**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**APRIL 18, 2017 – 3:30 p.m. - #1010 North Lawn Hall**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Chris Jordan/John Blitz.**

**ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Lesley Reid, Tom Lopez, Jeff Martin, John McDonald, Scott Parrott, Clark Midkiff, Edward Sazonov, Brad Tuggle, Kym Reddoch.**

**GUESTS: UA President Stuart Bell; UA Provost Kevin Whitaker; Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Ed Enoch, Tuscaloosa News.**

**New senator orientation was held at 2:45 P.M. in #1010 North Lawn Hall conducted by Faculty Senate Secretary Chapman Greer, President Donna Meester and Vice President Rona Donahoe.**

**UA President Stuart Bell began the Faculty Senate meeting by welcoming the new senators. President Bell expressed appreciation for the past semester academic accomplishments. Graduation ceremonies are approaching in the next two weeks with 5,300 students graduating in May with 4,300 of those walking to accept diplomas. The number of ceremonies has been increased to accommodate the number of students participating.**

**UA enrollment is over 37,600 with slowing but steady growth. The quality of UA students certainly gives faculty an impressive group to teach. Better methods are being researched to increase retention and student’s successful completion to graduating is a top priority. Six year graduation rates are about 67% which is a respectable number but when compared to the top quality students being enrolled and recruited the percentage should improve.**

**Facility improvements include the renovation of Little and Russell Hall, Moody Music Building completed addition last summer, building of ADAP athletic facility, beautification of University Boulevard and the addition of new residence and dining hall facilities.**

**The Strategic Plan was introduced and discussed last summer. President Bell expressed appreciation to the Faculty Senate for willingness to serve on committees working with administration. The guide posts in the plan will create a pathway to an outstanding educational experience for UA students. An inclusive and engaging atmosphere leading to success will exist for UA faculty and students.**

**President Bell attended the UA Theater and Dance outstanding and professional production of “A Chorus Line” in Mobile at the historic Sanger Theater.**

**Provost Kevin Whitaker added his welcome to the new incoming faculty senators. He commented the Faculty Senate as a group plays a critical and important role on campus. Provost Whitaker meets with the Faculty Senate Steering Committee every other week working together to address pertinent issues. The last two years UA has moved toward establishing new degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate level. New tenure/tenure-track faculty hires spurred by enrollment growth aligns with the Strategic Plan. In the past year 116 tenure-track faculty including replacement and new faculty have been hired. These new hires will help provide a premier education for students, research and scholarship increases, strengthen diversity and assist retaining outstanding faculty and staff.**

**An outstanding pool of four candidates for the Chief Diversity Officer position has been assembled with a completion of this search in the immediate future. A number of task force committees including one under the Faculty Senate umbrella brought this issue forward by discussing where the University needed to go to move forward.**

**The campus environment to life on UA’s campus includes the NTRC committee. The policy is in the hands of the deans to mold and adapt to each college as their needs dictate.**

**Questions to President Bell and Provost Whitaker included sorority and “ole row” fraternity integration which is at the top of the list for Vice President of Student Life, Dr. David Grady; UA Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, Dr. Lynda Gilbert’s replacement; organizational structure changes; faculty growth factor in new hires (120 new and replacements/70-75% full and associate mix); Capital Campaign (consulting firm assessing needs, goals and methods) and faculty input.**

**Roll call and quorum check by Faculty Senate Secretary Chapman Greer.**

**The Faculty Senate meeting minutes of March 14, 2017 were approved with one correction.**

**President Meester presented the Faculty Senate Committee and the University Standing Committee assignments. The vote was to approve those assignments. Those with an asterisk by their names on the Faculty Senate Committee list will serve on the Faculty Senate Diversity and Inclusion Committee if and when approved at the August 22 Faculty Senate meeting.**

**The assigned senators to committees broke out into individual meetings to choose co-chairs, meeting times and locations.**

**COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS**

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS Brad Tuggle & John Vincent**

**COMMUNITY & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS Seth Bordner & Amy Dayton**

**FACULTY LIFE James Gilbreath & Bill Martin**

**FACULTY & SENATE GOVERNANCE Angela Benson & Charlotte Herrin**

**FINANCIAL AFFAIRS Bob Findlay & Peter Johnson**

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & STRATEGIC**

**COMMUNICATIONS Barbara Dahlbach & Clark Midkiff**

**RESEARCH & SERVICE Ajay Agrawal & Mike Kreger**

**STUDENT LIFE Charlye Adams & Amy Traylor**

**President Meester recommended Dominic Yeager continue as Parliamentarian which was approved by a vote of the Senate. Parliamentarian Yeager reviewed the meeting rules in his comments.**

