# FACULTY SENATE MEETING

# DECEMBER 11, 2018 – 3:30 PM - #1013 SERC

# APPROVED MINUTES

**ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE:** Silas Blackstock/Jon Benstead, Bill Martin/Matt Reynolds, Ignacio Rodeno/Bryan Koronkiewicz, Richard Doherty/Nathan Chilcutt, Nelle Williams/Robert McKinney, Dan Meissner/Jeremy Butler, Cory Callahan/Sara McDaniel, Michelle Hale/Juanita McMath.

**ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE:** Steve Bunker, Julia Cartwright, Amy Dayton, Andrew Dewar, Andrea Glenn, Donna Meester, Osiris Molina, Regina Range, Rainer Schad, LouAnne Friend, Becky Atkinson, Yuping Bao, Shuhui Li, Carla Blakey, Denise DeSalvo, Mirit Eyal-Cohen, Allyson Gold, Amy Traylor, Dominic Yeager.

**GUESTS:** Ed Enoch, The Tuscaloosa News.

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

The Faculty Senate meeting minutes of November 13, 2018 were approved with corrections.

Dr. John Lochman, Director, UA Life Research Institute gave a power point presentation about the responsibilities of the institute. Part of the mission for the institute is to develop research functions for individual researchers throughout the University. The Life Research Institute has several affiliated research centers including the Alabama Research Institute on Aging, Center for the Prevention of Youth Behavior Problems, Institute for Rural Health Research and the Institute for Social Science Research. A key part of the institute has been the Advisory Board. Following the renovation of the Northeast Medical Center Building there will be incubator space available. The ALRI will bring together experience researchers at The University of Alabama to capitalize on the synergism of interdisciplinary collaboration while mentoring young investigators to develop productive researchers. The ALRI Pilot Project Program aims to increase the rate of strong, fundable external grant submissions from UA faculty who are affiliated with the ALRI. The PPP encourages research being conducted by transdisciplinary investigative teams, and which will (a) provide critically necessary pilot data necessary for a federal grant submission. The PPP funded pilot projects can receive up to $25,000. Requests for submissions for the PPP will typically occur here times a year. The next announcement is anticipated in October 2018. The call for proposals will include specific information about proposal requirements. The vision for a permanent director includes data analysis, investigative development, pre- and post-award assistance. A statistician has been hired to assist with data analytics, grant support projects, complex statistics, archiving data and compiling a listing of research expertise and statistics sources. Dr. Lochman reviewed the process for grant and funding applications.

Dr. Patty Sobecky, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Executive Director of the Alabama Water Institute, gave an overview of the institute. The Alabama Water Institute was approved by the Board of Trustees in February, 2018. The institute was intentionally designed to be broad in scope allowing sources of engagement from all faculty and others. The focus of AWI is supporting various water resources including freshwater and marine waterways, marshes, estuaries and coastal areas. Due to the complexity of water management the most experienced and talented faculty and student researchers are being sought. The institute partners with the NOAA National Water Center located on UA campus and the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. The institute is making a concerted effort to bring research teams together to enhance collaborations and opportunities for networking. Dr. Sobecky reviewed the services offered and the outreach to the community by the Alabama Water Institute. Suggestions or questions may be emailed to psobecky@ua.edu.

**President’s Report –** *(Rona Donahoe)* A Winter Holiday Celebration-Around the World was held at the Ferguson Center on December 4 from noon until 2:00 P.M. The goal was to offer an opportunity for faculty and students to experience and celebrate holiday culture from other countries around the world. It was well intended for such a short time allowed to prepare for the event. Hopefully the event will be expanded next year.

There are presently four dean searches with two currently for the Community Health Sciences College and Continuing Studies. Vikki VanDiver from Social Work and Dean Bob Olin will be retiring next year.

President Donahoe attended a meeting of the Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee last week. More than 98% of the 6,112 eligible employees participated in active enrollment. The Benefits Office reached out to everyone on campus including staff and those without access to computers. Only two employees missed the deadline. UAB offered the higher deductible health plan with six percent participating in the plan. UA had 18.3% opt for the higher deductible plan. New health care insurance cards will be issued. There was a net reduction of 101 spouses of employees choosing to participate in their employer’s health care plan. Additional details and information are available through UA’s Benefits Office.

The Crowdfunding Project proposal was submitted in September by President Donahoe was approved. This was to support the joint activities of the Faculty Senate, the Office, Clerical and Technical Staff Assembly and the Professional Staff Assembly. The selection of project ambassadors required by University Advancement to promote service activities will be the co-chairs of the Student Life Committee and the Community and Legislative Affairs Committee and President Donahoe. A fund-raising goal of $10,000 has been set for Alabama Reach and Brewer’s Porch projects. The salsa garden was finished last week. Building and Grounds delivered soil and gravel. Workers included Daphne Wright and husband, three TIAA representatives, President Donahoe, Amy Dayton and others. Birdhouses were purchased along with supplies to maintain the garden. Slides were shown of the garden in progress and the completed project.

