# FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

# SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 – 3:00 P.M. - #213 AIME

# UNAPPROVED MINUTES

**ATTENDING:** Donna Meester, Rona Donahoe, Chapman Greer, Angela Benson, Seth Bordner, John Vincent, Brad Tuggle, Bill Martin, James Gilbreath, Mike Kreger, Ajay Agrawal, Clark Midkiff

**ABSENT:** Peter Johnson, Amy Dayton, Amy Traylor, Charlye Adams.

**GUESTS:** Charter Morris – Director, International Services; Cresandra Smothers, Strategic Communications.

Charter Morris, Director of UA International Services, requested an opportunity to speak to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee concerning the rapidly revolving status of international students, faculty and post doc students in need of assistance concerning their immigration status. The DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program established by President Obama in 2012 has been rescinded by the Trump administration. Congress has a six-month window to act before any currently protected individuals lose their ability to work, study and live without fear in the US. The University of Alabama has nine students enrolled as DACA recipients. UA has reached out to them with information, support and guidance in ways to address their status. There are other international students and faculty that are in other visa categories. There are several organizations volunteering services needed such as applications for extensions. As of present day work permits issued under DACA will be honored until they expire, new DACA applications already received by Tuesday will be processed and Anyone whose status is set to expire by March 5, 2018 has a month to apply for a new two-year permit, and those renewal applications will be processed.

The international student levels have decreased at UA. Some of the reasons include the political atmosphere in our country, recruitment and retention issues, foreign government support withdrawal and decreased funding for international students, increase of visa wait times and denials, cost of credential evaluations and decreased applications. International students want to continue their education in the United States and UA has the advantage of outstanding research resources and a welcoming environment. Reaching out to international students will be ramped up emphasizing the many positive areas UA has to offer.

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

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of August 16, 2017 were approved.

**President’s Report** *– (Donna Meester)* UA’s Office of Academic Affairs will purchase twelve robes and tams to donate to the Karen Steckol Regalia Project.

The Board of Trustees will meet Thursday and Friday, September 14th and 15th at Bryant Conference Center. Faculty Senate Presidents from UA, UAH and UAB will be attending giving those officers and others to determine priority issues from all three campuses. President Meester will send an email with meeting time information.

President Meester met with SGA President Jared Hunter to discuss issues which could be collaborative projects for both organizations. One suggestion from SGA was a fund-raising effort for the Counseling Center to decrease the wait time for students. More information will be forthcoming.

President Meester emailed the meeting schedule for the Faculty Senate, Faculty Senate Steering Committee and meetings with the Provost to clear up any confusion.

**Vice President’s Report***- (Rona Donahoe)* Some senators were moved from committee assignments to a different committee to conform to the bylaws distribution. Six is the number of members of the new Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness Committee. The Steering Committee voted to accept the new Faculty Senate Steering Committee Standing Committee list.

**Secretary’s Report** *– (Chapman Greer)* Secretary Greer suggested the Faculty Senate develop a document management system including a naming and retrieval process.

**Student Life** *– (Charlye Adams & Amy Traylor)* This committee for the last couple of years has been working on the SANE program which is now the SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner) program which provides services for sexual assault, substance abuse and mental health issues. Progress has been made to the point that a free-standing facility is being sought. The Student Affairs will continue to monitor the progress of this program.

Collegiate Recovery and Intervention Services has hired a director and is moving forward.

The Student Affairs Committee will meet next week to consider the priority issues for this year. Several possibilities are funding assistance for the Counseling Center proposed by the SGA, substance abuse, improvement of mental health services on campus and a review of campus voting procedures and actions taken/not taken by the Office of Student Life with relation to the last SGA election. Bicycle safety on campus for pedestrians, drivers and bicyclists.

The Student Affairs Committee will arrange a meeting with Dr. David Grady, Vice President for Student Affairs, to discuss campus elections and the impact of student organizations on the election process, funding and results.

**Faculty & Senate Governance***- (Charlotte Herrin & Steve Miller)* The proposed description for the new Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness Committee is:

“The Committee will support and act upon the university’s strategic goal to maintain (an) equitable, inclusive and diverse community. The Committee is charged with examining campus issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion as they arise, and (will) actively seek ways to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within the university community.

We also recommend that the Senators who were selected in the Spring of 2017 to be on this committee form the committee.”

Some wording changes were suggested striking the last paragraph and substitute “advise and support” in the pace of “act”, add “act on issues related to”, delete “strategic” and “will”. The committee will resubmit after considering those suggested changes. Once approved the committee charge description will go into the Faculty Senate Bylaws. This will be presented to the Faculty Senate next Tuesday for a vote.

