# FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

# APRIL 10, 2018 – 3:00 P.M. - #213 AIME

# APPROVED MINUTES

**ATTENDING: Rona Donahoe, Chapman Greer, John Vincent, Brad Tuggle, Osiris Molina, Mirit Eyal-Cohen, Angela Benson, Ibrahim Cemen, Julia Cartwright, Peter Johnson, Clark Midkiff, Ajay Agrawal, Mike Kreger, Charlye Adams.**

**ABSENT: Barbara Dahlbach, Amy Dayton, Seth Bordner, James Gilbreath, Bob Findlay, Amy Traylor.**

**GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Strategic Communications.**

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

**The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of March 6, 2018 were approved.**

**The orientation for new senators will be held in 1012 North Lawn Hall on April 12, 2018 at 3:30 P.M.**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT – *(Rona Donahoe)* First on the agenda were approvals for three items – the Faculty Senate ByLaw revisions, Faculty Senate Standing Committee and the Faculty Senate UA Standing Committee Representatives for 2018-19 with the Institutional Biological Safety representative position vacant at this time. Each item was approved unanimously. Dominic Yeager was approved to continue to serve as Parliamentarian.**

**The University of Alabama’s Board of Trustees met on April 5th and 6th in Huntsville, Alabama. There were seven physical property construction projects on the agenda: Kappa Alpha Theta building, phase 3 & 4 improvement of University Boulevard going east will begin the day after commencement and finish before fall semester begins, College of Nursing expansion extending behind the present building is in stage 3 approval, a sculpture commemorating Tuscaloosa’s bicentennial celebration will be placed at Manderson Landing near the Rowing Center along with site lighting and paving improvements are being donated by the University, Northeast Medical Center near the Bryce campus will receive a $4.9 million interior renovation is now at the architect stage, Russell Hall will have a micro-bio lab addition with a waiver to secure the same architect that designed other parts of the building and the Board approved a resolution for Peter Bryce Park Reserve (27 ½ acres) which had planned academic buildings encroaching on green space but has the potential for construction of temporary cottages for visitors and visiting faculty. Carolyn Cassidy made a presentation for a contribution from the University to help supplement instruments needed beyond the NSF grant that was awarded.**

**Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Alabama suffered extensive tornado damage. UA sent thirteen grounds workers and equipment for three days to help with campus restoration. Several student groups also went to assist with clean-up. UA provided a drone for aerial damage surveys. Lakeside Dining is undergoing interior renovations. Tuition increases were discussed and approved for UAB’s medical school which will be mirrored by UA’s College of Community Health Sciences. The dental school will have a 3% tuition increase and the optometry school will have a 1% increase for in-state and zero increase for out-of-state tuition.**

**A luncheon was held for Faculty Senate officers from all three campuses following the Board of Trustees meeting. Board Rule 108 from the Systems Office establishes guidance for policy development for all three campuses. Section D of the document is problematic and states:**

**D. Superseding Board Rules or Chancellor Requirements. All policies are subject to superseding laws, regulations, Bylaws, Rules, minutes, and other pronouncements of The Board of Trustees and Chancellor of the University of Alabama System. As such, policy websites and other collections of policies will include a notice to the following effect:**

***“Although the policies contained herein are intended to reflect current rules and policies of the University, users are cautioned that changes or additions may have become effective since the publication of this material. In the event of a conflict, current statements of Board policy contained in the Bylaws, Rules, official minutes, and other pronouncement of the Board or Chancellor, or superseding law, shall prevail.”***

**The thrust of this statement is to achieve some uniformity across sister campuses in terms of policies. UAH administration is proposing establishing detailed sexual harassment policy specifically for their campus using Board Rule 108 for justification. A unified Faculty Senate response is expected at the June Board of Trustees meeting.**

**Chancellor Hayes requested Faculty Senates from all three campuses look at ways to collaborate and exchange information. A survey was composed by UA’s Faculty Senate and distributed. UAH responded but there was a delayed response from UAB. A proposed “Chancellor’s Choice Award” to be awarded in Fall of 2019 and the recipient would receive some funding to bring together faculty with the first meeting to be at UAB. They would participate in a one-day meeting with presentations so people could mingle and stimulate discussion about research. A selection committee would choose a number of monetary recipients and recognition of awards from the Chancellor’s office. There could be three awards structured around the Business School, Human Sciences, Engineering with suggestions from President Donahoe to structure the awards around the RGC. Tours could be a part of the one-day meeting. Funding potentially could come from the Chancellor’s office and details about lodging and meals were discussed.**

