**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**DECEMBER 13, 2016**

**3:30 p.m. – 1012 North Lawn Hall**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Silas Blackstock/Pat Parmelee; Chris Jordan/Ed Stephenson; Sushma Kotru/Shuhui Li; Bill Martin/Theodore Trost; Ignacio Rodeno/Harold Stowell.**

**ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Ajay Agrawal, Charlye Adams, Jim Brown, Reuben Cook, Ellary Draper, Martin Evans, Paul Houghtaling, Michele Lee, Tom Lopez, Jeff Martin, Paige McCormick, John McDonald, Juanita McMath, Steve Miller, John Petrovic, Regina Range, Kym Reddoch, Lesley Reid, Kelley Schoger, Amy Traylor, John Vincent.**

**PARLIAMENTARIAN: Dominic Yeager.**

**DIALOG REPRESENTATIVE: Cresandra Smothers.**

**GUESTS: Mr. Ray Hayes, UA System Chancellor**

**Guest Speaker: Mr. Ray Hayes, UA System Chancellor**

**Chancellor Hayes presented an update on the UA system and a look ahead to 2017. The UA system is comprise of three campuses – UA, UAH and UAB along with a fifteen member board. The system office houses attorneys, internal auditors for all three campuses and administrative offices. UA is the fastest growing university in the nation. UA originated in the 1800’s, UAB in 1930 and UAH in 1950. The combination of all three campuses (100,000) is the fifth largest city in Alabama. Approximately 30,000 students live on campus and 24,000 meals are served each day. One million are treated in the medical facilities. There are fourteen public universities in Alabama. UA’s three campuses awards 43% of all the degrees in Alabama and that number is expected to climb. Awards increased more than 25% in one year. Students for all three campuses come from all parts of the world and each campus continues to grow. UA has more students (40%) from outside Alabama than in state. In Tuscaloosa for every thousand students an additional five million dollar boost is received. For every home football game the economic impact is almost twenty million dollars in sales in hotels, restaurants, etc. The unemployment rate around college towns is usually several percentage points lower. The Capstone began tracking post-graduate student’s addresses and found that one-third of the out-of- state students remain in Alabama. Alabama has about 4.7 million people in the state and needs to grow. All three campuses are doing a great job in retention. In 1975 70% of funding per student came from State funding and 30% from tuition. In 2015 the numbers have shifted to 75% tuition and 25% from State funding. This is a nation-wide shift in funding. This has a great effect on student debt. How the UA system has managed this funding situation gives a competitive edge. Alabama is one of three states that have two separate funding mechanisms. One is the General Fund and the other is the Education Trust Fund. This was created to protect funding (dedicated tax revenues) for education which must be protected. Eighty million dollars was diverted from the Education Trust Fund to the General Fund during the economic downturn and proration. Dr. Robert Witt is leading an effort to really focus on protecting the ETF.**

**Questions included what percentage of graduates are in state and what percentage is out-of-state; cost sharing and communication between the three campuses; methods to preserve Education Trust Fund; on-campus quality child care provision and this issue is now in discussion.**

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

**The Faculty Senate meeting minutes of November 15, 2016 were approved.**

**President’s Report – *(Donna Meester)* The search committee met and presented four candidates for consideration for the position of Executive Vice President and Provost. The announcement should come in January.**

**Three volunteers are needed for the Alabama Student Award committee to meet on January 20, 2017 at Alumni Hall at 11:00 A.M.**

**There was good participation in the graduation ceremonies on Saturday with the exception of the Business School. Suggestions were solicited to improve that situation.**

**R. B. Walker, Director of Governmental Relations, will be the speaker at the Faculty Senate meeting in January.**

**Vice President’s Report - *(Rona Donahoe)* No report.**

**Secretary’s Report - *(Robert Riter)* A copy of the “Faculty Senate Records Disposition Policy” was distributed and will be voted on at the January 10th Faculty Senate meeting. The purpose of the policy is to establish Faculty Senate records with the University Archives. Kevin Ray, University Records Analyst, has assisted with the records transfer procedure.**

**The request for faculty counts to determine senator position distribution has been sent to OIRA.**

**Daiquiri Steele, School of Law, was welcomed to the Faculty Senate.**

**Academic Affairs – *(John Vincent & Chapman Greer)* The Faculty Senate passed a resolution three years ago (Resolution to Develop Recommendations for Emeritus Faculty Status, February 18, 2014) requesting department faculty be included formally in the process to develop recommendations for emeritus faculty status for presentation to the Board of Trustees. The Academic Affairs Committee is working on drafting a document regarding this issue.**

