**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**JANUARY 17, 2017**

**3:30 p.m. – 1010 North Lawn Hall**

**Approved Minutes**

**Absent with alternate (alternate in brackets)**: Michele Lee [Hunter Galloway],

Jen Nickelson [Andy Harcrow], Paul Hubner (Keith Williams).

**Absent without an alternate**: Jim Brown, Allison Callahan, Reuben Cook, Martin Evans,

Lori Greene, Steve Katsinas, Miguel Mantero, Juanita McMath, Clark Midkiff, Kym Reddoch,

Kelley Schoger.

**Parliamentarian**: Dominic Yeager.

**Dialog Representative:** Cresandra Smothers.

**Tuscaloosa News Representative:** Ed Enoch.

**Guests:**

Dr. Susan Carvalho (Associate Provost & Dean of the Graduate School),

Dr. Carl Pinkert (Vice President for Research and Economic Development),

R.B. Walker (Director of Governmental Relations, UA System).

**R. B. Walker, UA System Director of Governmental Relations, began the meeting with comments concerning the political, financial and educational future for The University of Alabama system. Rollbacks, revamping and changes of executive orders are expected in overtime rules, teacher preparation rules, student loans, Pell grants and health care under the new administration. It is expected the new administration will be reviewing higher education endowments with a certain percentage earmarked for student aid. The United States Federal budget is operating on a continuing resolution until April presenting several opportunities for Alabama in the new budget. The regular legislative session will begin February 7th with an appointment to be made by Governor Robert Bentley to fill Senator Jeff Session’s seat due to his appointment as the United States Attorney General. There presently is a Republican majority in Alabama’s House and Senate. Alabama will have vacancies in 2018 in the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of treasury, attorney general, auditor, agriculture commissioner and other major governing offices. There are two major budgets for the State of Alabama – the General Fund and the Education Trust Fund requiring special monitoring to prevent any decrease in the funds set aside for education. There are ideas concerning education reforms including attainment standards, performance funding and a strategic plan. Tuscaloosa will have 2017 municipal election for the offices of mayor, city council, school board and other city office positions. R. B. Walker may be reached at** [**rbwalker@uasystem.edu**](mailto:rbwalker@uasystem.edu) **or 205-348-7081. Any questions or issues may be forwarded to him at these contacts.**

**Dr. Carl Pinkert, UA Vice President for Research and Economic Development, began his comments with a review of UA’s Strategic Plan for Advancing the Flagship. The four planks are to provide a premier undergraduate and graduate education; increase the University’s productivity and innovation in research, scholarship and creative activities; enrich our learning and work environment by providing an accepting, inclusive community; and provide opportunities and resources that facilitate work-life balance and enhance the recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty and staff. There have been a number of focus and group meetings across campus for input on methods to develop the strengths, opportunities and accomplishment of these four points. These groups will gather again to measure the progress being made in those areas. Two new positions for Associate Vice Presidents for Research were created with those positions being filled by Dr. John Higginbotham (CCHS, CON, CAS, SSW, HES) and Dr. Susan Burkett (ENG, CCC, C&IS, EDU, LAW, LIBRARY). The Limited Submission Policy is designed to support an equitable review process to submit proposals due to the submission limits beyond the allowed number. The Pivot program provides a valuable search tool for locating funding opportunities and collaborators in specific fields of research. The Office of Sponsored Programs has a person in place to answer any questions concerning this program. The Office for Research Compliance provides assistance with management, oversight and guidance concerning adherence to applicable laws, regulations and University policies. The responsibilities of this office include: human subject research, research with animals, export control, conflict of interest, responsible conduct of research and misconduct in science. The following will be presented at the February UA Board of Trustees meeting for approval – the Alabama Water Institute, the Alabama Transportation Institute, the UA Cyber Institute, and the Alabama Life Research Institute. Research expenditures, UA rankings among peer institutions, expansion of tenure-tenure-track faculty, interaction and building relationships on campus by specific activities during the spring semester, and other scholarly metrics were reviewed by Dr. Pinkert. The slide presentation included an extensive list of research and instrumentation resources. UA has a Statistics Research and Consulting Lab to conduct and support research endeavors through applied analytics. This resource is available and can be utilized by all faculty members. Dr. John Higginbotham is leading the UA Office for Proposal Development offering assistance in the development of winning proposals in the area of pre-award services, advice and information to enhance proposal quality. This is a structured opportunity for faculty to develop a competitive and successful proposal to secure funding. In progress in conjunction with the Research Advisory Committee is the establishment of Faculty/Research Recognition events to recognize the diversity of disciplines, expertise and commitment on our campus. Another issue under review is how to sponsor/support/facilitate entrepreneurship and local opportunities for students and faculty. Of the out-of-state student population, thirty percent would remain in Alabama if job opportunities are available for them. A question was asked about a faculty book shelf. There is one available at the Library and efforts will be made to make it more visible. The cultivation of a relationship/connection between advancement and research is being discussed. The University of Alabama has a tremendous opportunity to make a difference not only in Alabama but nationally and internationally.**

