**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 - #1010 North Lawn Hall – 3:30 PM**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE:** Steve Bunker/Hilary Green; Daniel Bachrach/Ron Dulek; Cory Callahan/Latrice Johnson; Adam Knowlden/Andy Harcrow.

**ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE:** Kendall King, Kym Reddoch.

**GUESTS:** Josiah Sowell, SGA Representative; Cresandra Smothers, UA Strategic Communications; Ms. Beth Howard, UA Title IX Coordinator; Ms. Norma Lemley, UA Counsel.

The Faculty Senate meeting opened with information concerning faculty/student reporting illegal discrimination, harassment, dating or domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault or violence, (gender discrimination, pregnancy) or incident of retaliation. The UAct hand out was distributed listing reporting channels and resources. Title IX is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination based on the gender of students and employees of educational institutions that receive federal financial assistance which states “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” The University of Alabama can create policies of protection as long as it does not conflict with federal law. Any reports involving a child under the age of seventeen must go to the police. When having knowledge of an alleged offense, a reporting official (faculty member) is responsible to notify the University (who, what when and where) which will take appropriate action including measures aimed at ending the inappropriate conduct, preventing its recurrence and remediating its effects. The reporting official should make all efforts to inform the Title IX office about the incident making certain the report goes to the right person. Confidentiality and privacy is of utmost importance. Among University resources are medical treatment, counseling, safety planning, academic support, investigations, legal options and advocacy. Gender discrimination conduct should be reported to the Title IX office. There will be assistance for pregnant students and grad students.

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

The Faculty Senate meeting minutes of August 22, 2017 were approved.

**President’s Report –** *(Donna Meester)* UA’s Registrar’s Office is donating twelve robes and tams for the Karen Steckol Regalia Project.

The Board of Trustees will meet on September 15, 2017. Karen Brooks has served three terms as President Pro-Tem. Ron Gray from Huntsville will now fill that position.

President Meester met with SGA President Jared Hunter concerning collaboration between Faculty Senate and SGA projects such as environmental stewardship and recycling. Provost Whitaker is reviewing unfreezing the University Standing Environmental Stewardship Committee.

Darrin Griffin, Robert Riter and Sarah Miesse are revising and updating the Faculty Senate web page. The suggestion was made to add a statement about senator obligations. Meeting bullet points will be posted on the web page.

**Vice President’s Report –** *(Rona Donahoe)* According to the Faculty Senate Standing Committee structure and bylaw restrictions, Academic Affairs and Research and Service Committees are limited to fourteen members and seven members for all other committees. Bill Martin volunteered to vacate the Faculty Life Committee and become a member of the Faculty and Senate Governance Committee to bring membership in line with the bylaws.

The newly formed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee membership must comply with the Faculty Senate Bylaws limiting the number of senators on the committee. Several senators wish to be on the committee and will be the first ones selected when current committee member’s terms expire. Osiris Molina and Mirit Eyal-Cohen were selected co-chairs by the committee members.

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

**Student Life Committee –** *(Charlye Adams & Amy Traylor)* The Student Life Committee has been working on the establishment of a SAFE program with Druid City Hospital, The University of Alabama, the District Attorney’s office and city and county officials with Dr. Kathleen Cramer the newly named director. Much progress has been made and there is a current search for a facility. The program will be open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week with a nurse and advocate meeting with the client within the hour. The facility will be available for Tuscaloosa and the surrounding area. A Board of Trustees for the new program is in the process of being named.

The Student Life Committee will be meeting with SGA representatives to determine common issues for future projects. The committee will also address campus election issues, parking and transportation and bicycle safety on campus.

**Faculty & Senate Governance –** *(Steve Miller & Charlotte Herrin)* The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee proposed the following description for the new Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness Committee which was presented to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee on September 12, 2017. The proposed description read:

“The Committee will support and act upon the university’s goal to maintain an equitable, inclusive and diverse community. The Committee is charged with examining campus issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion as they arise, and actively seek ways to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within the university community.”

A friendly motion was made and to accept changing “seek” to “seeking” ways to promote. This charge for the new committee will be voted on at the next Faculty Senate meeting. Bylaw changes are to be presented at one meeting and voted on at the next meeting.

