**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**January 23, 2018 – 3:30 PM – North Lawn Hall**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE:** Ibrahim Cemen/Hilary Green; Rona Donahoe/Rita Snyder; Charlye Adams/Ruth Ann Hall;Yuping Bao/Keith Williams; Kym Reddoch/Cecile Komora; Haley Strickland/Amy Beasly; Olivia May/Leslie Cole.

**ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE:** Amy Dayton, Chris Jordan, Osiris Molina, Laura Reed, Lesley Reid, Daniel Bachrach, Peter Johnson, Tom Lopez, Jeff Martin, Caroline Boxmeyer, John McDonald, Steve Miller, Angela Benson, Steve Katsinas, Mirit Eyal-Cohen.

**GUESTS:** Dr. Susan Carvalho, Dean of Graduate School; Cresandra Smothers, UA Strategic Communications; Ed Enoch, Tuscaloosa News.

Susan Carvalho, Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School began the meeting with a presentation of the goals, strategies and initiatives for graduate education for the next five years. Four points of the Graduate School Mission include enrollment management, academic policy, recruitment, academic and co-curricular programming. The target of growth for graduate student enrollment would be twenty percent of the student body (4800 to 7000 grad students) which would correlate well with faculty growth. Application numbers need to grow faster than enrollment numbers to maintain selectivity ratios. The applicant pool needs to be deep and high quality with readiness in place for that growth. Elements for that growth would be market awareness, training for faculty and efficient application processes. Faculty would take part in insuring quality, marketing and recruitment. Prestigious doctoral programs attract outstanding master’s students and have an impact on UA’s ranking. A current initiative is international recruitment with a focus on Asia including recruiting visits by representatives of The University of Alabama. Another current initiative is new degree programs such as community health, nutrition, technology, sciences and PhD geography, new concentrations and new certificate programs. The goals include developing unique selling points to attract prospective graduate students and to support, contribute and implement growth.

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

The Faculty Senate meeting minutes of Tuesday, December 12, 2017 were approved.

**President’s Report –** *(Donna Meester)* Dr. John Higginbotham is serving as Interim Vice President of Research and Economic Development as the search for this position is underway. Dr. Higginbotham plans to be an active interim with ongoing plans to advance research development by working closely with faculty.

Rona Donahoe, Faculty Senate Vice President, is attending the Alabama Commission on Higher Education conference in Montgomery, Alabama and will give a report at the next meeting of the Faculty Senate.

**Faculty & Senate Governance –** *(Angela Benson & Ibrahim Cemen)* Faculty and Senate Governance Committee member Bill Martin represented this committee in the absence of the co-chairs. Sandra Nichols, College of Education, and Geoffrey R. Tick, Department of Geological Sciences, were voted by acclimation to serve on the Merger & Discontinuance Committee. The request for Ombudsperson nominations has been sent.

The nominations for Faculty Senate President, Vice President and Secretary should be submitted by February 10, 2018. Self-nominations are welcomed.

**Faculty Life –** *(Julia Cartwright & James Gilbreath)* The Faculty Life Committee continues to pursue the possibility of free gym access for faculty during low usage time periods. Rona Donahoe as a member of the Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee will bring this issue to their attention.

The committee has sent a request to Linda Bonin, Vice President of Strategic Communications, for a meeting to establish a web site for new faculty members. The committee will be collaborating with the Information Technology and Strategic Communications Committee on this project.

The suspension of UA operations due to inclement weather created child care problems for some of the faculty.

**Community Affairs –** *(Seth Bordner & Amy Dayton)* Higher Education Day reserved for advocacy of higher education funding and status will be held in Montgomery, Alabama on Thursday, February, 22, 2018. Transportation is provided. Please contact Seth Bordner for reservations.

**Academic Affairs –** *(John Vincent & Brad Tuggle)* The Academic Affairs Committee continues lengthy meetings (three hours weekly) to complete revisions of the Faculty Handbook.

**Financial Affairs –** *(Bob Findlay & Peter Johnson)* Some issues and difficulties using Buy Bama have been reported. Please refer any problems to Bob Findlay.

**Research & Service –** *(Ajay Agrawal & Mike Kreger)* The Research and Service Committee composed a letter requesting various information concerning new faculty hires. Obtaining such information would be of interest to the Board of Trustees and faculty members. Forming a faculty survey seeking input from faculty regarding research issues continues to be in progress. The goal is to have the final statistics from this survey ready by the time a new Vice President for Research is named.

**Information Technology & Strategic Communications –** *(Clark Midkiff & Barbara Dahlbach* No report.

**Student Life –** *(Amy Traylor & Charlye Adams)* The president of the SGA has resigned. Casey Nelson will fill this position. Investigation continues into the derogatory video circulated last week.

**Reports from Other Committees –**

Silas Blackstock announced nominations are being sought for the Vice President of Research and Development. A search firm is being utilized and any qualified candidate should be sent to Silas Blackstock (blackstock@ua.edu) or Susan Carvalho, Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 P.M.