# FACULTY SENATE MEETING

## February 20, 2018 – 3:30 P.M. - #1010 North Lawn Hall

## APPROVED MINUTES

**ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE:** Laura Reed**/**Bryan Koronkiewicz; Joe Weber/Hilary Green; Michelle Hale/Cecile Komora; Angela Benson/Becky Atkinson.

**ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE:** Steve Bunker, Andrew Dewar, Kelley Schoger, Peter Johnson, Nelle Williams, Carol Mills, Brad Tuggle, Mirit Eyal-Cohen.

**GUESTS:** Cresandra Smothers, Strategic Communications; Susan Carvalho, Dean of Graduate School, Steve Burch; Dominic Yeager, Parliamentarian; Ed Enoch, The Tuscaloosa News; Josiah Sowell, SGA.

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

The Faculty Senate minutes of January 23, 2018 were approved.

**President’s Report –** *(Donna Meester)* All three (UA, UAH, UAB) Faculty Senate Steering Committees met following the Board of Trustees meeting in Birmingham on February 9, 2018. Chancellor Hayes charged the three committees with a mission including funding to develop ways to visit each campus and methods to work together. Faculty surveys were sent out to all three campus Faculty Senate officers requesting feedback concerning interests and suggestions. UAH was enthusiastic, UAB did not send the survey to their faculty and UA’s response was not entirely positive. A quarterly meeting of the Steering Committees did not allow a speedy response to ongoing problems. At this point the Steering Committees will continue to communicate and will continue to meet following the meeting of the Board of Trustees without a formal agenda.

Dean Gilstrap of University Libraries will speak at the March meeting of the Faculty Senate. Alabama State Representative Bill Poole will speak at the April Faculty Senate meeting. Following today’s meeting a campus safety presentation will be given along with time for questions and answers.

President Stuart Bell will be sending a survey through ModernThink to all faculty, staff and employees in connection with the fourth pillar of the Strategic Plan which is to provide opportunity and resources that facilitate work-life balance and enhance recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty and staff. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the survey and will be given whatever access is needed to respond.

The March meeting of the Faculty Senate will be the last one conducted by the present officers. All Faculty Senate committees and Faculty Senate representatives to University committees will be responsible for giving a year-end report at that meeting and will be posted on the Faculty Senate web page.

**Vice President’s Report –** *(Rona Donahoe)* Vice President Donahoe attended the annual meeting of the Alabama Council of College and University Faculty Presidents. Eight Faculty Senate Presidents or

representatives attended. The Alabama Commission for Higher Education conducted the meeting at

RSA Headquarter in Montgomery. Lenny Lock reported that the time for course approval has been

decreased from ten months to three months. Jim Purcell, Executive Director of ACHE, gave the same

presentation he gave to the Alabama Legislature, beginning with an overview of the Strategic Plan for

Higher Education – a twelve-year plan. A U.S. Department of Labor animated map revealed the collapse

of jobs during the recession of 2008-09. The addition of 5.6 million jobs added since 2007 has not

benefited all states or all areas, including SW Alabama. By 2030, it is expected that a quarter of mid-tolow level jobs will be replaced by automation. The failure to produce an adequate number of skilled

workers could lead to another recession. Associate degrees will be insufficient to supply those workers

without additional certification. A statistic in Purcell’s report revealed that only 34% of ninth-graders

will pursue a higher education degree and only 42% of these students will acquire an associate or

bachelors degree, after ten years. As a result, only 14% of all ninth graders in the State will obtain a

degree in higher education. He pointed out that funding for higher education is currently at the same

level as it was in 1967. Tuition increases are vital and have only increased by 27% over the same time

period. The strategic plan includes two major goals – improving access to higher education and

enhancing student success. Purcell recommends stewardship by universities, including preparation of

high school students, increasing the number of AP courses offered, and providing dual enrollment

opportunities for high school students, in an effort to reduce remediation rates. Tuscaloosa County is

ranked in the middle, with a 26% remediation rate. Industry sponsored scholarships to assist high

school students attending college would be beneficial. Purcell has set a goal of attaining a 65%

graduation rate by 2025. He would also like to see a statewide definition of what it means to be

“college ready”. Data show that students earning AP course scores of three or higher are generally

successful in college. He estimates that 58 million dollars in Pell grants was left on the table because

FAFSA forms were not completed. ACHE will launch a FAFSA Completion Project to increase federal

support for Alabama students. He has lost enthusiasm for the STARS articulation agreement

guaranteeing junior college credit acceptance by four year institutions and believes that faculty at four

year institutions must be involved in determining course equivalency. Increasing State support and the

number of qualified math and science teachers are priorities.

Margaret Gunter, ACHE Communications and Government Relations, gave a 2018 Legislative session

update. The Governor’s proposed higher education budget, which will be modified by the Legislature,

reflects an increase of 3.5% for operations and maintenance, 51% ($1.5 million dollars) increase in

student assistance, 126% increase in math and science education funding, and a $250,000 scholarship

increase for students pursuing automotive training. Several bills were mentioned including HP179

proposing supplemental appropriations from Educational Trust Fund, Advanced Technology fund, to

provide $7.6 million for two year institutions and $9.6 million for four year institutions to support

automotive industry training. HP20 proposes scholarships for medical students committing to rural

practice.