The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee presented a proposal to nominate Commencement Marshals for next year. A nomination form was distributed which would seek nominations of esteemed regular full-time faculty to be Marshal for UA’s winter, spring and summer graduation ceremonies. Those chosen will carry the mace which is a symbol of the University President’s authority to confer degrees. The senators were encouraged to carry this information to their colleagues.

The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee proposed a change in the Senate bylaws, Section 3. Standing Committees which reads:

“5. Senators are expected to attend meetings of their standing committees. The absence of a Senator from a regularly scheduled committee meeting is equivalent to an absence from a meeting of the full Senate. Senators who regularly fail to attend committee meetings and do not provide (*for the attendance of alternatives)* a reasonable explanation may be replaced.”

The proposal is to delete the phrase *(for the attendance of alternatives)* was made at this Faculty Senate meeting to be voted on at the October Faculty Senate meeting.

**Research & Service Committee –** *(Ajay Agrawal & Mike Kreger)* The Research and Service Committee is working on transparency by UA’s administration concerning the hiring of new faculty program which is part of the Strategic Plan proposed by UA’s President Stuart Bell. A friendly request list is being developed which includes asking for an annual report on the progress of the program. This is being done in collaboration with the Faculty Senate Financial Affairs Committee.

The Research and Service Committee is reviewing the climate survey previously conducted by this committee and the 2015 climate survey. Those comments and responses will be analyzed to determine if further action is needed by the committee.

**Faculty Life –** *(Bill Martin & James Gilbreath)* The Faculty Life Committee is working on two major issues – daycare and collaborative visits among all three campuses. Local daycare providers are being surveyed to determine their capacities, services and waiting list times. Any feedback would be welcomed by the committee.

Chancellor Ray Watts charged the Faculty Senate to forward recommendations for UA, UAB and UAH faculty members to visit each of the other campuses. Steve Katsinas made the point that if a program is not in existence on the other two campuses, faculty members are not allowed to reach out to either of the other campuses to collaborate and perhaps that freedom to pursue collaborations should exist.

**Academic Affairs –** *(John Vincent & Brad Tuggle)* The Academic Affairs Committee and the Faculty Senate Steering Committee reviewed the SGA Grade Exclusion Policy and determined it is not viable in its current form.

The Academic Affairs committee received a response from ODS after they consulted with legal on the questions surrounding faculty writing letters of recommendation filed with ODS. Their advice is that the student being disabled or limitations thereof not be mentioned. Of course, refusing to write a letter for a student because of their condition is not allowed.

The Faculty Handbook Task Force Committee is having very lengthy meetings every other week. The revisions are moving forward. The Grievance and Mediation Policy (Appendix B) will be discussed and a campus-wide vote this semester.

**Community Affairs –** *(Amy Dayton & Seth Bordner)* The Community Affairs Committee met this week and determined their goals include reaching out to faculty members and requesting assistance in documenting historical information concerning The University of Alabama. The committee would very much like to play a role in developing these historical elements of UA campus.

The committee will be sponsoring the spring gathering with Alabama Legislators and Faculty Senate members. Developments concerning higher education issues in the Legislature will be followed and monitored.

**Financial Affairs –** *(Robert Findlay & Peter Johnson)* The Financial Affairs will be meeting with financial administrators in advance of the next financial statement.

The new Concur program has presented some problems with filing travel expenses and time required to file and document those expenses for reimbursement. Any suggestions and questions should be sent to the co-chairs of the Faculty Senate Financial Affairs Committee.

The committee will be bringing updates to the Senate concerning the Vice President for Finance and the Vice President for Research.

**Information Technology & Strategic Communication Committee –** *(Clark Midkiff & Barbara Dahlbach)* This committee will be setting up a meeting with the Vice President for Strategic Communications, Linda Bonnin, to discuss the new management system. The committee will also be setting up a meeting with Vice President John McGowan to discuss further questions concerning DUO. There is a lack of connectivity around campus and planned but not announced outages.

**Reports from Other Committees –**

Vice President Rona Donahoe requested those Faculty Senate representatives on University Standing Committees report to her or Secretary Chapman Greer if their committees are not meeting or if they have not been contacted by the co-chair of that committee.

The newly formed Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee chose Mirit Eyal-Cohen and Osiris Molina as the committee co-chairs.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 P.M.