**Alarm methods and systems were reviewed with UAB proposing a second button silent alarm be added to the phone alarm system. Blue emergency phones (47) are all across UA’s campus. Sleeves that fit over door mechanisms to lock doors in an emergency are available.**

**The ModernThink survey distributed by President Bell and his office are available for participation until Friday, April 20th at midnight. Response rate at this point is 41%. The rate is around 30% for non-administrative offices except the Business School which has a 58% response rate.**

**Provost Whitaker requested feedback on possible changes in the University’s 2019-20 academic calendar. Memorial Day has been added to the University’s calendar as an official holiday (Monday, May 27, 2019). Changes in Fall Break and Thanksgiving week along with the impact on classes, labs, changes in student enrollment and time for dorms to prepare from summer school to fall classes were issues discussed. The choices came down to – (1) no change in academic calendar other than addition of Memorial Day / (2) keep fall break (start classes two days early) and full Thanksgiving week (6 votes) / (3) eliminate fall break and have full Thanksgiving week off (5 votes) / abstentions (2). It was requested to get information about what accommodations have been made to the academic calendar with the addition of Memorial Day holiday.**

**Provost Whitaker requested feedback concerning UA’s web site issues. A record of problems should be noted until the end of April.**

**Notification is usually received concerning religious holidays but was not received this year. This should be reinstituted electronically with a link to that information. The Academic Affairs office should have a link on their web page with this information.**

**The Students for America First Club has invited a speaker, Jared Taylor, for April 19th but their advisor has stepped down. This organization cannot exist without an advisor. There is a grace period to obtain another advisor. Until such time the organization has no official status on campus and cannot invite speakers to speak on campus. They could have a speaker at a location off campus. The Department of English wrote a letter to Dr. Stuart Bell, several other administrators and Faculty Senate President Rona Donahoe expressing support for the intellectual and cultural aspects of UA’s campus community and condemning bigotry and racism. The signees of the letter recommit themselves to actively create and sustain a diverse, inclusive, safe and welcoming environment for everyone on our campus.**

**The Dean’s search for the College of Environmental Sciences is ongoing. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee will participate in meetings with the Vice President for Research and Economic Development candidates. The survey composed by the Faculty Senate Research & Service Committee will be sent out this fall with the data to be shared with the new Vice President for Research.**

**Donna Meester and Rona Donahoe spoke to the Council of Deans last week. President Donahoe has a meeting scheduled next Wednesday with Student Affairs and Faculty Life Committees to discuss the TIAA funding project involving Alabama Reach and Brewer-Porch. Funds should be received next week and projects completed before the end of the semester.**

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

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

**Academic Affairs – *(John Vincent & Brad Tuggle)* The Faculty Handbook Task Force will meet Wednesday, April 11, 2018.**

**Community & Legislative Committee – (*Amy Dayton & Seth Bordner)* No report.**

**Diversity, Equity & Inclusion – (*Osiris Molina & Mirit Eyal-Cohen)* No report.**

**Faculty & Senate Governance – *(Angela Benson & Ibrahim Cemen)* No report.**

**Faculty Life – *(Julia Cartwright & James Gilbreath)* No report.**

**Financial Affairs – *(Bob Findlay & Peter Johnson)* No report.**

**Information Technology & Strategic Communications – *(Clark Midkiff & Barbara Dahlbach)* A meeting was held last week with the Information Technology Committee to discuss policy on policies.**

**Research & Service – *(Ajay Agrawal & Mike Kreger)* The Research & Service Committee received comments from the Steering Committee and from the Research Advisory Committee which will be taken into account before the research survey is distributed this fall.**

**Student Life – (*Charlye Adams & Amy Traylor)* Chapman Greer, Amy Traylor and Charlye Adams met with the Alabama Reach representative on Friday, April 6, 2018. There are currently approximately 30 homeless, foster students enrolled in the program under UA’s Academic Affairs Office. The ratio is about 80/20 female students. There are efforts to cut all aspects of this program and the consensus of the Steering Committee is this program should be under Student Life. Alabama Reach was combined with the student pantry resource now in a very public area with no privacy for the students needing assistance.**

**Old Business – Question: Are there lists or announcements of promotions posted anywhere? There does not seem to be a central listing and President Donahoe will address this with Provost Whitaker.**

**New Business – Question: Is there a way to obtain enrollment/major information department by department? There is a data set only accessible by Chairs.**

**Any student with a parent incarcerated could qualify for assistance from Alabama Reach by applying.**

**Medical excuses for students were discussed. There are policies in place and assistance may be found through the office of the Dean of Students.**

**President Donahoe expressed appreciation to those Steering Committee members for the hard work done.**

**Year-end reports should be posted on the Faculty Senate web page.**

**Meeting adjourned 5:00 PM.**