

FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, June 16, 2016 – 3:00 P.M. - #115 Wood Hall

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Reuben Cook, Rona Donahoe, Amy Dayton, Chapman Greer, Charlotte Herrin, Donna Meester, Osiris Molina, Steve Miller, Robert Riter, Rainer Schad, Rita Snyder, John Vincent.

ABSENT: Charlye Adams, Ajay Agrawal, Darrin Griffin, Bill Martin, Clark Midkiff, Dana Patton, Amy Traylor, Dominic Yeager.

GUESTS: R. B. Walker, UA Systems, Director of Governmental Relations; Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of May 10, 2016 were approved.

The meeting began with a Legislative update presentation by R. B. Walker as the Director of Governmental Relations with the UA Systems office.

The Alabama State Legislature is composed of 35 senators with Senator Del Marsh as President Pro Tempore. There are 105 legislators in the House of Representatives with Representative Victor Gaston the Acting Speaker of the House.

The Education Trust Fund budget includes a 4% raise for K-12 employees earning below \$75,000, a 2% raise for K-12 employees making above \$75,000 and a 4% raise for all technical and junior college employees. The total allocation for Universities in Alabama is \$1,082,061,686 with the UA system receiving \$474,751,327 which is 44% of the total University budget. UA's direct appropriation is \$154,836,324 which is a 4.3% increase from the 2016 fiscal year.

The Alabama Transportation Institute receives a \$5 million dollar direct appropriation in new dollars for applied and basic research. This is the largest single new line item for any higher education entity for the 2017 fiscal year.

The only state to endure more budget cuts since the 2008 recession to 2015 than Alabama is Louisiana.

Approximately half of Alabama's budget goes to prisons and Medicaid. There were two called sessions in the summer of 2015 to address these issues. Medicaid needs another \$100 million dollars to continue providing basic services. Only 10-11% of this budget is administrative costs. Decisions will need to be made on the distribution of the BP oil spill settlement received by the State of Alabama.

Issues possibly coming up in the future will be performance based budgeting, guns carried on campus, budget reform, pension reform (Retirement System of Alabama), sexual assault, endowments and the 2016 and 2018 elections. The specific legislative issues coming up will be pension reform, lottery and gambling, the Heritage Preservation Act (historical symbols), mileage reimbursement rate and the jurisdiction of the Commission on Higher Education. Federal issues are yearlong Pell Grants and Higher Education Act Reauthorization.

There was further discussion concerning the Retirement Systems of Alabama and possible changes to the program and the composition and influence of The University of Alabama's Alumni Associations.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT – (*Donna Meester*) The Faculty Senate web page has been updated with the newly elected senators listed along with other updated items. The task force addressing graduation issues has met and will meet again in a week. One of the stated problems was difficulty in finding someone to be Marshall. The committee will develop a system to identify a faculty member to serve as Marshall for the graduation ceremonies. The Strategic Plan is moving forward and a completed list should be ready to present to President Bell by this fall.

Vice President's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) Rona Donahoe and available members of the standing committee met with Dr. David Grady, Vice President for Student Affairs on May 30. A list of pending issues of the Task Force Reports was prepared for the meeting. The meeting was positive and productive. Task Force Reports #3 and #4 concerned additional language to the Student Conduct Code. Dr. Grady wants to reduce the size of the document which is now seventeen pages. Chapman Greer and Norm Baldwin have been meeting with various members of administration to reach an agreement on the code's language and size. The Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee's new co-chairs will address the remaining issue in Task Force Report #1 which is Student Government Affairs elections which includes better reporting channels for election violations, revising the election manual and some language revisions. Dr. Grady is not in favor of financial penalties but does favor community service hours as part of the consequences of election violations. There was further discussion of the Student Code of Conduct including clarification of penalties for violations, non-discriminatory compliance and recruiting violations. The suggestion was made to print the election violation reporting process and channel link on the bottom of the voting ballot.

Secretary's Report – (*Robert Riter*) Secretary Riter suggested the Faculty Senate pursue information concerning depositing copies of Faculty Senate records (agendas, meeting minutes, reports, resolution, election records, etc.) with the university archives. This would be file backup and would preserve the records as vital University materials. Riter will follow up on this suggestion by contacting Kevin Ray (institutional records analyst) to determine what steps would be required to preserve and store these institutional and organizational records.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Chapman Greer*) The Academic Affairs Committee continues to work on the Faculty Handbook. The grievance and mediation sections are presently under review and revision.

Community Affairs – (*Amy Dayton & Rita Snyder*) The Community Affairs Committee met with Dr. Samory Pruitt, Vice President for Community Affairs, to discuss community affairs issues. Topics of interest were an interactive map and ways for faculty to become involved. It was suggested to invite Dr. Pruitt to speak at a Faculty Senate meeting.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Steve Miller*) Meetings for Charlotte Herrin, Steve Miller and Robert Riter are being coordinated to finalize electronic voting using Qualtrics.

Financial Affairs – (*Rainer Schad & Reuben Cook*) There were some cost changes in TIAA-CREF in January. There will be a conference call on Friday, June 17th to learn more details concerning

investment changes being discussed. There will be re-categorizing employees into exempt and non-exempt status.

Research & Service – (Ozzie Molina & Ajay Agrawal) The Research & Service Committee met with Dr. Carl Pinkert, Vice President for Research.

The NTRC held a survey late this spring for feedback, made a few revisions based on the feedback and the policy has been sent to council. The policy document will be reviewed by Interim Provost Kevin Whitaker, Council of Deans, UA Office of Academic Affairs, Faculty Senate's Academic Affairs Committee and returned to the Faculty Senate.

Discussion included ways to honor former UA President Judy Bonner and new construction (parking deck, new dorm, expansion of Mal Moore Football Complex dining facility, new west campus dining complex and event complex) on campus that was not included in the recent Campus Master Plan presentation.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 P.M.