**Secretary’s Report –** *(Chapman Greer)* The data needed for senator appropriations for colleges and schools is nearing completion.

**Faculty & Senate Governance –** *(Angela Benson & Ibrahim Cemen)* The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee announced the candidates for Faculty Senate officers for next year are Rona Donahoe, President; Chapman Greer, Vice President; and Barbara Dahlbach, Secretary. There were no nominations from the floor. The election will be held at the March meeting of the Faculty Senate. The nomination for Ombudsperson is Seth Appiah-Opoku from the Department of Geography. The election will take place during the full senate elections. An appeal was made for more nominations for this important position.

**Faculty Life –** *Julia Cartwright & James Gilbreath)* The Faculty Life Committee met with the director of web-based communications concerning establishing an informational web page for new faculty and visitors.

A resolution is being composed to present to the Steering Committee concerning free gym access for faculty.

This committee is also composing a resolution concerning a facility for day care and will be working with the Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee on this proposal. Solutions for temporary child care during University and school suspensions due to weather or other circumstances are being reviewed.

Availability for housing for visiting faculty or others is being researched. Some schools/colleges have their own temporary housing facility. The committee will propose the University purchase short-term housing for visitors such as internationals.

**Community Affairs -** *(Amy Dayton & Seth Bordner)* No report.

**Diversity, Equity & Inclusion –** *(Osiris Molina & Mirit Eyal-Cohen)* This committee met with Diversity and Inclusion Vice President, Dr. Christine Taylor. Included in the discussion was the very offensive video that was posted and establishing curriculum to emphasize diversity and inclusion. The committee will be meeting with Lane McClelland of the Crossroads Community Engagement Center.

**Academic Affairs –** *(John Vincent)* Provost Whitaker emailed to the co-chairs of this committee the proposed summer and spring hours for registration. This has been forwarded to committee members for feedback.

The Handbook Task Force has made it through the entire Handbook. The next step will be editing which bringing the review closer to completion.

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

**Research & Service –** *(Ajay Agrawal & Mike Kreger)* The committee is working with the Research Advisory Committee on research related issues and ideas to present to Interim Vice President for Research, Dr. David Higginbotham. The committee met with the Director of Sponsored Programs to discuss what can be done in office. The development and framework of the survey to establish research priorities is almost complete. The search for Vice President for Research position is ongoing and there will be a committee meeting on March 2. Nominations for this position are welcomed.

**Information Technology & Strategic Communication –** *(Clark Midkiff & Barbara Dahlbach)* The Information Technology and Strategic Communication University Committee met for the first time this week. John McGowan, Vice President of Information Technology, is seeking a chair for this committee. The OIT is in the process of developing information systems and infrastructure policies. This should be closely monitored by the Faculty Senate Information Technology and Strategic Communication Committee due to the proposed restraints on cell phone and email usage of last year.

**Student Life –** *((Amy Traylor & Charlye Adams)*

**Reports from Other Committees –**

The Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee are working on establishing a physical space for a child care center. A business model is being developed. Including this project in the Capital Campaign is being discussed. There was discussion about child care facilities utilized in the past and the lack of child care today.

Complaints have been received about OptumRx which seem centered around prior authorizations from physicians and the failure to check the appropriate boxes on the form. Rather than refer back to the prior paperwork the prescription is refused causing complications between the physician’s office, the employee and OptumRx. The OptumRx contract will expire at the end of this calendar year. The University is in contract discussions with other companies.

The Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee will meet next week with representatives from the Student Recreation Center and from the Student Life office to promote faculty and staff access to the Recreation Center.

The Lakeside Dining Hall will be undergoing renovations during the next few months. There will be additional food options.

There were no nominations from the floor for any positions. An appeal for additional nominations was made but none forthcoming.

Meeting adjourned 4:15 P.M.

The question was asked where to go with an ongoing threat and how to assess such a threat. The University of Alabama Police Department should be notified at 205-348-5454.

John Hooks, Police Chief of The University of Alabama Police Department; Donald Keith, Director of The University of Alabama Office of Emergency Preparedness; and Clay Hickman, Captain, Assistant Commander of Investigative Support; presented a campus safety and emergency preparedness program. There is not one single solution on how to handle an emergency situation. The average response time for average law enforcement is three to five minutes with UAPD response time at 30 seconds to a minute response time. Some action by the victim may have to be taken depending on response time elapsed and location. Those actions could include intelligent escape, barricade and hide, and fight back when there is no other option. Run if it is safe to do so and avoid elevators or escalators. Some options would be to hide, block the door with furniture-door stop- belt, silent cell phone, turn off lights, lie on the floor and stay quiet. Solutions to doors opening to inside, outside or no locks were shown in the slide presentation. It is critical to think through what your response would be in a dangerous/assault situation. There is a UA safety map which shows the location of the blue phones on campus. A system is under development for a 911 call center.

Presentation ended 5:30 P.M.