**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**January 10, 2017 – 3:00 P.M. - #213 Aime**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ATTENDING: Charlye Adams, Rona Donahoe, Amy Dayton, James Gilbreath, Chapman Greer, Darrin Griffin, Bill Martin, Clark Midkiff, Steve Miller, Osiris Molina, Robert Riter, Rainer Schad, Rita Snyder, Dominic Yeager (Parliamentarian).**

**ABSENT: Ajay Agrawal, Charlotte Herrin, Donna Meester, Osiris Molina, Amy Traylor.**

**GUESTS: Norm Baldwin, Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.**

**Roll call and quorum check by Faculty Senate Secretary Robert Riter.**

**The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of December 6, 2016 were approved.**

**President’s Report – *(Rona Donahoe in Donna Meester’s absence)* Barbara Dahlbach, Chapman Greer and Ignacio Rodeno will serve as volunteers on the Alumni Award Selection Committee.**

**The Faculty Senate Steering Committee of UAB will host a joint luncheon meeting of UA, UAB and UAH Faculty Senate Steering Committees during the Board of Trustees meeting in Birmingham on February 2 or 3, 2017.**

**The University of Alabama’s Women’s Basketball team will have a game on Sunday, February 4th at 4:00 P.M. with UA Faculty Senate, faculty members, staff and other campus organizations as special guests.**

**Vice President’s Report – *(Rona Donahoe)* A letter written to express appreciation for the cooperation and dedication displayed by the Division of Student Affairs personnel and their willingness to implement recommendations made by the Faculty Senate Task Force for Excellence in Equity, Inclusion and Citizenship. Some of the accomplishments include:**

* **Additions to the Election Manual that extend the statute of limitation for reporting voter fraud, prohibit unauthorized mobile voting stations on and off campus, and extend campaign regulations that apply to residence halls to also include fraternity and sorority houses.**
* **Development of a comprehensive action plan to enhance the University’s capacity to prevent and respond to invidious discrimination and to further the progress made in increasing diversity in the Greek System.**
* **Modification of the Capstone Creed to include promoting equity and inclusion as core values of University of Alabama students.**
* **Adoption of policies that prohibit socially boycotting organizations that racially integrate, that forbid discrimination in membership selections by Greek chapter members, alumni and advisors, that eliminate the need for alumni recommendations to join a Greek organization, and that deemphasize the significance of legacy status in determining the selection of new Greek members.**
* **Membership of traditionally white Greek organizations affiliated with the Panhellenic Council increasing from only four African Americans and 332 members of other racial and ethnic minorities in 2012 to 72 African Americans and 793 members of other racial and ethnic minorities in 2016.**

**There continues to be concern regarding SGA elections, open and transparent recruitment of the Interfraternity Council and eliminating secret political student organizations by becoming legitimate organizations. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee preferred a letter of recognition rather than a resolution. A copy of “Task Force Report 1 Recommendations and Actions Taken” was distributed along with a blank sheet of paper to represent accomplishments not achieved prior to efforts made to integrate the Greek System in the early 2000’s. The document prioritizes 34 different recommended reforms and 47 measures taken to implement those recommendations. Following discussion the Faculty Senate Steering Committee approved (1 opposed, 1 abstention) a motion to forward the letter to the Faculty Senate to review and vote.**

**Secretary’s Report *– (Robert Riter)* Waiting on report from OIR to begin senator elections.**

**Academic Affairs – *(John Vincent & Chapman Greer)* The committee will meet to consider the mediation and grievance policy in the Faculty Handbook to move closer to completing Handbook revisions. The committee continues to review early admission policies for special need students and will invite someone from the Office of Disabled Students to speak to the Steering Committee concerning this issue.**

**Community & Legislative Affairs – *(Amy Dayton & Rita Snyder)* The Community and Legislative Affairs Committee continues efforts to establish a Steering Committee/Legislative meeting. R. B. Walker would like to speak to give Legislative updates to the Faculty Senate/Steering Committee. A date will be set.**

**Financial Affairs – *(Rainer Schad & Reuben Cook)* The Financial Affairs Committee has learned that any potential changes to the Retirement System have been tabled.**

**A list – “Red Tape and Added Responsibilities since the Early 1990’s” - was distributed. The document listed 57 Red Tape (added responsibilities) and eight Red Tape Reductions. The additional Red Tape responsibilities added untold hours infringing on time for research and teaching preparation. Some of the issues brought up were the requirements to fulfill mandatory training, data demands, post and upload syllabi online every semester and annual updates and uploads our vitas onto the web.**

**It was suggested to have a representative speak to the Faculty Senate/Steering Committee concerning gift limitations and answer questions about ethics.**

**There is an issue regarding University personnel submitting improper claims for unqualified recipients to receive tuition and insurance benefits.**

**Faculty & Staff Governance - *(Charlotte Herrin & Steve Miller)* There are two nominees who are willing to serve for the one year remaining on Nitin Chopra’s term of service on the Mediation Committee. The nominees are Ana Corbalan and Juan Lopez-Bautista. Dr. Corbalan is an Associate Professor, HFA/Modern Languages and Classics/A&S. Dr. Lopez-Bautista is Professor of Biological Sciences/A&S. The election will take place during the January Faculty Senate meeting.**

**Also, the announcement will be made in the January Faculty Senate meeting that it is time to seek nominations for Faculty Senate Officers. Senators who wish to run for office must meet the qualifications described in the Faculty Senate Bylaws as well as submit a written Letter of Intent to Charlotte Herrin before February 10th. Nominations will close at the end of the February Faculty Senate meeting. The finalized slate of candidates for Faculty Senate Officers will be announced before the close of the February meeting.**

**There have been no nominations received for one vacancy on the UA Merger or Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee.**

**Faculty Life – *(Bill Martin & James Gilbreath)* The Faculty Life Committee is monitoring any developments in the provision of child care and will continue to pursue this issue.**

**Information Technology & Strategic Communications – *(Darrin Griffin & Clark Midkiff)* The process to be followed to change the Faculty Senate web page was discussed.**

**The OIT staff proposes two new policies involving restrictions on faculty and staff email and phone use for UA business coming out later this month. Part of the email proposal would limit all UA business to ua.edu, not gmail. The other proposal would be the installation of computer software to be installed on cell phones with security functions and would detect anything other than University use.**

**Research & Service – *(Ajay Agrawal & Osiris Molina)* The Research and Service Committee have been working to provide feedback on the Vice President for Research strategy document.**

**Student Affairs – *(Charlye Adams & Amy Traylor)* The Student Affairs Committee is working on coordinating Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE), physicians and hospital care for victims of sexual assault. Sexual Assault Nurses are trained and certified professionals skilled in performing quality forensic medical-legal exams and should a case go to trial, the SANE would possibly be called to testify. Funding sources, some organizational partnering and office space are being researched. Various methods of educating students were discussed.**

**Safety of students at the railroad track crossings was discussed.**

**Reports from Other Committees –**

**The CUC will meet next week with the committee chairs and co-chairs to make sure everyone is on schedule to select committee members.**

**Meeting adjourned 4:35 P.M.**