

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

August 20, 2019 – 3:30 P.M. - #1010 North Lawn Hall

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: John Yoder/Jonathan Benstead, Ajay Agrawal/Paul Puzinauskas, Shuhui Li/Kaylan Srinivasan, Rona Donahoe/Chapman Greer.

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Sheila Black, Lexi Lowe Edwards, Alan Tidwell, Cecil Robinson, John Petrovic, Allyson Gold, Bob Riter.

GUESTS: UA President Stuart Bell, UA Provost Kevin Whitaker.

Dr. Stuart Bell, President of The University of Alabama, opened the August Faculty Senate meeting with welcoming all faculty members to campus. He acknowledged the enthusiasm and new ideas and the impact those characteristics make on undergraduate and graduate students. The number of applications and acceptances for enrollment were up this year. The number of National Merit students was 187 last year and is projected to be in the mid-200's this year placing The University of Alabama's number of National Merit students more than all of Alabama's educational institutions combined. In reviewing new faculty members Dr. Bell mentioned Dr. Sharlene Newman, cognitive neuroscience research in the Alabama Life Institute; Jeff Gray, Computer Science assisting in the expansion K-12 science component field; Courtney Thomas, Director of Community Service Center. Students and staff volunteer hundreds of hours of service with freshmen coming in early before classes begin to do volunteer work. Dr. Joseph Messina has been named Dean of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Russell Mumper was named Vice President of Research and Economic Development in January. For the first time in its history, in December of 2018 UA achieved Doctoral Universities – Very High Research Activity status, formerly known as the R1 category, in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. This is the nation's highest level of research activity for institutions that grant doctoral degrees. Research funding, research staff and the number of doctoral graduates are among the criteria used in determining Carnegie classifications. Dr. Bell expressed appreciation for the faculty and staff participation in the WERUA campaign. Employee giving increased to 30% to over 1.75 million dollars with the amount given to over 300 different designations. Dr. Bell concluded his remarks with appreciation to faculty for a job well done.

UA Provost Kevin Whitaker added his welcome to the faculty serving in the Faculty Senate. Provost Whitaker expressed pride in the manner with which his office and the Faculty Senate working together achieves results. The governing revised document, the Faculty Handbook, is now live on-line and will serve and be of benefit for many years to come. An Undergraduate Council will begin this year. The Faculty Senate served a large part in this development and will have input on those chosen to serve and the responsibilities of this council. Work has begun on creating a new curriculum for this campus with the Faculty Senate shaping how to go about the establishment and workings of this group. SACS five year accreditation review is due in 2020 and will include close workings with the Faculty Senate.

Roll call and quorum check by Faculty Senate Secretary Barb Dahlbach.

The Faculty Senate meeting minutes of April 23, 2019 and the minutes of the called meeting on April 16, 2019 were approved.

Vice President's Report – (*Chapman Greer*) A replacement for the **Intercollegiate Athletics Committee** is needed and will need to make a commitment for a two-day conference to be held in February. The executive team of the Institute on **General Education and Assessment** attended the conference held in Vermont in May of this year. Two weeks later the group met in Philadelphia discussing capstone experiences, experiential learning and other topics. Last week the group met for a two day retreat with the first full meeting of twelve members to be held on

Friday, August 23. A survey was sent out and listening sessions have been held. The emphasis will be on student expectations and experiences – what is working and not working for them in their education setting. There is a web site generaleducation@ua.edu. The bibliography on the web site has over 209 articles and book references.

Secretary's Report – (*Barb Dahlbach*) Joy Burnham and Barb Dahlbach attended the STARS conference sponsored by the Higher Education Partnership held in Montgomery, Alabama on August 7-9 in Destin, Florida. Some of the subjects covered were lobbying the Legislature for higher education, leadership and the upcoming census to be taken in 2020. The goal is to have a higher participation of Alabama citizens than 2010. The count affects many important issues such as Medicare and Medicaid Federal funding, school districts and representation in Alabama's House of Representatives and House of the Senate. More information will be forthcoming from the Faculty and Senate Community and Legislative Affairs Committee.

A vacancy due to Osiris Molina's resignation on UA's Standing Conflict of Interest Committee should be filled by a Faculty Senate representative.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Andre Denham*) The Academic Affairs Committee met with the SGA Academic Affairs Committee to determine common issues for combined efforts from both groups. The SGA committee put forth a couple of proposals for feedback from the Faculty Senate committee. Over the summer, the Libraries changed the manner in which journal articles could be accessed online. This caused several issues for faculty and students. The change has been reversed.

