**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**JANUARY 9, 2018 – 3:00 PM - #213 AIME**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ATTENDING:** Donna Meester, Rona Donahoe, Chapman Greer, Ozzy Molina, Mirit Eyal-Cohen, Mike Kreger, Angela Benson, James Gilbreath, Clark Midkiff, Barbara Dahlbach, Robert Findlay, Amy Dayton, Seth Bordner, Amy Traylor, John Vincent, Brad Tuggle.

**ABSENT:** Ajay Agrawal, Ibrahim Cemen, Julia Cartwright, Peter Johnson, Charlye Adams.

**GUESTS:**

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of December 5, 2017 were approved.

**President’s Report –** *(Donna Meester)* President Meester announced that R. B. Walker, Legislative liaison for The University of Alabama System, will leave this position at the end of the spring semester to return to the Alabama Power Company.

The February 13th meeting of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee will be in #111 Aime.

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

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

**Diversity, Inclusion & Equity –** *(Ozzy Molina & Mirit Eyal-Cohen)* The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee will be meeting with Lane McLelland, Crossroads Center, on January 23, 2018. The committee will also be collaborating with Dr. Christine Taylor, Chief Diversity Officer, to determine monthly meeting dates and times.

**Research & Service –** *(Ajay Agrawal & Mike Kreger)* The request addressed to Provost Whitaker concerning progress on faculty recruitment and hiring was sent forward. Ajay Agrawal and Mike Kreger will meet with the Provost on Wednesday, January 17th, 2018.

**Faculty & Senate Governance –** *(Angela Benson & Ibrahim Cemen)* There are two nominations for the Merger & Discontinuance Committee vacancies – Sandra Nichols, College of Education and Geoffery Tick, Geological Sciences. The committee would like for the Faculty Senate to vote by acclimation for these nominees. Self-nominations would be welcomed by the committee. Publication and notification of those selected for Commencement Marshal was discussed.

**Faculty Life –** *(Julia Cartwright & James Gilbreath)* The Faculty Life Committee will be meeting with the UA Recreation Center representative to request faculty and staff free access to the facilities during low usage hours. Recreation Services is an auxiliary of the University and is self-supporting and supplemental funding would have to be secured to allow free access. The suggestion was made to have Andre Love, Recreation Department, speak to UA’s Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee. Free access would be a good faculty recruiting tool.

Strategic Communications is working on the web site for new faculty giving information on several topics needed by someone new to campus. Examples would be location of grocery stores, doctor’s offices, hospitals, real estate and retail establishments.

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

**Financial Affairs –** *(Robert Findlay & Peter Johnson)* The Financial Affairs Committee has received complaints concerning Buy Bama. There are difficulties tracing orders, applying discounts, pending order information and some small departments are limited to $50.00 orless. The committee will collect the complaints.

**Community Affairs –** *(Amy Dayton & Seth Bordner)* The Community Affairs Committee received a document last spring titled “Proposal: Commission on Race, Slavery, and Civil Rights at The University of Alabama – A Proposal” requesting a formal commission be established to investigate, publicize, share and make recommendations concerning the history of The University of Alabama. One purpose of such a commission would be to document UA’s history including the background of slaves and civil rights. Another would be to preserve documents, address practical issues and make a formal report. Research is being done by Dr. Christine Taylor, UA’s Chief Diversity Officer, requesting information from other SEC institutions concerning the establishment of such a commission. An exploratory commission/task force could pave the way determining commission format, structure, chair, membership and other issues. Increasing the number and availability of historical campus tours and sustainability was discussed. The issue will be discussed by President Meester with Provost Whitaker.

**Student Life –** *(Charlye Adams & Amy Traylor)* The Student Life Committee met to determine how to move forward to meet supplying students with basic needs year round. The focus during the holidays fades and the needs continue throughout the year.

**Academic Affairs –** *(John Vincent & Brad Tuggle)* The Faculty Handbook task force is continuing the lengthy meetings to finalize revisions to the Faculty Handbook. Faculty position definitions and titles take a great deal of time and discussion.

**Other Committee Reports –**

UA’s standing Awards Committee is lagging behind with nominee packet delivery and voting. The CUC chair will be contacted to address this issue.

Three faculty members are needed as judges for the Alumni Student Awards on January 25th at 11:00 A.M. in Alumni Hall.

**Old Business –** The campus visit project survey link will be resent to the Steering Committee.

An email will be sent to remind faculty to observe Dead Week policies.

**New Business –** Faculty members are having previously approved prescription medication refill problems with OptimaRX prescription coverage. Rona Donahoe is the Chair of the Faculty & Staff Benefits Committee and requested details to be sent to her.

New senator elections were discussed including arranging teaching schedules to allow time for Faculty Senate meetings. Each college determines policies allowing faculty voting in senator elections and this issue should be followed.

Meeting adjourned 4:20 P.M.