**The University of Alabama Syllabus Policy document was presented to the Faculty Senate. The purpose as stated in the document: “Course syllabi aid faculty to organize class information and communicate the instructor’s plan for conducting the course. A course syllabus helps clarify course goals and objectives, assessment and evaluation standards, grading policies, and student responsibilities associated with the course. Course syllabi aid students as guides to student learning and course expectations.” The Faculty Senate voted unanimously to forward the document to the Provost.**

**“The University of Alabama Personnel Policies – Non-Tenure-Track, Renewable Contract (NTRC) Faculty at the ranks of Instructor or Lecturer – DRAFT DATE: September 7, 2016” was presented to the Faculty Senate following reviews by the Council of Deans and the Faculty Senate Steering Committee. The purpose of this policy is “to establish a university-wide policy that will govern the promotion of non-tenure-track, renewable contract (NTRC) faculty from instructor or lecturer to senior instructor or senior lecturer, and to ensure a central review and standardization of their promotion procedures across colleges and schools.” Concerns expressed were reasons why two policies are needed, confusion about the two policies (both renewable contracts), more attractive positions available, promotions and who would be in charge of implementation. Following discussion and clarification the Faculty Senate voted (1 opposed- 5 abstentions) to forward the policy to the Provost.**

**“The University of Alabama Personnel Policies Non-Tenure-Track, Renewable Contract (NTRC) Faculty at the ranks of Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor – DRAFT DATE: September 7, 2016” was presented to the Faculty Senate. One senator took exception to the term “terminal degree” in the document expressing the opinion that the phrase ostracizes certain faculty groups. The response was the term is standard across the country. What is determined as a terminal degree in one college would not necessarily be determined as such in another college. Following discussion and clarification the Faculty Senate voted (2 Opposed -1 abstention) to forward the policy to the Provost.**

**Financial Affairs – *(Rainer Schad & Reuben Cook)* The Financial Affairs Committee met yesterday with Alabama Retirement System representatives. The University of Alabama pays 12% or $40 million dollars a year into the retirement system with two percent matching contribution. ARS has diverse investments including hotels, golf courses, office space in New York, railroads and airlines. Compared to other retirement programs, ARS seems to be doing a good job.**

**Faculty & Senate Governance – *(Charlotte Herrin & Steve Miller)* The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee conducted an electronic test using Qualtrics to determine if this avenue of electronic voting will qualify to be used for Faculty Senate elections. Any senator not receiving the email should notify this committee.**

**Nominations are needed for the Merger and Discontinuance Committee vacancy. A member of the Mediation Committee has stepped down leaving a vacancy to be filled on that committee. Two nominations were received after the deadline. This election will be in January giving senators an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the nominees qualifications.**

**Faculty Senate Bylaw changes were presented by the Faculty and Senate Governance Committee. Those changes included committee title changes and additional record keeping by the secretary. The vote was unanimous to approve the changes.**

**Community & Legislative Affairs – *(Amy Dayton & Rita Snyder)* The Community Affairs Committee continues to work on a date and time for the meeting with Legislators. A tentative date is Tuesday, January 17th with details to follow.**

**Higher Education Day will be Thursday, February 23, 2017 in Montgomery, Alabama. Senators were urged to keep this date in mind when scheduling classes for the spring semester.**

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

**Information Technology & Strategic Communications – *(Clark Midkiff & Darrin Griffin)* The Faculty Senate photo has been added to the Faculty Senate web page. The IT committee is working with Information Technology to add a new platform to edit the web page.**

**Research & Service – (*Ajay Agrawal & Osiris Molina)* The Research and Service Committee met last week to consider the issues from their meeting with Dr. Carl Pinkert, Vice President for Research.**

**Student Affairs – (*Charlye Adams & Amy Traylor)* The priority issue for the Student Affairs Committee continues to be interpersonal and mental health issues.**

**Reports from Other Committees-**

**Campus Security & Safety – This report included avenues of reporting, misbehavior citations, student conduct and communication.**

**Human Resources Council – The focus of the council is on problems encountered by transgender individuals on campus.**

**Meeting adjourned 4:50 P.M.**