# FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

# SEPTEMBER 11, 2018

# 3:00 PM - #213 AIME

# APPROVED MINUTES

**ATTENDING:** Barb Dahlbach, Rona Donahoe, Chapman Greer, John Vincent, Amy Dayton, Osiris Molina, Angela Benson, Ibrahim Cemen, Julia Cartwright, Andrea Glenn, Rainer Schad, Matthew Hudnall, Dan Meissner, Ajay Agrawal, Mike Kreger, Amy Traylor, Donna Meester.

**ABSENT:** John Petrovic, Mirit Eyal-Cohen, Peter Johnson.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of August 7, 2018 were approved.

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

Chris D’Esposito, Director of Parking and Transportation Services, gave a presentation regarding the implementation of new evening parking permits, updates and parking changes effective January, 2019. The new permits will help enhance campus security. Anyone who parks on campus will be required to purchase a parking permit or park in one of three pay-to-park decks or multi-space pay stations beginning January, 2019. Faculty and staff who do not purchase a green, reserve, Rose Administration, perimeter/handicap or motorcycle permit will need to purchase an evening parking permit to park in the green areas (surface lots only) and perimeter areas and the upper Recreation Center lot adjacent to Peter Bryce Boulevard between 3 p.m. and 7 a.m. and all surface lots (excluding reserved/gated lots) between 6 p.m. and 7 a.m. The evening parking permit for Spring, 2019 will cost $50. Faculty and staff evening permits allow additional deck access between 4:30 p.m. and 7 a.m. to Ferguson, Campus Drive and North ten Hoor parking decks Monday through Friday and on weekends. Evening permit holders must move their vehicles from these pay decks prior to 7 a.m. on weekdays to avoid being charged the daily rate on exit. Faculty and staff evening permits will allow additional deck access between 4:30 p.m. and 7 a.m. in the Magnolia Parking Deck Monday through Friday and on weekends. Those vehicles must be moved prior to 7 a.m. on weekdays to avoid a citation. Stadium Drive access will be between 6 p.m. and 7 a.m. Monday through Friday and on weekends with vehicles moved prior to 7 a.m. on weekdays to avoid a citation. Parking Services has an event coordinator to monitor parking during campus events. The Steering Committee expressed concerns about the cost of parking permits for those in lower salary categories such as adjuncts and graduate students. About 52% of residential students and 49% of commuter students purchase a permit – 85% of faculty and staff purchase permits. The number of staff to monitor the new regulations was questioned. Community and student users of Gorgas Library and Rogers Library may ride buses until 3 a.m. and then vans are put in service for transportation.

Some apartment complexes provide transportation for students to and from campus decreasing the number of students needing a parking permit. Students without a current permit can pay a prorated amount of $50 in order to park on campus after 6 p.m. during the week and throughout the day on weekends. The evening permit will not be required for students who already have a separate permit. Parking and Transportation Services has a debt service of $3 million dollars for existing structures. The Service is a self-supporting auxiliary of the University in need of additional funding in view of the new Tutwiler Parking Deck and construction of the Capstone Parking Deck. Better communication is needed from the Parking Service department. More lighting is needed in the Alston Hall area.

The Faculty Senate Financial Affairs Committee will closely monitor the evening parking permit issue.

Lorne Kuffel, Institutional Research and Assessment Executive Director, and Jacob Pleitz, Institutional Research, spoke to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee concerning the UA Workplace Experience Survey, called Chime-In, conducted in support of the “work-life balance” portion of the UA Strategic Plan Goal #4 to improve recruiting and retention of staff. This survey was administered by ModernThink with a 47% response rate. The Executive Summary looked at several aspects of the survey. There were six Likert scale questions focused on work-life balance. Generally the responses to all six were very positive. The two questions addressing the employee-supervisor relationship focused on work-life balance received the highest positive responses. The basic survey ran sixty-four questions with four added by the Institutional Research and Assessment Department. Those sixty-four questions are divided into sixteen thematic areas consisting two or more questions which are averaged to produce an overall score for each theme. The University of Alabama did well in six of the thematic areas recording two-thirds positive responses in Pride; Facilities; Job Satisfaction/Support; Supervisions/Department Chairs; Compensation; Benefits and Work/Life Balance; and Professional Development. Areas needing attention are Communication; Collaboration; Shared Governance; Fairness; Faculty, Administration and Staff Relations; and Respect and Appreciation. A chart with positive responses by theme and total responses compared to faculty responses was shared along with more survey data. Mr. Kuffel demonstrated how to expand subjects to acquire more detailed data. The survey is a starting point to work toward improvement in any weak areas. Distribution of the survey results was discussed. All ideas or suggestions will be welcomed.

**President’s Report –** *(Rona Donahoe)* Chris D’Esposito, Director of Parking and Transportation Services, will be invited to address the Faculty Senate meeting on September 18th. He will be requested to bring more financial analysis information. There are no “visitor parking” signs on campus which sends an unwelcoming message. Other concerns were expressed about parking during campus events, permit costs, and available parking at libraries.

Andrea Glenn was congratulated as the recipient of the Alabama Life Project Award.

