**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 14, 2017 – 3:00 P.M. - #213 AIME**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ATTENDING: Ajay Agrawal, Amy Dayton, Rona Donahoe, Bob Findlay, James Gilbreath, Chapman Greer, Darrin Griffin, Charlotte Herrin, Linda Knowles, Bill Martin, Donna Meester, Clark Midkiff, Steve Miller, Osiris Molina, Robert Riter, Rainer Schad, Rita Snyder, John Vincent, Dominic Yeager (Parliamentarian).**

**ABSENT: Charlye Adams, Amy Traylor.**

**GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Faculty Senator Norm Baldwin.**

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

**The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of January 10, 2017 were approved with one correction.**

**President’s Report – *(Donna Meester)* The combined steering committees of UA, UAB and UAH met in Birmingham on Friday, February 3, 2017. The establishment of system-wide child care facilities was discussed noting the particular needs of each campus.**

**The resolution proposed by UA’s Faculty Senate naming a campus street (8th Street West & Magnolia Drive) in honor of UA’s Past-President Judy Bonner was passed by the Board of Trustees. A letter of appreciation from Dr. Bonner was read by President Meester. A presentation and signage will be forthcoming.**

**Athletic Director Bill Battle has resigned that position but will speak at the Faculty Senate meeting on February 21, 2017. Speaking in March will be Bob Pierce, UA Advancement, and Linda Bonin, Vice President for Strategic Communications.**

**A subject under discussion and review is the selling of class notes by students. Issues involved include selling professor’s power points, intellectual property, academic misconduct, copyrights and legality situations.**

**Vice President’s Report – *(Rona Donahoe)* The letter of appreciation to Student Affair’s staff and Dr. David Grady was distributed at the January Faculty Senate meeting. The vote to send the letter will be at the Faculty Senate meeting on February 21, 2017.**

**Secretary’s Report *– (Robert Riter)* Senator Bob Findlay is the new co-chair of the Faculty Senate’s Financial Affairs Committee.**

**Work is ongoing for the election of Faculty Senate officers and senators.**

**A procedure for updates, edits and additions to the Faculty Senate website has been formulated by Bob Riter and Darrin Griffin and was presented to the Steering Committee for review, input and approval.**

**Academic Affairs – *(John Vincent & Chapman Greer)* The Academic Affairs Committee met with Judy Thorpe, Office of Disability Services, to discuss early registration of ODS students. Any student complying with the process established by ODS may register early regardless of the type of the disability. Certification and current documentation must be obtained from a practicing physician in that particular field. For example, ADHD or a learning disability diagnosed in elementary school would have to go through this re-certification process. To review every single case would place a hardship on the ODS office. UA has approximately 1,300 ODS students. Test service space was also addressed.**

**The Faculty Handbook review and revision is waiting on a report from the UA System’s office concerning the grievance policy.**

**The committee proposed an Emeritus Status policy stating criteria for eligibility for this distinguished title. The Handbook of the Board of Trustees states they would approve the recipient of emeritus status. The document proposes an individual must be retired from an academic position, have ten years uninterrupted employment at UA prior to retirement, be a tenured professor or associate professor and have distinguished teaching and service. Any suggestions concerning inclusion of NTRC/clinical faculty and should the faculty vote on the recommended faculty member be sent to the Academic Affairs committee co-chairs.**

**Special Presentation by Senator Norm Baldwin---**

**Senator Norm Baldwin presented an “Observations about Diversity in UA’s Greek System Between 2011 to 2016” report. At the present time there are 32 African American men in traditionally white fraternities and 12 biracial increasing 800% since 2012. Only one “Old Row” fraternity is integrated. Of the 31 fraternities on campus only 12 have African American members in 2016. The Machine is endorsing an African American fraternity member for SGA President.**

**In traditionally white sororities there are 72 African American members including 21 biracial with an increase of 23.5 time larger than 2012. Of the 18 traditionally white sororities, 15 have African American members in 2016. All of the “old row” sororities have African American members in 2016. Three African Americans have or are serving as presidents of traditionally white sororities.**

**Relative to 2014 the traditionally white Greek system racial composition is far from reaching parity with respect to the proportion of African Americans in the student body. Evaluating from where UA has been progress has been made but more remains to be done to achieve parity. Hispanics and Latinos, as well as dual-race students, have become increasingly well represented in the traditionally white Greek system representing parity comparable to their student population. In general the African American sorority system appears to be experiencing a substantial downswing in size. However, if data on Greek membership were gathered at a different time of the year, this downswing would likely not appear to be so prominent.**

