# FACULTY SENATE MEETING

# JANUARY 15, 2019

# 3:30 PM – ROOM #1010 NORTH LAWN HALL

# APPROVED MINUTES

**ATTENDING WITH ALTERNATE:** Silas Blackstock/Bob Findlay, Annie Levy/Steve Burch, Preethi Nair/Hilary Green, Diana Gomez/Sarah Miesse, Steven Yates/Miriam Sweeney, Kelly Guyotte/Sara McDaniel, Sundaar Krishnan/Paul Puzinauskas, Edward Sazonov/Tonya Klein.

**ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE:** Steve Bunker, Ibrahim Cemen, Ellary Draper, Osiris Molina, Rainer Schad, Joe Weber, Peter Johnson, Nelle Williams, Peter Jensen, Ajay Agrawal, Shuhui Li, Kendall King, Dominic Yeager.

**GUESTS:** Cresandra Smothers, Strategic Communications; Rebecca Salzer, Interim Director, Collaborative Arts Research Initiative; Dr. Theresa Welbourne, Executive Director, Alabama Entrepreneurship Institute and EDGE.

Roll call and quorum check by Faculty Senate Secretary Barb Dahlbach.

The Faculty Senate meeting minutes of December 11, 2018 were approved.

Rebecca Salzer, Interim Director of the Collaborative Arts Research Initiative, gave a presentation highlighting faculty collaborative opportunities. CARI is a campus-wide arts research incubator that aims to support and foster collaboration between faculty members across disciplines. The center of the re-imagine effort will be around faculty research and art. An example is the collaborative project of computer technology, architecture and dance choreography. A painting was shown by Rebecca Rutstein who was an artist-in-residence on the Nautilus. Rutstein collaborated with scientists on board the vessel sailing from the Galapagos Islands to California exploring the deep ocean and converting the data being collected on the voyage to beautiful paintings. CARI is designed to expand the research methods of investigators, raise the profile of The University of Alabama, enhance outside funding potential, provide seed funding, lab space, technology and equipment and strengthen recruitment and retention of faculty and graduate students. Two-year renewable fellowships are being launched to support collaborations of art and research on campus. Those eligible to apply for a fellowship are any faculty member, tenure track, RC or FTTI interested in interdisciplinary arts research. The applications for inaugural class of CARI Faculty Fellows will be open February 4-March 6, 2019. Those accepted will have $3,000 funding for a year, possible additional travel funding, opportunity to guide equipment acquisitions and special access to space and equipment in Maxwell Hall. Guest speakers, workshops and projects with long-term goals will develop multiple outcomes. Responsibilities of participants will include participation in meetings, events and workshops, participation in the established collaborative teams, feedback to peers, submission of grants for external funding and the submission of timely progress reports. The initiative hopes to be a positive influence on campus and the community.

R. Benjamin Knapp, Director of the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology at Virginia Tech will conduct inspiration/information sessions on Monday, January 28th at 4:00 P.M. in Maxwell Hall. The second session will be on Tuesday, January 29 at 12:00 P.M. in Maxwell Hall. Norah Zuniga Shaw, Director for Dance and Technology at The Ohio State University will conduct inspiration/information sessions on Wednesday, February 13 at 10:00 A.M. in Maxwell Hall. The second session will be Wednesday, February 13 at 3:00 P.M. in Maxwell Hall.

Dr. Theresa Welbourne, Executive Director of the Alabama Entrepreneurship Institute and EDGE, gave a presentation for entrepreneurship opportunities. This is a collaboration of The University of Alabama, City of Tuscaloosa and the Tuscaloosa Chamber of Commerce. The grand opening and open house for the new facility will be February 6 from 3:00 until 6:00 P.M. The Alabama Entrepreneurship Institute and The Edge Incubator and Accelerator are moving to a new $11.6M facility housing 25 offices, 100 workstations, training rooms, a conference room and a lounge. The purpose of the program is to find entrepreneurship campus opportunities, create businesses and grow the businesses. There are entrepreneurial leadership groups, classes, CEO student group, team competitions with monetary benefits, mentoring and legal assistance, workshops and speakers. A new entrepreneurship minor earning 15 credits with three that can be from any college and no prerequisites has been developed. Work is being done on an entrepreneurship digital badge program. Pooling and connecting resources and expertise is the goal of the Alabama Entrepreneurship Institute and EDGE.

**President’s Report –** *(Rona Donahoe)* The University of Alabama’s research classification under the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education has been elevated to “Very High Research Activity”. Research awards have grown by 85% over the last five years, a record level of funding in 2018 and at least 20 research/scholarship (or 30 professional practice) doctoral degrees and a minimum of $5 million dollars of total research expenditures.