The names nominated for the General Education Task Force have been forwarded to Ginger Bishop. Provost Whitaker should be announcing those members in the next few days.

Provost Whitaker has charged Han with developing a proposal for the structure and composition for an undergraduate council which would eliminate one University Standing Committee. JoAnn Oliver is chair of the CUC and has made strides in organizing and handling this important committee.

President Donahoe attended the Community Affairs Committee meeting on the 29th in the absence of the Faculty Senate’s committee co-chairs. Kelly Fitts, President of the original Homeowners Association in Tuscaloosa’s historical downtown area, cited more than 140 separate incidents of related alcohol abuse by students.

President Donahoe submitted request for approval to continue working with the Professional Staff Assembly and the Office, Clerical and Technical Staff Assembly hoping to raise funds annually for service projects.

The Board of Trustees meeting will be held Thursday afternoon and Friday, September 20 and 21. An announcement will be made concerning Law School advancement. Faculty Senate representatives will attend the meetings and luncheon. Ron Gray, Board of Trustee President Pro tem, will speak to the group concerning the search to fill the Chancellor’s position.

The search for Vice President of Research has reached the Skype interview stage. The next step will be airport interviews followed by campus visits. President Donahoe will make sure Faculty Senate Steering Committee members are included in the interviews.

Suggestions for speakers at the Provost/Steering Committee meetings included a presentation of the Campus Master Plan and a budget presentation.

The Board of Trustees approves faculty positions as stated in their manual. In view of that approval, the Board will move this action including budget approval from the fall meeting to the June meeting beginning next year.

An email from a faculty member attempting to send it on the Faculty Senate list serve criticizing University policies was discussed.

**Vice President’s Report –** *(Chapman Greer)* Advancement will be requesting donations from faculty and staff for United Way from February until the Bama Blitz. This issue will be covered in the meeting with the Provost. Capturing donations in a report was discussed.

**Secretary’s Report –** *(Barb Dahlbach)* Secretary Dahlbach has updated information about senators requesting each make sure their correct email address is listed. The problem does not come from sending information to committee members but responses/replies are not received. A reminder will be sent.

**Academic Affairs –** *(John Vincent & John Petrovic)* The Faculty Handbook has been sent to UA’s Academic Affairs Committee. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee was asked to review Chapter 1 in October, Chapter 2 in November and Chapters 3, 4 and 5 in December. Hopefully by December there could be a meeting with the Council of Deans to work out any issues.

**Student Life –** *(Amy Traylor & Donna Meester)* The co-chairs of the Student Affairs Committee met with David Grady, Vice President for Student Life, to discuss sorority and fraternity recruiting, free speech, and other student behavior and organizational issues. The meeting included Assistant Vice President for Student Engagement and Academic Partnerships, Adam Sterritt, providing information about resources, programs and services for student’s well-being in this area.

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) program should be up and running by October 1, 2018. The location will be on University Boulevard and is undergoing renovations. Thirty nurses from DCH have completed the needed training for this program.

**Community & Legislative Affairs –** *(Amy Dayton & \_\_\_\_)*  This committee is in need of a co-chair. Feedback has been received from several sources concerning the proposed document to establish a formal commission to investigate the history of race, slavery, and civil rights on our campus and to make recommendations for a sustained dialog on these subjects. The Steering Committee voted unanimously to forward the document – “Proposal: Commission on Race, Slavery, and Civil Rights at The University of Alabama, A Proposal” to the full Senate at the September 16th meeting. The vote on the document will be at the October Faculty Senate meeting.

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

**Faculty & Senate Governance –** *(Angela Benson & Ibrahim Cemen)* Elections will be held for the Merger & Discontinuance Committee and calls have been sent out for names to be submitted to serve as Marshal during commencement.

**Faculty Life –** *(Julia Cartwright & Andrea Glenn)* This committee met last week to discuss maternity leave policy and child care. The committee is in the process of gathering information from other institutions to use in making recommendations. The Chime In survey information and statistics will also be an integral part of going forward with the issues. Gym facilities, housing for visiting faculty and the visitor web site continue to be priorities.

**Financial Affairs –** *(Peter Johnson & Rainer Schad)* The new parking regulations (evening parking permits) are a priority issue for this committee. If explanations are not adequate, a draft of a resolution opposing the implementation of these regulations has been prepared.

**Information Technology & Strategic Communications –** (Matthew Hudnall & Dan Meisner) This committee met with Strategic Communications to address the problem of dead links on UA’s web page. A scanner has been installed to monitor and produce reports concerning dead links to UA policies.

**Research & Service –** *(Ajay Agrawal & Mike Kreger)* The Research and Service Committee has a faculty survey ready to go. This survey was prepared last year but was delayed due to the ModernThink survey activation. The recommendation is to send the survey to faculty members as defined by the Faculty Senate bylaws which would include NTRC faculty. The committee will follow up with the Office of Information Research to administer the survey.

The pending issue for this committee is how to have focus in the upcoming Capital Campaign specifically for research funding. A new Vice President for Research should be named in the near future which should assist in this effort.

Campus University Committees have not been in touch with committee members. This is being worked on by JoAnn Oliver.

Meeting adjourned 5:35 P.M.