

## **FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**APRIL 12, 2016 – 3:00 P.M. – 213 AIME**

### **APPROVED MINUTES**

**ATTENDING:** Donna Meester, Ed Stephenson, Rona Donahoe, Chapman Greer, John Vincent, Kim Severt, Charlotte Herrin, Bob Riter, Brian Gordon, Pamela Payne-Foster, Steven Jones, Rainer Schad, Mangala Krishnamurthy, Steve Burch, Dominic Yeager, Reuben Cook, JoAnn Oliver, Charlye Adams, Steve Miller.

**Absent:** Amy Dayton, Clark Midkiff.

**Press:** Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

**Roll call and quorum check by Faculty Senate Secretary Rona Donahoe.**

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

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT – (*Donna Meester*)** President Meester began the meeting by expressing appreciation to the outgoing Steering Committee members for their dedication and hard work during their time of serving the Faculty Senate.

**The joint meeting of the UA, UAB, UAH Steering Committees in Huntsville was held in conjunction with the Board of Trustees meeting. Several issues were discussed and the meeting was productive. UA will host the meeting in conjunction with their institutional meeting in November.**

**President Bell will be addressing the UA community on April 26<sup>th</sup> concerning the Strategic Plan development. There are three committees established at this point – Diversity, Research and Employee Life. Strategic Plan comments are now available for viewing with a link to be placed on the Faculty Senate web page.**

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – (Ed Stephenson)** Vice President Stephenson suggested further clarification between the Faculty Senate Constitution and Faculty Senate Bylaws concerning meeting dates for senators.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT – (*Rona Donahoe*)** The English Language Institute is late reporting senator election results and the Honors College does not agree with their two senator allotment.

**Drs. Heath Turner and Subhadra Gupta were candidates for Ombudsperson. Following the Faculty Senate policy, Dr. Heath Turner was declared the winner with the highest number of college votes.**

**The proposed Faculty Senate Standing Committee assignments and the Faculty Senate University Committee representatives for 2016-17 were approved with corrections.**

**New senator orientation will be held at 2:45 P.M. in Shelby 1093 prior to the April 19<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate meeting at 3:30 P.M. in 1092 Shelby.**

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS – (John Vincent & Chapman Greer)** The Academic Affairs Committee continues work on the Faculty Handbook, NTRC document and the Core Curriculum review by the Task Force.

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS – (Kim Severt & Amy Dayton)** The Legislative Breakfast has been cancelled. The method of planning of both timing during the semester and time of day should be considered before the next meeting is planned.

**FACULTY & SENATE GOVERNANCE – (Charlotte Herrin & Bob Riter)** The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee will continue to pursue electronic voting and Strategic Plan issues. The Capstone Creed has been approved. The committee co-chairs will be working on bylaw recommendations to present to the Senate in August with voting in September.

**FACULTY LIFE – (Pamela Payne-Foster & Brian Gordon)** The Faculty Senate Steering Committee will review the Family Leave policy will be reviewed over the summer with a vote by the Senate in the fall.

**FINANCIAL AFFAIRS – (Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad)** There is concern about an attack on the retirement system by establishing a cash balance rather than a contribution plan for future retirees. Rainer Schad will check on this issue.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS – (Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff)** No report.

**RESEARCH & SERVICE – (Steve Burch & Steven Jones)** The Research and Service Committee met with the Strategic Plan Committee co-chairs. The committee also met with the Strategic Plan Research Council to discuss goals and objectives. There are two competing versions. The suggestion was made to have discussions between faculty and administration continuing dialogue on the objective itself. A list of five or six objectives is being composed to match with the goals and this is moving forward. There is concern about the organizational chart in research administration and funding distribution.

**STUDENT AFFAIRS – (Joanne Oliver & Charlye Adams)** The Student Affairs will continue to work on the establishment of a Graduate Student Government Association separate from the SGA. Task Force recommendations and enforcement process regarding campus elections will be strongly pursued in part by President Meester addressing the administration directly.

#### **OTHER COMMITTEES –**

**NTRC –** Town hall meetings will be held April 13 and 14<sup>th</sup>. There is a link on the Faculty Senate web page to the survey for feedback.

The issue of contract employees teaching more than their load and not getting paid was brought forward. There are different policies with colleges and schools. There should be consistency across campus and President Meester will follow up on this situation.

**FACULTY & STAFF BENEFITS –** Rona Donahoe reported the financial state of UA's health care plan. Last year \$1.4 million dollars was drawn from the reserve. Accounting changes from the Affordable Care Act and other situations will probably result in premium, co-pay and other increases. Some drugs new on the market are extraordinarily expensive and there are quite a few on the health care plan. Without increases the reserve would be reduced to a critically low balance. There will be no final recommendation until the fall.

There is no meeting with the Provost on Thursday.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 P.M.

