

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

JANUARY 21, 2020

3:30 PM – ROOM 1018 NORTH LAWN HALL

Approved Minutes

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Heather Gunn/ Andrew Minear, Donna Meester/Matt Reynolds, Cecil Robinson/Anne Halli-Tierney, Edward Saranov/Mark Barkey.

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Silas Blackstock, Julia Cartwright, Adam Hauser, Diana Gomez, Leah LeFebvre.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Strategic Communications, SGA Representative.

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

The Faculty Senate meeting minutes of December 10, 2019 were approved.

Pamela Jones, SAFE Center Executive Director, began the meeting with a presentation and overview of the center's patient-centered environment for sexual assault services. The SAFE Center is a community-based, collaborative agency, and is designed to meet the emotional, medical and forensic needs of sexual assault survivors. Services include assessment, treatment, forensic examination and follow-up. Specially trained sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs) perform exams. Tuscaloosa's SAFE Center serves the nine-county West Alabama region. Anyone regardless of gender, who has experienced sexual assault, can come to the SAFE Center. The center provides compassionate care in a private environment away from a hospital emergency room to reduce further trauma to the patient. Quality medical care, documentation of evidence, trained examiners, collaboration with community resource advocates and law enforcement personnel are provided as needed. There is no charge for SAFE Center services. The hot line for the center is 860-SAFE (7233) and is open 24 hours a day/seven days a week. Anyone age 14 years old or older, regardless of gender, who has been subjected to sexual assault can be seen at the SAFE Center. Individuals younger should go to Children's Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama. Although it is always the hope of the center that victims seek justice through the court system, that choice is one only the victim can make. The staff at the center will not make decisions for the victim but will make information available and offer assistance to work through those options. Advocates are available and will be specially trained to work with victims/survivors. Since the inception of the SAFE Center, strong, collaborative relationships in the community have been established and 12 Registered Nurses have been trained as SANE-trained nurses.

From November 1, 2018 to January 20, 2020 165 patients (145 females and 20 males) have been seen at the center. The age demographics are 82 (14-22 years old), 51 (23-35 years old), 23 (36-50 years old) and 9 (over 50 years old). Reporting option demographics are 122 (74%) choosing full disclosure, 30 (18%) choosing anonymous disclosure, and 13 (8%) choosing medical treatment only. Support group meetings are held twice a month on the first and third Wednesday from 5:00-6:00 P.M. at the SAFE Center and are open to anyone who has been sexually assaulted.

The SAFE Center is in the process of launching a UA SAFE Committee to spearhead campus outreach and fundraising. The center has received a \$245,000 grant from VOCA, a dedicated source of funding for

crime victims programs, and will be used to add two mission services staff members and increase services to patients. Staff growth is needed for a full-time development staff member and a full-time medical and court advocate. The addition of a pediatric unit would be of great benefit to this service area. Developmental goals for the future growth of the center are to provide follow-up exams, medical and court advocacy, counseling and support groups. Volunteer opportunities and needs are for a medical advocate, office help and special event assistance. The SAFE Center partners with the Women and Gender Resource Center, UA's Title IX Office, UA's Health Center, Turning Point, Tuscaloosa's Children's Center, Alabama Coalition Against Rape and Shelton Community College and Stillman College.

President's Report – (Rona Donahoe) Three interviews for the position of Vice President for Student Life was conducted last week. Public Presentations will be in Ferguson Center Theater for Candidate #3 on Wednesday, January 22, Candidate #4 on Thursday, January 23, 2020.

Candidate applications will be released to the search committee for the Provost position on February 17, 2020 and the soft application deadline is February 24, 2020. Top candidates will be identified at the end of the month by the committee with on campus interviews in March.

President Donahoe met with JoAnn Oliver, Chair of University Committees on University Committees, to review and reorganize University Standing Committees. Joel Brouwer, Associate Provost, is in charge of the University Committees.

Linda Bonnin, Vice President of Strategic Communications, will be leaving the University at the end of January, 2020. Ryan Bradley will be the interim for Strategic Communications.

The 2020 Alabama Affordable Learning Conference is being held in Montgomery, Alabama at Troy University on Friday, March 20, 2020. This conference will be looking at more affordable learning materials for students.

Vice President's Report – (Chapman Greer) The General Education Taskforce will be finalizing their mission statement, guiding principles and learning outcomes to bring to the Senate next month for approval/comments/feedback. This semester will be dedicated to creating models for what a general education overhaul/change would look like. The committee is working on student feedback with three of seven focus groups already formed. Other metrics being reviewed are what is being taught on campus, high impact practices, living and learning communities, study abroad and first year experiences. The entire eleven are being done on UA campus and the committee is looking at methods to scale these to the entire institution.

