**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 14, 2017 – 3:30 pm - #1010 North Lawn Hall**

**Approved Minutes**

**ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE:** Sheila Black/Rainer Schad; Yuping Bao/Paul Hubner; Michelle Hale/Andy Harcrow; Melvin Lewis/Juanita McMath; Michelle Montgomery/Tyler Keenum; Steve Bunker/Hilary Green.

**ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE:** Amy Dayton, Martin Evans, Peter Johnson, Carol Mills, Scott Parrott, John Petrovic, Kym Reddoch.

**GUESTS:** Greg Byrne, UA Athletics Director; Cresandra Smothers, Strategic Communications; Charlie Steinmetz, SGA.

Athletics Director Greg Byrne began the meeting stating appreciation for the good job faculty does for the University of Alabama and the students. The power point presentation included the information concerning the academic state of UA athletics. The academic success of UA athletes includes more than 550 student-athletes combined earning a 3.25 GPA for the 2016-17 season; ten Academic All-America honors 2016-17; Alabama’s Academic All-Americans ranks fifth in nation; first school to have four student-athletes on Men’s Academic All-America At-Large Team; four NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships earned 2016-17; UA leads the NCAA Top 10 Award; tied with Stanford for NCAA Elite 90 Award; and UA has the most for H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athlete of Year.

The presentation included the following points about UA’s athletic success in 2016-17. Nine Alabama teams finished their competitive season in the national top 20; 25th in Learfield Director’s Cup; football only program reaching College Football Playoffs three years; 26th SEC title in 2016; 145 student-athletes combined All-Americans; two individual NCAA championships; and nine SEC individual championships. These are a partial list of the impressive accomplishments of Alabama’s student-athletes.

The mission statement of The University of Alabama’s Athletic Department reads as follows:

“The mission of The University of Alabama Department of Intercollegiate Athletics is to build and maintain a program that achieves academic success and wins championships in all sports by educating and developing the best student-athletes and by supporting and retaining outstanding coaches”.

The mission includes a commitment to student-athletes and coaches, integrity, excellence, respect, accountability, innovation and national leadership. The highest value is placed on academic excellence, providing for the welfare of student-athletes, competitive excellence, developing resources to sustain success and to develop and maintain the facilities.

There is concern about the tax reform bill introduced recently by the U.S. House of Republicans eliminating tax deductible status for private donations such as Tide Pride membership allowing season ticket purchases. Currently those donations are tax deductible up to 80%. This bill could have an impact affecting UA more broadly.

Questions from senators for Athletic Director Byrne included compliance issues, managing expenses and resources.

Roll call and quorum check by Faculty Senate secretary Chapman Greer.

The Faculty Senate meeting minutes from the September and October meetings were approved.

**President’s Report –** *(Donna Meester)* The Board of Trustees meeting on Friday, November 3 was UA’s institutional meeting. UAH, UAB and UA’s Steering Committees met for a luncheon and discussion about collaborative efforts among the three campuses. A survey of faculty at all three campuses will be taken to determine the direction to proceed with this charge from Chancellor Hayes.

Dr. Christine Taylor has been rescheduled to speak to the Faculty Senate in December. Dean Carvallo of the Graduate School is scheduled for the Faculty Senate meeting in January. Dr. Gilstrap of the University Libraries will speak at the Faculty Senate meeting in February. Any suggestions for speakers for 2018 Faculty Senate meetings should be sent to President Meester.

**Vice President’s Report –** *(Rona Donahoe)* Everyone was reminded that Wednesday, November 15th is the deadline for open enrollment. The Retirement System is in good condition with an increase from to 11% gain for investments.

**Secretary’s Report –** *(Chapman Greer)* No report.

**Diversity, Equity & Inclusion –** *(Ozzy Molina & Mirit Eyal-Cohen)* The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee continues to review and discuss actions concerning several incidents on campus. This committee is evaluating and seeking a resolution to these situations. This is a new committee and determining the path to take while considering proper and appropriate actions to recommend to faculty is ongoing. It was recommended for faculty to report any incident.

The mission statement for this committee will be composed following the statement from Dr. Taylor, the new Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

The committee has referred the proposal to place a Menorah next to the Christmas/Holiday tree to administration and legal counsel.

**Research & Service –** *(Ajay Agrawal & Mike Kreger)* The Research and Service Committee is working with the Financial Affairs Committee on a memo to be presented to the Provost requesting information on the progress on faculty recruitment in view of the Strategic Plan pillar to increase the University’s productivity and innovation in research, scholarship and creative activities that impact economic and societal development. Following discussion and suggestions the document will be revised and presented to the Steering Committee at the next meeting.

**Information & Technology & Strategic Communications –** *(Clark Midkiff & Barbara Dahlbach)* Web mail can only be accessed and used through DUO. The UA IT committee will meet on November 30th. Issues include cell phone monitoring and invasion of privacy. The committee requested to invite Vice President John McGowan to speak to the Faculty Senate. If senators have any technology issues in office or classroom, please forward to this committee.

**Student Life –** *(Charlye Adams & Amy Traylor)* The Student Life Committee continues to promote Alabama Reach. This is a program assisting needy students. Very few students in this group graduate due to financial and other difficulties. President Meester will be sending an email to the entire faculty with donation information.

Mississippi and Alabama congressmen played a big role in bringing back the Pell grant taking effect next summer.

The SGA will have a Powder Puff Game on during the November 17th weekend to raise funds for the SAFE program.

**Academic Affairs –** *(John Vincent & Brad Tuggle)* The Faculty Senate voted unanimously to forward the revised “Appendix B” to the entire faculty for approval.

**Community Affairs –** *(Amy Dayton & Seth Bordner)* The Community Affairs Committee is working with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee on a project with more information to be brought forward. The will be meeting with Dr. Christine Taylor, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the near future.

**Financial Affairs –** *(Robert Findlay & Peter Johnson)* The Financial Affairs Committee will be meeting with Kevin Stevens, Executive Director of Procurement Services, to discuss difficulties and issues using the Concur system to receive expense reimbursements. Report any situations to this committee for discussion in this meeting.

**Faculty & Senate Governance –** *(Angela Benson & Ibrahim Cemen)* Appreciation was expressed to those participating in the Marshal election. The results were Susan Fleming, Nursing; Oates, Anthropology, Ken Wright, Steve Hobbs, Law, Clark Midkiff, Engineering, Steve Miller, Book Arts.

Nominations will be needed for the Mediation Committee and for the Discontinuance and Merger Committee. The electronic system will be used for voting. Alternates should not vote unless it is in the place of an absent senator.

**Faculty Life** – *(Julia Cartwright & James Gilbreath)* The Faculty Life Committee continues to work on pertinent issues derived from the climate survey from a few years ago. Some of the focus will be on sexual harassment and discrimination situations on campus and the proper response to be followed.

**Reports from Other Committees**

The Campus Master Plan Committee will meet on November 27th. Student Health Committee has not met. Biological Safety Committee meets as needed. The Media Planning Board will meet Thursday, November 16th.

Senator liaisons to committees should give a report. Si Blackstock reported the search committee for Vice President of Economic Development and Research position has an outside search firm vetting candidates. Any candidate names may be submitted. The Graduate Council is meeting during the same time as the Faculty Senate.

Meeting adjourned 4:40 P.M.