Inclusive Classroom Workshops will be conducted by joe Bandy, Assistant Director of the Center for Teaching at Vanderbilt University, will be held Monday, January 28th in Rast B of the Bryant Conference Center. Registration is required for two workshops – 9:30-11:00 AM and 11:30-1:00 PM.

Campus mail services will possibly outsource operations and staff in an effort to stem rising costs, improve efficiencies and services, modernize mail service with technology and meet service expectations. There are twenty-one current employees who will be reassigned if not retained by the outsource operation.

Dr. Jamie R. Riley has been hired as UA Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students beginning February 25, 2019. Dr. Riley has extensive experience with student services, diversity, counseling and teaching.

The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the Professional Staff Assembly have coordinated a service work day on January 21, “Martin Luther King, Jr.: A Day On, Not a Day Off” for Brewer-Porch Children’s Center. This will be to install and paint tires donated by Warren Tires to provide sensory activity for preschool children with autism spectrum disorder.

President Donahoe gave an update of the UA Chancellor Search. Specific information was requested by President Donahoe including methods of advertising the position, number of candidates, gender and diversity of candidates. A position posting for Chancellor for The University of Alabama System was placed on the UA website. The Board of Trustees will use its contacts and resources to identify individuals possessing the attributes and qualifications to fill the position. This will be a direct hire and search by the Board of Trustees. Evaluations will continue until a final candidate is identified with no specific deadline.

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

**Secretary’s Report –** *(Barbara Dahlbach)* No report.

**Academic Affairs –** *(John Vincent & John Petrovic)* The Faculty Handbook Task Force has completed their work with a final version of the handbook. There will be discussion at the February Faculty Senate meeting and a vote taken at the meeting in March. The Handbook Taskforce was congratulated and appreciation noted for their tireless work and untold hours on the update of the Faculty Handbook.

The committee has a meeting with the Graduate Council to address some of their concerns. The committee is in communication with Strategic Communications to transfer the undergraduate catalogue back to the Registrar’s office.

**Student Life –** *(Donna Meester & Haley Strickland)* A meeting was held with Dr. David Grady, Vice President of Student Life, to discuss student health and well-being. How to manage distressed students information will be revised and updated and distributed to faculty, students and staff. The committee will be working with President Donahoe on the Alabama Reach and Brewer-Porch projects..

**Faculty Life –** *(Julia Cartwright & Andrea Glenn)* The Faculty Life Committee presented the Parental Leave Resolution/Policy. A clear and consistent policy is needed. This document emphasizes parental rather than maternal leave and is not limited by gender or sexual orientation. The policy is for parental leave for nine-month faculty members. The proposed policy falls in line with the fourth pillar of The University of Alabama’s strategic plan to provide opportunities and resources promoting work-life balance. It would also greatly enhance the retention and recruitment of outstanding faculty and staff. The proposed benefit would be eight weeks of paid leave provided the child is born or adopted during the academic year or less than eight weeks prior to the beginning of the academic year but this time can be extended if needed by the faculty member. This policy would be for nine-month faculty members only who do not earn sick or annual leave. Comments and discussion included collegial exchange of duties, proposal to remove specific medical issues (proposed-no second), privacy, foster care not included, usage of leave limited, and consideration of a twelve-month policy by the committee in the future. This resolution/policy will proceed as written being reviewed in this Faculty Senate meeting and voted on in the February Senate meeting.

**Faculty & Senate Governance –** *(Ibrahim Cemen & Janie Hubbard)* A commencement Marshal has not been secured for this August 3 summer graduation ceremony. Nominations will be solicited for Ombudsperson. The requirements are a full professor with seven years of service from Engineering or Business, cannot be administrative, a member of the Faculty Senate of the Mediation Committee. President Donahoe will be sending out a call for nominations.

**Diversity, Equity & Inclusion –** *(Mirit Eyal-Cohen & Osiris Molina)* This committee will be working with the Martin Luther King, Jr. initiative. The Holocaust event is being organized to be held in late March or early April. A two-day event is being proposed with exhibits, displays and survivor speakers.

The affinity groups are being organized and work is being done to expand the number of groups such as Muslim and Hispanic. Group leaders are being sought. The committee believes this effort will assist new and junior faculty feel affiliated with others and be accepted.

Speakers for February will be Kevin Kocot, Capstone Alliance and Lucy Smith, Safe Zone.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 P.M.