Proposed by the Faculty and Senate Governance Committee is the selection of four Commencement Marshalls to cover the whole year. Two commencements are held in Winter (one Marshall), four ceremonies in the Spring (two Marshalls), and one in the Fall (one Marshall). The call will go out to the entire faculty and the Faculty Senate will vote to determine the four.

The committee also addressed having an alternate attend committee meetings in the absence of the regular committee member. It was determined this was not necessary but to have an alternate attend the Faculty Senate meetings as the Bylaws state. Committee member attendance at their meetings is a problem. It was suggested to delete “attendance by an alternate for committee meetings” in the Faculty Senate bylaws and was approved by the Steering Committee.

**Research & Service** – *(Ajay Agrawal & Mike Kreger)* The Strategic Plan platform of hiring more faculty put into place by President Stuart Bell is underway. The Research and Service Committee composed a bulleted list of questions to present to Provost Whitaker requesting updates and an annual report on the hiring plan’s progress. The plan is to target faculty to increase the University’s productivity and innovation in research, scholarship and creative activities that impact economic and societal development. There are concerns about funding, time frame, start-up funds and the impact of this plan. The committee will present the list of questions to the Provost.

The Research and Service Committee conducted a faculty climate survey in the fall of 2015 to obtain faculty input. There were 110 pages of comments and lots of data. The committee questioned what was done with the information, what were the outcomes or specific action was taken. President Meester suggested to committee take the 2015 survey and focus on the data specifically related to their area and determine if there are additional questions that would assist in attaining their specific goals. The questions related to research could be repeated in a survey to determine what progress has been made in that area.

The committee submitted a request to change the committee name to Research Committee to focus on research. The service area has not been much of a part of the committee’s function. Following discussion of the proposed change which included points that there are significant areas of service connected to research. Service cannot be omitted since it is a component of faculty life. Following further discussion the consensus of the Steering Committee was to leave the committee title as is – Research and Service.

The committee presented a statement on the proposed renovations to Gorgas Library. An online survey was recently conducted and is still open to collect faculty opinions about the use of space in Gorgas. The committee feels that adequate input was not collected from specific groups such as research and graduate students. The concerns about the renovation are how that meets the needs of faculty and students. The suggestion of the committee is to invite Dean Gilstrap to address the Faculty Senate and answer questions on the process, create an ongoing forum or “town hall” meetings where concerns can continue to be heard on the renovation process and address concerns about the continued availability of print collections, faculty workspace and other issues.

**Faculty Life** *– (Bill Martin & James Gilbreath)* The Faculty Life Committee is conducting a survey of local day care centers to collect waiting time and other pertinent data.

The committee is organizing an intercampus visit for faculty to become familiar with the other campuses in the UA system. The charge of Chancellor Watts included suggestions for the establishment of collaboration, connection and interaction among faculty among all three campuses.

**Academic Affairs** *– (John Vincent & Brad Tuggle)* The Academic Affairs Committee has been reviewing the grade exclusion policy presented by a member of the SGA. The committee is not in favor of the policy in the current form. This policy should come to the Faculty Senate as a formal document from an official representative of the SGA. The proposal should be widely discussed campus wide.

The Faculty Handbook revisions, specifically Chapters 1,3,4 and 5 should soon be ready to submit to UA’s Academic Affairs. The NTRC policy has been approved by the Provost.

**Community Affairs –** *(Amy Dayton & Seth Bordner)* The Community Affairs Committee met today to discuss supporting and collaborating with Hillary Greene to advance UA’s history and will be reaching out to the new Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

The committee will continue to work with the Higher Education Partnership in promoting Higher Ed Day held in Montgomery. They are also working with R. B. Walker to invite Federal and State Legislators to attend a meet-and-greet reception hosted by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee.

**Financial Affairs –** *(Robert Findlay & Peter Johnson)* The Financial Affairs will continue to follow the search for a replacement for Lynda Gilbert, Systems Financial Officer. The committee will also focus on start-up funding, Concur, delegation of authority and working with the Research and Service Committee targeting implementation and targeting hires.

**Information & Technology Committee –** *(Clark Midkiff & Barbara Dahlbach)* The committee received a request to meet with Linda Bonin, Vice President for Strategic Communications and continue efforts to secure a time and date for that meeting. The committee is also waiting for time and date information concerning the UA Information Technology Committee meeting.

President Meester requested agenda items and committee goals be sent to her for the next Faculty Senate meeting on Tuesday, September 19, 2017. It was requested that the reporting committee co-chair stand to give report.

Meeting adjourned 5:25 P.M.