# FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

# May 8, 2018 – 3:00 PM - #213 AIME

# APPROVED MINUTES

**ATTENDING:** Rona Donahoe, Chapman Greer, Barb Dahlbach, Paige McCormick, John Vincent, Amy Dayton, Jenna Stiffler, Mirit Eyal-Cohen, Osiris Molina, Angela Benson, Andrea Glenn, Peter Johnson, Rainer Schad, Dan Meissner, Amy Traylor, Donna Meester

ABSENT: Ibrahim Cemen, Julia Cartwright, Matthew Hudnall, Ajay Agrawal, Mike Kreger

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Strategic Communications

The minutes for the April 10th meeting were unavailable and will be approved at the next Steering Committee meeting.

**President’s Report –** *(Rona Donahoe)*

1. Alabama REACH Dinner – April 26th

The dinner was a great success with 21 of the 31 REACH students attended. Each student received a variety of gifts. The Senate will keep this project going through fund raising events in the fall.

1. Meeting with Chancellor Hayes

There was clarification on Rule 108 from the Board of Trustees. There was concern from UAB that this review of policies would interfere with lab policies. However, this is not the case. The newest policy review for UA will be Appendix B (Mediation and Grievance Policy). A form is used to submit a policy to the Systems office for review. The review process has been fast (within 4 days).

The Chancellors idea of a bus tour of the 3 campuses to increase faculty collaboration was discussed. The survey of faculty conducted last spring indicated that there was not much interest. The Senate Presidents instead proposed a “Chancellor’s Choice Award” to facilitate research discussions between System faculty. This would be a one day showcase for junior faculty research that includes a selection of 1-3 faculty for a monetary award. Charles Nash will work with Senate Presidents to formulate a plan.

1. Appendix B Vote

There was overwhelming approval of Appendix B (Mediation and Grievance).

1. VPR Search Consultant Visit – May 8th

There was a search consultant (Ann Hasselmo) on campus May 8th to help identify characteristics and qualifications for the new VPR, as the original search did not yield the pool of candidates we had hoped for.

1. Alabama Life Research Institute Exec. Dir. Interviews – May 16, June 11, 3:30 PM, 1004

Candidates will be on campus over the next month.

1. UA Website Homework Assignment

All Committee members are asked to send comments about the UA website to Rona. These should include dead links, missing information as well as positive feedback. Comments were made about the rigidness of the website design template that leaves little to no room for creativity.

7.) Commencement: Rona attended 4 of the 5 ceremonies. Chapman Greer attended the CBA one in her place.

**Vice President’s Report –** *(Chapman Greer)*

There is discussion in the Academic Affairs committee about the teaching load of NTRC faculty. More discussion of this took place during the Academic Affairs Committee Report.

**Secretary’s Report –** *(Barb Dahlbach)-*No Report

**Senate Committee Reports:**

**Academic Affairs –** *(John Vincent & Paige McCormick)*

1. NTRC Faculty FTE and Teaching Loads

Deans in two colleges have recently suggested a teaching load for NTRC should be a 5/5 load and not a 4/4 load.  Teaching a 3-hour course is considered 0.2 of a full load.  Thus, 5 x 0.2 =1.0, a full load.  However, the NTRC policy requires participation in 2 of the 3 areas (teaching, scholarship or service).  Consequently, all NTRC should have 0,2 devoted to service and only teach 4 3-hour courses a semester.  Lisa Rainey believes a 5/5 teaching load appropriate.  The steering committee was in agreement that the 5/5 load suggestion was intolerable.  President Donahoe will talk to Provost Whitaker about the issue.  If the 5/5 is still in vogue, then a resolution from the senate in opposition will be rapidly needed.

2)   The discussion them moved to other “academic principles’ and the Faculty Handbook.  It was reported that the College of Education was told by the Graduate School that edited books and book chapters would no longer count toward scholarship but would be considered service. It was confirmed during the meeting that edited books and book chapters are specifically named in the Faculty Handbook under scholarship and not service. There was also some discussion of a spreadsheet/checklist that exists and is used during reviews for t & p, though not all members had heard of this.     The question was then asked, “Who determines what counts and what does not, for tenure and promotion.” There may be a need for a task force to investigate the t & p requirements, though no action was taken.

            2)  Graduate Student ‘Academic Bankruptcy’

The policy in place allows graduate students to withdraw from classes up to the last day of classes without justification.  In essence this is “academic bankruptcy,” wiping the semester’s work from their academic record.   Unlike the undergraduate policy, there is no review or approval necessary. Concern was expressed that this was extremely inappropriate when a graduate student could be supported by University funds and then throw away the entire semester, wasting the financial support. It is suggested that this policy be reviewed.

**Community & Legislative Affairs** – *(Amy Dayton & Jenna Stiffler) -*No Report

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

**Faculty & Senate Governance –** *(Angela Benson & Ibrahim Çemen)*

1. Merger & Discontinuance of Academic Units

There will be an appointee to this committee to fill the vacancy from June to December.

**Faculty Life – (***Julia Cartwright & Andrea Glenn)-*No Report

**Financial Affairs –** *(Peter Johnson & Rainer Schad)-*No Report

**Information Technology –** *(Matthew Hudnall & Dan Meissner)*

There is a study looking at the implementation by OIT of VDI across campus. This is not an imminent. OIT is looking at the economics as using this would increase the life of computers from 3-5 years. This would also decrease the failure of hard drives.

There was discussion about what information OIT would have if this was implemented. It was pointed out that OIT already has the ability to track information and use on any campus computer. They are realu investigating what the negative impact of employing this might be.

**Research & Service –** *(Ajay Agrawal & Mike Kreger)*

Ajay submitted a report of a trip He took to the University of Michigan. There was an 8 person team. They were looking the University support of research particularly with regards to funding. Rona is to forward the letter with all of the details.

**Student Affairs –** *(Amy Traylor & Donna Meester) -*No Report

Meeting adjourned at 4:35.