community Affairs** – (*Kim Severt & Amy Dayton*) Higher Education Day will be held in Montgomery on Thursday, February 25, 2016. SGA has reserved buses for transportation. There was discussion to continue the Legislative Breakfast, the location and changing the time of day for the meeting.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – (*Charlotte Herrin & Robert Riter*) The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee continues to review the best method for electronic voting, particularly Qualtrics. There have been no nominations for Ombudsperson received. The Ombudsperson should come from the College of Engineering or Business. One more notice will be emailed requesting nominations. This election should be conducted along with elections for senators.

Nominations for Faculty Senate officers should be submitted by February 10, 2016. JoAnn Oliver was nominated for an available officer position. Robert Riter was nominated for Faculty Senate Secretary. Letters of intent should be submitted.

Faculty Senate By-law revisions have been approved. Students will be meeting to review the Capstone Creed revisions. A lot of the Task Force Report #2 have been addressed but are contingent on the Strategic Plan under development. Faculty Senate manuals are under review and on track and will be presented at the next Steering Committee meeting. Any suggestions should be referred to this committee.

**Faculty Life** – (*Pamela Payne-Foster & Brian Gordon*) The Faculty Life Committee met today. Information was gathered from past actions and statistics concerning maternity leave and tenure clock extension policies. There is a UA maternity leave policy under the Provost's Office on the UA web page. The Faculty Life Committee will give a report at the next Faculty Senate meeting. Maternity policies vary between departments and colleges. The benefit should be standardized across campus. NTRC can

review this issue. Shifting teaching responsibilities to research and service during this time should be reviewed. The Faculty Handbook will refer to links addressing these particular issues.

Day care options will be considered also.

**Financial Affairs** – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) Referring to the report at the last meeting that refund checks were being received from TIAA-CREF was actually a credit to the individual's retirement account for overhead and management fee overcharges. There is concern about UA's debt, enrollment growth and continuous building and road projects. UA's bond rating is excellent and a capital campaign is due. It is time for the financial report from administration with pointed questions to be posed in advance.

The Athletic Department has five development employees and is conducting a foundation campaign. UA has consultants on campus for facility space and scholarships.

**Information Technology** – (*Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff*) The technology issue list has been sent to John McGowan. There continues to be a need for better off-hour IT tech support and communication from the Office of Technology. Complaints should be referred to this committee.

**Research & Service** – (*Steve Burch & Steven Jones*) The Research and Service Committee met today. The "listening sessions" conducted by the Office of Research was attended by 12 the first meeting, 25 the second meeting and 70 the third meeting following complaints by the Steering Committee that the meetings were not advertised. Discussion concerning a research vision included the question of quantitative or aspirational goals.

**Student Affairs** – (*JoAnn Oliver & Charlye Adams*) JoAnn Oliver represented the Faculty Senate at the **SEC Academic Collaboration Award Workshop** held in Columbia, South Carolina at the University of South Carolina. The meeting was encouraging with topics of inclusiveness and diversity among the topics. Three UA students attended and represented the University well. It seems institutions share many of the same issues and wish to continue to have honest conversations. JoAnn will submit a written report.

The Student Affairs Committee met with Dr. Grady on Friday, January 22. The Task Force Report #1 includes recommendations concerning the **Election Board**. Students know how to report violations in some cases brings no response or action. The question to Dr. Grady was what is being done or will be done to increase the number of minority students applying.

The **NTRC Task Force** has met twice this semester, completed revisions to the document and then sent to Provost Whitaker, Steering Committee, Council of Deans and Office of Counsel. The NTRC will then review the document and write a recommendation report with possible implementation points. A time line should be established. Emails sent to Provost Whitaker should be copied to Sherry Edwards to assist managing time constraints. More discussion and feedback is needed and time is an important issue.

**New Business** – Secretary Rona Donahoe has been emailing a summary of the Faculty Senate meetings to the Deans and President Meester has been sending those to the Council of Deans.

**Parking** – If a parking hang tag is lost, a two week temporary tag is issued. If the lost tag is not found, a \$100 replacement fee is charged. If the tag is found before the end of the year, the fee is refunded.

**OptumRx** – Complaints have been received regarding the OptumRx plan. Secretary Rona Donahoe has been gathering this information and is referring the complaints to the Benefits Office in Human Resources.

Meeting adjourned 4:55 P.M.