**President’s Report *– (Donna Meester)* The Board of Trustees met at the University of Alabama-Huntsville for their institutional meeting. Faculty Senate Steering Committee members met following the conclusion of the Board of Trustees meeting. Chancellor Hayes spoke to the group proposing an initiative of new faculty members visiting each UA system campus and requested input of ideas and methods to put this initiative into action. Child care for all three campuses is a priority item.**

**The Board of Trustees approved giving an honorary degree to Coach Bill Battle, retired Athletics Director, to be presented at the 6:00 P.M. Saturday commencement ceremony. Dean Milla Boschung nominated him for this honor.**

**Magnolia Drive has been renamed Judy Bonner Drive in honor of her service in faculty and administrative positions at UA including the position of President. A reception and presentation will be held this fall.**

**A proposal to add a Faculty Senate Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Committee was presented for senators to review over the summer. The finalized proposal will be formally presented at the August 22 Faculty Senate meeting for a vote to be cast at the September 19 meeting.**

**A Steering Committee meeting with the Provost will consist of a walking tour of UA’s campus on Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 3:30 P.M. beginning at the Gorgas House.**

**Vice President’s Report – *(Rona Donahoe)* According to Faculty Senate Bylaws any new business item that comes before the Faculty Senate and does not come directly from the Steering Committee or is distributed with the agenda cannot be voted on or discussed until the following meeting. Ordinarily business is conducted in this manner. However, a vote can be taken to suspend the rules in an emergency situation.**

**The Commencement Task Force reports there will be four graduation ceremonies with 5,327 students graduating with only 1,176 seats on the floor of the Coliseum. The fire marshal dictates the students in the stands. The UA medallions presented in the past will only be worn by the platform party and Ph.D. candidates and faculty members draping the hoods. Ph.D. diplomas will no longer be distributed immediately following the ceremony but will be mailed. Arts & Science diplomas will be presented at the 4:30 P.M. ceremony on Friday; Commerce & Business Administration at 9:00 A.M. Saturday morning; Education, Nursing and Engineering at 1:30 P.M.; Human Environmental Sciences, Social Work, Communication and Information Sciences at 6:00 P.M. The largest commencement group is C&BA with 1,434 students. Faculty members are encouraged to attend commencement ceremonies. The Karen Steckol Regalia Loan Project began several years ago offering to loan regalia to faculty for commencement. There are a few remaining robes so requests should be submitted as soon as possible. Changes are that students will pick up their hoods with their regalia, there will not be presentation of the colors and the photo booth will be in the same spot. Recorded music will be used for the first time resulting in a $10,000 savings. Students may not walk early unless they have a legitimate excuse to do so.**

**Academic Affairs *– (John Vincent & Brad Tuggle)* The Academic Affairs Committee presented the proposed draft of the Faculty Mediation and Grievance System, Appendix B to the Faculty Handbook. The Steering Committee voted in last week’s meeting to forward the document to the Faculty Senate to review and compare to the old policy over the summer before proceeding. The document will be announced at the Faculty Senate meeting in August with an open period scheduled for any faculty to attend and voice their opinion. The Faculty Senate will vote at the following meeting in September, forward the document to the Provost, then goes to the Council of Deans, then to the full faculty for a campus-wide vote. Academic Affairs will review the document to assure consistent policy not in conflict with other policies in place. Then the document will go to the Board of Trustees.**

**The Academic Affairs Committee is still waiting on the NTRC policy from the Council of Deans to add to the Faculty Handbook.**

**The committee will request an administrative structure flow chart.**

**COMMUNITY & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS *– (Seth Bordner & Amy Dayton)***

**FINANCIAL AFFAIRS *– (Bob Findlay & Peter Johnson)***

**FACULTY & SENATE GOVERNANCE *– (Charlotte Herrin & Angela Benson)* The Faculty & Senate Governance Committee proposed changing the name of the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee to the Faculty Senate Student Life Committee. This would be a change in the Bylaws to be voted on at the fall meeting.**

**FACULTY LIFE *– (James Gilbreath & Bill Martin)***

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS *– (Clark Midkiff & Barbara Dahlbach)***

**RESEARCH & SERVICE *– (Ajay Agrawal & Mike Kreger)***

**STUDENT AFFAIRS *– (Charlye Adams & Amy Traylor)***

**REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES ---**

**The Faculty & Staff Benefits Committee hopes to approve the final Family Leave Policy affecting staff and twelve-month faculty at next Tuesday’s final meeting. The committee will recommend a separate child care center be established on campus to be operated by the University.**

**A senator recommended the Faculty Senate maintain vigilance to make sure the hiring of the Chief Diversity Officer is an open and transparent process.**

**Meeting adjourned 5:15 P.M.**