Secretary's Report – (Barb Dahlbach) Secretary Dahlbach has sent emails to each college dean with the census information to confirm the number of qualified faculty members eligible to be senators. Nominations are being called for earlier than in the past since some colleges do not hold elections until after the committee preference forms are being sent. Several colleges have had far less alternates than required. Those colleges are being urged to fill those positions. This causes a problem of an alternate filling in for a senator not able to attend the meetings.

Research & Service – (Ajay Agarwal & Si Blackstock) The Research and Service Committee is working on account management. The number of accounts will be consolidated to match the research account. There is a delay concerning funds spent and when it shows up revealing mismanagement and delayed accounting methods. Salary and benefit reporting is also being reviewed and overhead monies being

deposited directly to the departments. UA will host the Southeastern Undergraduate Research Conference on January 24 and 25, 2020.

Financial Affairs – (*Christopher Lynn & Rainer Schad*) There are health plan options offered by The University of Alabama. The High Deductible Health Plan has proven to be a popular choice with approximately 20% of employees selecting the plan last year. The Health Savings Plan is available with the HDHP plan and offers triple tax savings including tax free payroll contributions, tax free earnings accumulated, if invested and tax free distributions, if used for qualified medical expenses. The money in the HSP belongs to the policy owner and how and when their money is spent is their option. The committee recommends employees educate themselves about investment account choices. There was also discussion concerning reauthorizing prescribed medications. Complaints will be taken to the Faculty and Staff Benefits Office. Forwarding input and suggestions concerning benefits was encouraged. The University is self-insured but does not have the staff or resources to manage health benefits for the employees.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Ibrahim Cemen & Janie Hubbard*) Faculty Ombudsperson nominations are needed. Commencement Marshal nominations are needed – three needed for May and one needed for August. Letter-of-intent and bios for Faculty Senate officer elections should be submitted by February 10, 2020.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion – (*Mirit Eyal-Cohen & Ignacio Rodeno*) Affinity groups have been formed for the Jewish and Latino faculty and staff which have met and elected officers. The formation of four other affinity groups including Asian, Middle Eastern, Veterans and Disabled faculty/staff are being developed. The primary way to learn more about these groups is to attend a Cross Roads breakfast meeting at Ferguson Student Center at 8:30 A.M. on February 5, 2020. Efforts are underway to develop a Graduate Student affinity group.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Andre Denham*) The Provost has asked for feedback concerning the plus/minus grading system. The committee will be discussing the policy of excused absences.

Information Technology & Strategic Communications – (*Matthew Hudnall & Dan Meisner*) The IT & SC committee met with OIT and Strategic Communications. Issues discussed were wireless systems in the dorms, cable television, Blackboard accessibility, Office 365 access, Cloud based and communication platforms, WordPress standardization, social media monitoring and security and UA web page update.

Community & Legislative Affairs –(*Joy Burnham & Steven Yates*) The Faculty Senate Steering Committee along with the Community and Legislative Affairs Committee will be hosting a reception for Alabama Legislators on March 9, 2020 from 4:00 until 6:00 P.M. at Gorgas House. This is an opportunity to meet with State Legislators one-on-one to discuss current issues.

The Community and Legislative Affairs Committee will also be reviewing methods to assist in the upcoming census. An “Alabama Counts” representative will be here on March 24, 2020.

Other committee reports---

The Task Force to Transform Campus Culture will host an interactive forum as a drop-in event for faculty, staff and students on February 19th from 12:00 until 1:30 P.M. in Gorgas 2019. A survey will be

sent out this spring with questions tailored to specific groups (faculty, staff, and students) to gather information concerning campus culture.

The Parking and Transportation Department is formulating with the assistance of a consulting firm a five-year plan to be revealed this spring. This is part of a 5 Year Plan for Transportation Services to evaluate the existing campus parking, transportation and mobility system to adequately plan for the future. If there are no adjustments made, the current parking permit cost will increase significantly. One of the methods that would reduce costs a small percentage is the license plate recognition system which the department is reviewing presently. The bus system ridership is 90% students with 88% going to and from class. Funding for this comes from primarily hang tag purchases with an option of imposing a subsidizing student transportation fee being considered. The department is also looking at salary-scaled based parking fees, day vs. night parking fees, and other options to generate revenue. The department did a survey of vacant and occupied parking spaces by a drone showing some parking decks and spaces are either over-utilized or under-utilized. To place gates at parking entrances costs approximately \$50,000 making it cost-prohibitive. It seems the department is making an effort to force more parking deck parking by eliminating surface parking spaces. These developments will be monitored closely.

Speakers for a spring Faculty Senate meeting will be Chancellor Finas St. John and Dr. Tonjanita Johnson, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 P.M.