# FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

# AUGUST 7, 2018 - #213 Aime – 3:30 PM

# APPROVED MINUTES

**ATTENDING:** Barb Dahlbach, Rona Donahoe, John Vincent, John Petrovic, Osiris Molina, Ibrahim Cemen, Julia Cartwright, Andrea Glenn, Rainer Schad, Dan Meissner, Ajay Agrawal, Mike Kreger, Amy Traylor.

**ABSENT:** Chapman Greer, Amy Dayton, Jenna Stiffler, Mirit Eyal-Cohen, Angela Benson, Peter Johnson, Matthew Hudnall, Donna Meester.

The minutes for the June 5th and July 10th Faculty Senate Steering Committee meetings were approved.

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

**President’s Report –** *(Rona Donahoe)* The Community and Legislative Affairs Committee will bring forward a proposal: “Proposal: Commission on Race, Slavery, and Civil Rights at The University of Alabama – A Proposal” addressing the creation of a formal commission to investigate the history of race, slavery, and civil rights on the UA campus following wording changes. Following approval the document will be brought to the full Faculty Senate for a vote.

Slides were shown of the Brewer Porch Center’s appreciation luncheon for teachers and support staff. Classroom supplies were distributed. Funding/grant was provided by TIAA (James Kelly) and the Alabama Reach program along with other donations. Continued support by these two organizations will hopefully result in additional academic and community projects.

Barb Dahlbach, Denise DeSalvo and Jeremy Crawford are scheduled to attend the Stars Leadership and University Advocates Conference in Destin, Florida hosted this week by the Higher Education Partnership.

President Donahoe and other Steering Committee members met with Lorne Kuffle, Executive Director of Institutional Research and Assessment, concerning ModernThink. The survey data taken in the spring of the entire University are being analyzed. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee will look at the results and make recommendations regarding areas that can be improved and to achieve a better work/life balance. Child care is a continuous priority issue. There will be two open forums in October for input following the release of the completed survey report. Permission has been given to President Donahoe to give the survey result links to the Faculty Senate’s Financial Affairs and Faculty Life Committees and any other Faculty Senate committee where appropriate. Division specific data will be made available to the Deans of the colleges only.

President Donahoe met with Monica Watts of UA’s Strategic Communications Department. The web site proposed by the Faculty Senate to provide links to information applicable to new residents or visitors. The Faculty Life Committee has been asked to provide a list of those links that would be of interest to newcomers including UA and community resources.

The “Faculty Senate Steering Committee Recommendation for the Structure and Composition of the UA Curriculum Taskforce” has been sent to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee, the General Education Work Group and the Provost. The recommendation has been approved and will be moving forward. A general call will be sent out for nominations to serve on the taskforce.

Nominations are open for a representative to serve on the Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics committee. The Faculty Senate President has served in this position in the past. The organization now has a proposal to expand membership to all Division 1 institutions. The representative should attend the February, 2019 meeting in UT-Knoxville, Tn. and the 2020 meeting in LSU-Baton Rouge, La.

The August 21, 2018 Faculty Senate meeting will begin with a group photo of the Faculty Senate. Most committees will not have an opportunity to meet by the time of the first full Senate meeting. It was proposed to have a Faculty/Staff Benefits Office representative speak to the Senate specifically concerning coming healthcare benefit changes at the August Senate meeting. The presentation will be given at the Professional Staff Association meeting on August 14th. Discussion included starting the Senate meeting earlier since the presentation will be lengthy with following questions. President Donahoe will give the presentation a time restriction to allow for discussion.

Parking and Transportation Services will be asked for a representative speak to the Senate meeting in September concerning additional parking fee increases and ticketing for those parking in unapproved areas. There was discussion concerning existing parking problems such as event parking, parking lot gates, adjunct faculty parking, limited campus bus access, weekend parking and hours of allowed parking confusion. The Financial Affairs Committee will consider drafting a resolution concerning this matter.

The senator from HES is now an assistant Dean creating a vacant senator position for that college. Stuart Usdan is the new Dean. An election will be held to fill the vacant senator slot. The Honors College senator, Brad Tuggle, is on sabbatical. An email will be sent to Dean Shane Sharpe to have a replacement attend Senate meetings. The problem is Honors College has a very small number of qualified faculty members eligible to serve and they do not have an alternate.

**Academic Affairs –** *(John Vincent & John Petrovic)* Associate Provost Han sent a proposed membership list of the Core Curriculum Oversight Committee (CCOC). The committee accepted the list after one of the members was replaced with a faculty member from the department of mathematics. The Faculty Handbook Task Force Committee is waiting for the final formatted version to review. The Task Force will meet sometime in August. John Petrovic was welcomed as the new co-chair of the Academic Affairs Committee.

**Community & Legislative Affairs –** *(Amy Dayton & Jennifer Stiffler)* No report.

**Diversity, Equity & Inclusion –** *(Mirit Eyal-Cohen & Osiris Molina)* No report.

**Faculty & Senate Governance –** *(Angela Benson & Ibrahim Cemen)* The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee met via email to make plans for an election to replace Steve Miller on the Merger and Discontinuance Committee. Nominations will be open for the Commencement Marshal election. There will be five ceremonies.

The issue of a UA system Chancellor being named without a search, having a diverse candidate pool and the absence of any faculty representation on a search committee was discussed. President Donahoe will meet with UA President Bell to express the concerns discussed in this meeting and relay these concerns to Ron Gray, President Pro Tempore of Board of Trustees.

**Faculty Life –** *(Julia Cartwright & Andrea Glenn)* The Faculty Life Committee has received a complaint about the aquatic weight room being changed to a swimming and dive team facility. The renovation of Barnwell Hall will be to create another recreational facility including a dedicated weight room space for faculty and staff. The Recreation Center is self-supporting and crowding has been an issue for some time. There is not a budget for replacement or repair of equipment. Reinstituting student activity fees was discussed. The Financial Affairs Committee will work with Faculty Life to come up with recommendations regarding this issue.

**Financial Affairs –** *(Peter Johnson & Rainer Schad)* The Financial Affairs Committee will be addressing the increased parking fees to be installed the first of the year.

The following discussion included the restructuring of scholarships, budget models, sustaining enrollment, and tenure/retention/promotion of a faculty member with positive citations/recommendations.

**Information Technology & Strategic Communications –** *(Matthew Hudnall & Dan Meisner)* This committee met with Monica Watts and Linda Bonin of Strategic Communications to discuss the establishment of the proposed informational website. UA websites will be reduced due to a content management system. This will take two to three years to implement. The first to be moved to the new system will be administrative systems. There is a possibility of an outside company being brought in to scan the entire UA web system sites for broken links and provide weekly reports containing those links to be fixed.

**Research & Service –** *(Ajay Agrawal & Mike Kreger)* The Research and Service Committee has not met. There will be a faculty research meeting on April 17th. A meeting was held with Dr. Higginbotham, Associate Dean for Research and Health Policy, discussed working together. Approval has been given to hire someone in research to work with the Advancement Office. Discussion included the lack of communication between academic units and his office. Dr. Higginbotham will be meeting regularly with the Deans to improve direct communications. A GRA program has been initiated to provide assigned research assistance and has been forwarded to the Deans. The use and purpose of a company to develop a faculty research data base being accessible across campus which could provide information about productive collaboration was discussed and products were demonstrated at a meeting.

**Student Affairs –** *(Amy Traylor & Donna Meester)* Bama Dining will be providing ten free meals during the semester to students recommended through the Alabama Reach program.

Meeting adjourned 5:30 P.M.