**Further discussion included having a more formal rush system, informal rush continues to be segregated, winter rush giving students more of an idea of organization choices available, allegiances are declared too early, a unified system of rush, a supplemental formal rush, early rush, out-of-state student population, recruiting and equality for everyone.**

**Community Affairs *– (Amy Dayton & Rita Snyder)* Higher Education Day will be February 23, 2017 to be held in Montgomery, Alabama.**

**Financial Affairs *– (Rainer Schad & Bob Findlay)* Co-chair Findlay suggested the University should express opposition to the proposed bathroom bill in the State of Alabama Legislature on the basis that it would be financially devastating for UA to comply with provisions of the bill.**

**Faculty & Senate Governance *– (Charlotte Herrin & Steve Miller)* A letter of intent has been received from Rona Donahoe for the office of Faculty Senate Vice President. Ed Stephenson was elected for winter commencement but was unavailable and will serve as Commencement Marshall for selected spring ceremonies. A second person is needed to serve as Marshall on two Saturday ceremonies. Other suggestions were made to add a third person and methods to do so. A cash honorarium to go along with the position of Commencement Marshall was suggested, however, funding would be a problem.**

**There are no nominations for the vacancy on the Merger and Discontinuance Committee. A solution to the lack of interest to serve on this committee was discussed.**

**Faculty Life *– (Bill Martin & James Gilbreath)* The Faculty Life Committee will meet this week and continue the discussion about system-wide child care including facilities, individual campus issues and needs.**

**The Faculty Life Committee will review the Family Leave policy considered by the previous Faculty Life Committee.**

**Information Technology & Strategic Communications *– (Darrin Griffin & Clark Midkiff)* The Office of Information Technology will have two proposed policies dealing with UA software on phones and UA email rather than Gmail for University business. IT does not want any UA business in the Cloud. The Steering Committee consensus was to change, if possible, that “reply” go to the individual sending the message rather than the reply going to the entire list serve. Keeping the Faculty Senate web site up-to-date requires constant monitoring. Information is constantly being submitted to various sources. To streamline the process a flowchart has been created outlining the procedure to be followed to secure an accurate update on the Faculty Senate webpage. It is proposed to have a Website Curator and a Website Curator team to edit and post news, announcements and special items on the webpage. The Faculty Senate Bylaws will have to be updated which will go through the Faculty & Senate Governance Committee.**

**Research & Service – *(Ajay Agrawal & Osiris Molina)* The Research and Service Committee met with Associate Vice President John Higginbotham. Higginbotham had requested research strategy input from the committee. The committee met in December, January and February and proposed the following points:**

**(1) Strive for a balance between (a) attracting and (b) retaining/developing high-quality research faculty,**

**(2) Create institutional initiatives to recruit high-quality graduate students with similar emphases, resources, and vigor that we use to recruit high-quality undergraduate students,**

**(3) Increase focus on philanthropic and endowment funding to promote graduate recruiting and focused research programs,**

**(4) Implement assessment procedures for evaluation of research administration at all levels by faculty,**

**(5) Develop organizational structure that will create alignment among associate research deans of colleges, office of research, graduate school, and advancement office.**

**The fifth strategic point to improve coordination and communication will be discussed with the Provost.**

**To grow the University as a research institution the committee felt these are the critical areas of focus. The committee proposed developing a survey to seek faculty input to improve research effectiveness and research services including proposal services, purchasing process, accounting services, compliance procedures, etc. Focus groups could develop specific recommendations on different themes. The Steering Committee approved moving forward with the survey.**

**Student Affairs – *(Charlye Adams & Amy Taylor)* The Student Affairs Committee Co-chairs met with Dr. David Grady, Vice President for Student Affairs, on January 23. The University is in communication with Druid City Hospital, the District Attorney and the UA community regarding the implementation of the SANE program. The Office of Student Affairs is in the process of changing its name to the Office of Student Life. The Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee will likely need to change the committee name to Student Life Committee. The Office of Student Life will be making substance abuse and recovery a top priority. There will be an Undergraduate and Ph.D. degree on addiction.**

**With respect to recruitment UA needs to work more in the area of diversity in the Greek system. Dr. Grady asked if anyone knows of a minority interested in recruitment to please direct that person to the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life.**

**There was discussion concerning the certification and documentation of dependents for insurance and tuition benefits.**

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