A "Proposal-Implementation Guidelines for the Promotion of Renewable Contract Faculty in the College of Education" caused some concerns about faculty workloads. The document states 100% research workload under academic citizenship/service. The Faculty Handbook requires 80% research and 20% service. The word "any" is also problematic because clinical faculty could have workloads distributed over three different teaching areas. Objections have been raised, an up/down vote was held and was passed by the faculty in the college.

Community & Legislative Affairs – (*Joy Burnham & Steven Yates*) The Brewer Porch has designated Cinco de Mayo as the theme for their faculty staff appreciation luncheon. More information will be forthcoming.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion – (*Mirit Eyal-Cohen*) Co-chair Osiris Molina has resigned the position and the committee is seeking a replacement. The committee is trying to arrange a meeting with Dr. Christine Taylor, Vice President for the Diversity Office.

Faculty Life – (*Jenni Cox & Andrea Glenn*) The Faculty Life Committee is pursuing the following issues – day care for the UA community, graduate student fellowship and research equipment, and safety concerns in Russell Hall.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Ibrahim Cemen & Janie Hubbard*) The service term for the UA Mediation Committee membership has changed from calendar year to school year. Drs. Steven Hobbs and Joy Burnham's original terms expired at the end of the "calendar" year. They agreed to serve an extended term expiring on August 15, 2019. Mediation Committee members cannot serve consecutive terms and no more than one faculty representative may be from any one academic college. Therefore for the three vacancies nominees can come from any college except the College Arts & Sciences or the College of Nursing. The three year terms running from 8-16-19 to 8-15-22 are replacing Dr. Steven Hobbs, Dr. Joy Burnham and Suzanne Horsley. There will be one more three year term election held in December, 2019. Those elected by adoption of the slate were accepted by the Faculty Senate vote were Alan Tidwell of the Culverhouse College of Commerce, Janie Hubbard of the College of Education, and David Albright from the School of Social Work, Gerald Jay Waters did not qualify since he is a non-tenure track faculty.

Financial Affairs – (*Rainer Schad & Christopher Lynn*) The Financial Affairs Committee will be gathering statistics concerning salary comparisons at all levels. Health insurance benefits are being reviewed also.

Information Technology & Strategic Communications – *(Matthew Hudnall & Dan Meissner)* Ashley Ewing, Chief Information Technology Officer, will speak to the Faculty Senate at the October meeting to discuss upgrades for UA's campus. The co-chairs of this committee met during the summer with several representatives of the Office for Information Technology. The Lecture Capture update is that Tegrity will be decommissioned May 2020 and Panopto will be the new lecture capture solution of UA. Blackboard will be kept for another year will be reevaluated at that time. The migration from the central email server at UA will be to Office 365. There are ongoing discussions concerning the Adobe Shared Device License agreement. The VoIP update is 9,711 phone sets are now using VoIP with 216 sets to be moved. The provider for long distance is being reviewed with cost-savings going to the academic units. Virtual desk top works would be through a machine in a private cloud on hard drive at OIT which would interact with the user just like the desk top computer. Volunteers at all levels are being sought to test this service.

Research & Service – *(Ajay Agrawal & Si Blackstock)* No report.

Student Life – *(Amy Traylor & Kabe Moen)* The Student Life Committee met with Dr. Kathleen Cramer, Interim Vice President for Student Life, and received preliminary numbers for sorority rush. There were 2,007 women pledged, 200 identified color and 34 African Americans. Final numbers will be given at their next meeting. The average GPA of the pledges was 3.7. Formal fraternity rush will be August 26. The final numbers will be shared with the Faculty Senate at the next meeting. The Student Life Committee will continue to meet with Dr. Cramer monthly.

Projects for Alabama Reach includes undergraduate and graduate student parenting. Dr. Cramer gave various resources for the committee to consider. Other important issues the committee is pursuing is mental health and suicide prevention programs.

Shannon Hubbard is heading up the information sessions for faculty mentors for those students who are orphaned, aging out of foster care, etc. Information about meeting times and dates will be sent to the Faculty Senate. The committee is also checking on the wish list update.

Report from Other Committees –

Old Business –

New Business – The issue of a variety of cheating methods was brought forward with a cautionary warning for faculty to be aware of the misuse of technology during exams.

Next Faculty Senate meeting will be September 17, 2019.

A Faculty Senator brought up the issue of outsourcing and the information will be forwarded to be considered at the next Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 P.M.