**Roll call & Quorum Check *(Robert Riter)***

**Approval/Corrections to the Minutes for December 13, 2016.**

**President’s Report - *(Donna Meester)* Following a nationwide search of qualified candidates, Dr. Kevin Whitaker has been appointed Vice President and Provost for The University of Alabama. In a meeting with the Faculty Senate Steering Committee the following priorities were listed:**

* **NTRC Document**
* **Faculty Handbook**
* **Faculty Life Office**
* **System-wide Child Care**
* **Diversity in the Greek System**
* **Core Curriculum Review**

**The Academic Affairs Committee will meet next week to discuss the final revisions of the Faculty Handbook.**

**The Board of Trustees will be meeting in Birmingham at UAB for their institutional presentation on February 3rd. The UA Faculty Senate resolution naming Judy Bonner Drive will be presented for approval. UA Athletics Director Bill Battle is retiring and Greg Byrne will be the new Athletics Director.**

**Vice President’s Report – *(Rona Donahoe)* A letter expressing appreciation for cooperation and dedication in working with the Senate to implement recommendations made by the Faculty Senate Task Force for Excellence in Equity, Inclusion and Citizenship facilitating unprecedented progress toward a more equitable and inclusive campus, student government and Greek system at The University of Alabama was presented to the Faculty Senate. Copies will be sent to President Bell, Provost Whitaker and Dr. David Grady upon the Senate’s approval at next month’s meeting. The letter is similar to a resolution under consideration last fall with the addition of three priority items on the second page still to be considered to maintain and continue progress.**

**Secretary’s Report – *(Robert Riter)* Secretary Riter announced vacancies on the Campus Master Plan Committee and Parking and Transportation Committee. Any senator wishing to serve on either of these committees should communicate this to Secretary Riter.**

**There will be a vote today under the Faculty and Senate Governance Committee to approve the Faculty Senate Records Disposition Policy. This policy was presented at the Faculty Senate December meeting for consideration. All records have been gathered and will be deposited with the University Archives thus preserving all Faculty Senate records.**

**Academic Affairs – *(Chapman Greer & John Vincent)* A representative from the Office of Disability Services will meet with the Academic Affairs Committee next week. The committee continues work on the emeritus status policy and the completion of the grievance and mediation section of the Faculty Handbook**

**Community Affairs – *(Rita Snyder & Amy Dayton)* R. B. Walker, Director of Government Relations, spoke today giving an update on legislative activities. This committee continues to work on establishing a date for a Legislative Breakfast.**

**Financial Affairs – *(Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad)* Following many years of service and committee membership responsibilities, Reuben Cook has resigned for personal reasons from the Faculty Senate creating a co-chair vacancy on this committee. The committee is concerned with the issue of tedious, consuming requests, reports and activities adding to the faculty member’s workload and reducing time spent on research.**

**Faculty & Senate Governance – *(Charlotte Herrin & Steve Miller)* An announcement concerning the Ombudsperson election will be forthcoming in the near future with results of a faculty-wide vote announcement at the end of March. Nominations are needed for the Merger and Discontinuance Committee and another announcement will be sent.**

**The vote to approve the Faculty Senate Records Disposition Policy to the Faculty Senate Bylaws was unanimous.**

**Dr. Ana Corbalan, Associate Professor, Arts & Sciences, Modern Languages, was elected to complete the final year (ending December 2017) of Nitin Chopra’s term on the UA Mediation Committee.**

**Faculty Senate officer position nominations and letters of intent are due by the end of the February Senate meeting.**

**Faculty Life – *(Bill Martin & James Gilbreath)* No report.**

**Information Technology – *(Darrin Griffin & Clark Midkiff)* No report.**

**Research & Service – *(Ajay Agrawal & Osiris Molina)* No report.**

**Student Affairs – *(Charlye Adams & Amy Traylor)* The Student Affairs Committee continues to work on the SANE program and will meet next week with Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. David Grady.**

**The report on Red Tape for faculty time committed and time reduction was Red Tape 57 and reductions 8.**

**The Diversity Office search has been extended and the job description will be emailed to the Faculty Senate by President Meester.**

**New Business – The question was asked why there was not a search committee formed to address the UA Athletics Director position. President Meester will find out more about this issue and report back to the Senate.**

**Faculty & Staff Benefits – The Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee will meet next Tuesday, January 24th. Senators were urged to consult their constituents to see if there are any pending issues.**

**Meeting adjourned 5:00 P.M.**