

FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

DECEMBER 6, 2016 – 3:00 p.m. - #213 Aime

APPROVED MINUTES

Attending: Ajay Agrawal, Rona Donahoe, James Gilbreath, Chapman Greer, Darrin Griffin, Charlotte Herrin, Donna Meester, Robert Riter. Rainer Schad, Rita Snyder, John Vincent, Dominic Yeager.

Absent: Charlye Adams, Reuben Cook, Amy Dayton, Bill Martin, Clark Midkiff, Steve Miller, Osiris Molina, Amy Traylor.

Guests: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

Roll call and quorum check by Faculty Senate Secretary Robert Riter.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of November 8, 2016 were approved.

President's Report – (*Donna Meester*) The Holiday Card with a photo of The University Faculty Senate Steering Committee on the front has been sent to UA's Board of Trustees, Faculty Senate, Faculty Senate Steering Committee, UAB and UAH Faculty Senate Steering Committee and various members of UA's administration.

A meeting was held by Campus Master Plan representatives with the Faculty Senate Steering Committee. It was not well attended due to the time of day for the meeting. Time allotted for feedback was very limited. John Vincent questioned the reasoning behind expanding dorm space for students. He asked the number of students on which these expansions are based. The representatives did not know but President Meester found later that there is no hard number but the projection is based on one to one and one-half percentage point growth per year. All freshmen are required to live on campus plus residence hall personnel occupy dorm space. Five hundred dorm beds are available for sophomores, juniors and seniors. There were additional questions concerning the renovations and use of existing buildings on campus. Any comments, feedback or questions concerning this meeting should be sent to President Meester to be forwarded to the Campus Master Plan representatives.

President Meester received an email requesting the Faculty Senate consider joining the American Association of University Professors and establishing a chapter on campus. The basis for this organization is to advance academic freedom and shared governance. Among the mission priorities are establishing the definition of fundamental professional values and standards for higher education; promoting the economic security of faculty, academic professionals, graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and all those engaged in teaching and research in higher education; organizing communities to make goals a reality; and to insure higher education's contribution to the common good. The AAUP has helped shape American higher education by developing the standards and procedures that maintain quality in education and academic freedom in this country's colleges and universities. The Steering Committee would like for the faculty member requesting this membership to come speak to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee regarding this issue.

Vice President's Report- (*Rona Donahoe*) The letter of recognition for assistance toward a more equitable and inclusive campus will be presented at the January Faculty Senate meeting.

Secretary's Report – (Robert Riter) A request has been sent to OIRA for data which will be used to establish senator apportionment for each school/college representation in the Faculty Senate.

A copy of the “Faculty Senate Records Disposition Policy” was distributed. The policy states “for purposes of accountability and institutional memory The University of Alabama Faculty Senate will deposit, at the conclusion of each Senate term (April), records of significance (as defined in this policy) with the University Archives. A list of significant records and disposition schedule is stated in the policy. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate is responsible for managing this process. This policy will be presented to the Faculty Senate at the December meeting with voting due in January.

Academic Affairs- (John Vincent & Chapman Greer) The 2014 Faculty Senate resolution regarding emeritus status has been sent to the Provost. This issue will be discussed in the Academic Affairs meeting in February.

Brad Tuggle and Chapman Greer will represent The University of Alabama’s Faculty Senate at the American Association of Colleges and Universities conference in Arizona in February.

The issue of entering electronic versions of advice given to students by department advisors was discussed.

The Academic Affairs Committee will continue to pursue data on early registration for special needs students and the completion of the Faculty Senate Handbook revisions.

Financial Affairs – (Rainer Schad & Reuben Cook) No report.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (Charlotte Herrin & Steve Miller) A minor change was needed following a mock election using Qualtrics. There are no nominations for the Merger and Discontinuance Committee vacancy.

By-law revisions, two NTRC documents and the syllabus document will be voted on in the Faculty Senate December meeting.

Community Affairs – (Rita Snyder & Amy Dayton) The Legislators prefer a breakfast meeting rather than an afternoon meeting. A breakfast meeting is difficult for some faculty teaching eight o’clock classes. It was suggested to invite other campus organizations such as the Professional Staff Assembly and the Black Faculty and Staff organization. The committee will continue to work on a time and date.

Faculty Life – (Bill Martin & James Gilbreath) The Faculty Life Committee will be working on family leave and child care policies along with the issue of a gathering space for faculty.

Information Technology – (Clark Midkiff & Darrin Griffin) The Information Technology Committee will be reaching out to UA’s Information Technology group for an update on electronic security. Further discussion concerned lost data during a transition, Word Press update, changing the web master title and construction of the Faculty Senate web site. A chart titled “Communication Process for Updates, Edits, and Additions to Faculty Senate Website” was distributed. The document outlined the process to follow for those issues including a flow chart detailing responsibilities of the Faculty Senate President and the Faculty Senate Webmaster. The committee member now responsible for web site

management suggested distribution of duties among several people which would not limit operational knowledge to one person. The photo on the Faculty Senate web site has been updated.

Research & Service – (*Ajay Agrawal & Osiris Molina*) The Research and Service Committee met with John Higginbotham, Associate Dean for Research and Health Policy and Susan Burkett, Electrical and Computer Engineering, at their request. UA's Research Office is in the process of developing a research and strategy document. A copy of the document was sent to the Research and Service Committee for their feedback. There seems to be a lack of clarity and coordination on the process of hiring new faculty. The research subcommittee report needs tracking to determine progress, if any, has been made.

Student Affairs – (*Charlye Adams & Amy Traylor*) The Student Affairs Committee continues to work on interpersonal and mental health issues.

Announcement was made concerning what entrance will be open in North Lawn Hall for next week's meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the candidates for the Executive Vice President and Provost position.

Meeting adjourned 5:05 P.M.