

University of Alabama Faculty Senate
Community and Legislative Affairs Committee
2019-2020 Report

This report captures the activities of the Community and Legislative Affairs Committee since the May 2019 report. Committee Co-chairs Joy Burnham and Steven Yates met with the Senate Steering Committee throughout Summer 2019. In June, Joy gathered information from her College of Education colleagues on literacy education to inform Senate President Rona Donahoe's conversation with her faculty senate president peers across the state concerning the Alabama Literacy Act.

In July, Joy and Steven met with Senate President Rona Donahoe to set goals for the year. The committee's goals centered on the U.S. Census, continued community work with the United Way of West Alabama, support for Brewer-Porch Children's Center, and maintaining the working relationships with our legislative delegation.

Census

In August 2019, Joy and Faculty Senate Secretary Barbara Dahlbach attended the Higher Education Partnership's STARS Leadership and University Advocates Conference in Destin, Florida. There the connection was made with the Alabama Counts! Committee concerned with ensuring Census completion in Alabama. Reports indicated that Alabama could lose a Congressional seat unless 80% or more of Alabama's residents completed the Census. This item became a major focus for the academic year. The head of the Alabama Counts! Committee was scheduled to speak at the March 26, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting that was canceled due to COVID-19. Community and Legislative Affairs committee member Jeremy Crawford served on UA's Census committee representing Faculty Senate.

United Way and Brewer-Porch

Also in August, Joy attended UA's United Way campaign kickoff and invited Monique Scott and United Way of West Alabama CEO Jackie Wuska to speak at the October 2019 Faculty Senate meeting about this year's campaign. The October meeting also marked our promotion to the full Senate of the coat drive benefitting Brewer-Porch. The committee's coordination of the faculty/staff appreciation luncheon for Brewer-Porch employees began in July. The Brewer-Porch leadership chose May 5 for the event. Approximately 80 Brewer-Porch staff were in attendance. Pictures from the luncheon appear at the end of this report.

Legislative Delegation Relationships

Our committee enjoys a strong working relationship with Charlie Taylor, Director of Governmental Affairs and Economic/Workforce Development for the University of Alabama System. Steven communicated with Mr. Taylor throughout the year. Mr. Taylor helped us determine the best date for our Faculty Senate Legislative Reception. This year's reception was held March 9 at the Gorgas House. Three of our local legislative delegation, Representatives Bill

Poole, Kyle South, and Rodney Sullivan, attended along with Mr. Taylor. The committee appreciated the strong attendance numbers from our fellow senators and alternates. Pictures from the reception appear at the end of this report.

Another area where our committee interacts with local elected officials is the UA Office of Community Affairs' Neighborhood Partnerships Committee. Senate President Rona and committee co-chairs Joy and Steven represent the Faculty Senate. The 2019-2020 meetings were held in August and February at the Bryant Conference Center. Rona, Joy, and Steven attended both meetings.

Looking Ahead

The 2020-2021 Community and Legislative Affairs Committee has a number of new faces working with Co-chairs Joy Burnham and Steven Yates. Our preliminary goals include establishing regular meetings with UA's Vice President for Community Affairs Dr. Samory Pruitt and continuing to stay abreast of legislative developments.

Respectfully submitted,

The 2019-2020 Community and Legislative Affairs Committee

Joy Burnham, Co-chair

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