President Donahoe urged senators to communicate information about CUC meetings that have not been held.

**Vice President’s Report –** *(Chapman Greer)* Vice President Greer expressed great concern about the availability and access to the Suicide Prevention Center. The process takes too long and delays cannot be tolerated in suicide situations. The first step on the Suicide Prevention hotline is to call University Police or a notional suicidal hotline. Student life and well-being are prime considerations for UA faculty and administration. Appointments with a qualified counselor are delayed sometimes for weeks and the number of available counselors is not adequate. The issue will be discussed in the meeting of the Steering Committee and Provost.

**Academic Affairs –** *(John Vincent & John Petrovic)* The Academic Affairs Committee have finished reviewing Chapters Three and Four of the Faculty Handbook. The Council of Associate Deans has presented changes to Appendix “C” of the Handbook.

The Academic Affairs Committee brought forward a proposal to create an Undergraduate Council to review, evaluate and provide recommendations to the Provost on proposals for new undergraduate academic programs and changes to existing academic programs; engage in review of existing academic programs; promote quality in undergraduate academic programs; and review and develop University-wide policies for undergraduate students including the areas of admission and retention, scholarships, advising, and financial aid. The Undergraduate Council would be a Level One committee. The reporting channel would be through the Provost. The document forwarded by the Academic Affairs Committee and the Steering Committee. Along with the Provost (or designated Associate Provost) there would be approximately thirty-two elected members from colleges granting undergraduate degrees and one elected faculty member from the Honors College. Elected faculty members would be based on one member for each 1,000 undergraduate majors with each having at least two members. The Academic Affairs Committee proposed electing one-third of the membership this year, one-third next year and the remaining one-third the following year giving staggered terms. The Academic Affairs Committee asked for a suspension of the rules to allow a vote in today’s meeting. It was so moved and approved. Points of discussion included the meaning of the phrase “engage in review of existing academic programs” and core course design. Suggestions were made to change “ex-officio” to liaison and the insert “significant” in front of “changes to existing academic programs”. A motion was made to accept these changes and was approved. There was a call to vote on the document as amended. The document was approved with three “no’s” and two abstentions.

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**Research & Service –** *(Ajay Agrawal & Mike Kreger)* The research survey sent out by the Research and Service Committee had a 31.5% response rate including the partial responses. Regular and full-time faculty represented the bulk of the respondents with a 40.2% response rate and 94.7% of all responses. Nearly half of the tenured and tenure-track faculty responded representing 71.8% of all responses. Nearly half of the tenured and tenure-track faculty responded and up to 600 responses were received for some of the questions. The comments (about 100) were organized into three groups of faculty (1) Natural Sciences and Engineering, (2) Social Sciences, and (3) Humanities. All comments will be reviewed and summarized with results possibly by January, 2019. Among the topics of special interest included increasing scholarly and creative activity output, increasing research funding, administration put forth rigorous efforts to develop partnerships with industry/business, lobby UA research in Washington, DC and Montgomery, utilize social media outlets, create impactful websites, host conferences on UA campus, build upon existing research strengths, recruitment at a national level, increase graduate student population, and faculty recruitment and retention. The survey information will be shared with the Vice President for Research and Development, Provost Whitaker and President Bell.

**Faculty Life –** *(Julia Cartwright & Andrea Glenn)* This committee is working on parental leave policy. The nine-month faculty parental policy proposal should be ready in January.

**Faculty & Senate Governance –** *(Ibrahim Cemen & Janie Hubbard)* Steven Hobbs and Joy Burnham have agreed to extend their membership to August 15, 2019. Suzanne Horsley will extend until August, 15, 2020 leaving one vacancy. March, 2019 will have elections to replace both members, December, 2019 will have election to replace vacancy with term from December, 2019 to August, 2020. In March, 2020 an election will be held to replace two members with terms beginning in August, 2020. In March, 2021 an election will be held to replace two members with terms beginning in August 2021. Next spring elections for Faculty Senate officers and senators will be held.

**Information Technology & Strategic Communications –** *(Matthew Hudnall & Dan Meissner)* Strategic Communications has hired a new web administrator who is migrating data to OUCampus and WordPress. The use of University logo, if paid for through University funds or with a high scale visibility, must go through Strategic Communications. There is a review service available.

**Student Life –** *(Donna Meester & Haley Strickland)* No report.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be January 15, 2019 in North Lawn Hall – Room #1010.

Meeting adjourned 5:20 P.M.