# FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE

# MARCH 5, 2019 - #213 AIME – 3:00 p.m.

# APPROVED MINUTES

**ATTENDING:** Barb Dahlbach, Rona Donahoe, Chapman Greer, John Vincent, John Petrovic, Amy Dayton, Steven Yates, Osiris Molina, Ibrahim Cemen, Julia Cartwright, Andrea Glenn, Rainer Schad, Dan Meissner, Ajay Agrawal, Mike Kreger, Haley Strickland, Alan Tidwell.

**ABSENT:** Mirit Eyal-Cohen, Janie Hubbard, Peter Johnson, Matthew Hudnall.

**GUESTS:** Casandra Smothers, Strategic Communications; Past President Donna Meester, Parliamentarian Dominic Yeager.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of February 12, 2019 were approved as amended.

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

**President’s Report –** *(Rona Donahoe)* President Donahoe began the meeting by addressing the rumor that changes in work schedules for UA staff such as the elimination of spring break and changes affecting the winter holiday schedule were absolutely untrue. A review of campus mail to improve services, rising costs and efficiency is underway. Matt Fajack, UA Vice President for Finance, held staff meetings to correct any misunderstandings on those subjects.

Dean of the Honors College, Shane Sharpe, has announced his resignation as of June 1, 2019. Hopefully an interim dean will be named by May 1, 2019.

President Donahoe has attended the Neighborhood Partnership meetings in the past and has suggested the co-chairs of the Community and Legislative Affairs Committee serve as Faculty Senate liaisons to this organization. The lunch meetings are held from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM once a semester. The meetings are informational and have speakers from such areas as the University Police Department, city officials, and safety and security officers.

Suicide Prevention APR Training Sessions will be held March 7, 2:00-3:30 PM / March 19, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM / April 17, 1:00-2:30 PM.

The Faculty Senate, Professional Staff Assembly and the Office, Clerical and Technical Staff Assembly Crowdfunding Project have a goal of $10,000 to benefit the Alabama REACH Program and Brewer Porch service projects. Bryant Bank will match “We Are UA” giving to seven different funds up to $50,000. President Donahoe will forward the Crowdfunding link to the Steering Committee.

The CUC will have their staffing meeting in March. The UA Faculty Preference Survey – CUC Committee Results with faculty names and their committee preferences listed. Three faculty members of the Committee on University Committees have terms ending this year. Felicia Woods and Laurie Bonnici are the only faculty with time remaining on their term of service. Barb Dahlbach, Libraries; Martin Evans, Math; and Jean-Luc Robin, Foreign Languages were nominated by the Steering Committee to fill those upcoming committee vacancies.

Following the presentation and discussion pertaining to religious displays on campus, The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee was asked to compose an informal proposal. This would include identifying a location, addressing ground use rules and public use of the space.

Committee co-chairs were reminded year-end reports are due by April 15.

President Donahoe contacted Bill Bomar, Executive Director of UA Museums, for more information about the naming of the Chief’s Mound at Moundville. A replica of a Creek Chief’s Lodge will be constructed. Very close communication with various Native American groups has been maintained during the project’s development along with cultural accuracy and sensitivity relevant to those groups.

The resolution from UAH concerning pharmaceutical incentives and rebates has been forwarded to Bob McCloud, Chair of Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee, for fact-finding. The UAH resolution demands transparency of the true cost of drugs and full disclosure of any pharmaceutical rebates including drugs on the formulary. UAB uses a different provider for their pharmaceutical needs. The Faculty Senate will assist in researching this issue where needed.

The Provost would like to organization a reception in April to honor the Faculty Handbook Task Force members. The invitation list was discussed.

Governor Kay Ivey is proposing a 10-cent/gallon gas tax for the State of Alabama to repair bridges and roads. Involved in the proposal would be cutting the 10-cents tax to 5-cents and transferring the State’s portion of the Children’s Health Insurance Program costs to the Education Trust Fund. This would cut the Education Trust Fund by $30 million causing increased financial stress on the fund for the future. A special session has been called by Governor Ivey and the only issue to be considered is this budget item. Communications need to be urgently sent to State Legislators objecting strongly to any non-educational costs to the Educational Trust Fund. The Community and Legislative Committee will compose a letter to address this issue.

Dean Don Gilstrap, University Libraries and Elsevier will speak to the March 19th Faculty Senate meeting.

Advancement consultants will address the April 9th Steering Committee meeting.

Bill Bomar, UA Museums Executive Director, will speak to the April 16th Faculty Senate meeting.

**Vice President’s Report –** *(Chapman Greer)* The General Education Task Force will hold an open meeting in the Heritage Room in Ferguson Center on March 19, 2019. The task force met with Dean Chuck Karr, associate deans and department chairs in that college today. The task force is in the bench-marking and listening phase. Hopefully the task force will have student outcomes be the end of the semester and will continue to develop through the next year. There is a web site titled GeneralEducation@ua.edu or more information. There is a survey on the web site and everyone was encouraged to participate. From this survey information will be collected to determine what UA undergraduate needs (first year experiences, Capstone experiences, internships, etc.) from our institution and what would be the practices to reach those issues.

**Secretary’s Report –** *(Barb Dahlbach)* The letters to the Deans with senator election information and deadlines were sent out the middle of February with election results to be reported by March 8, 2019. Committee assignments will be made on April 2, 2019.

**Academic Affairs –** *(John Vincent & John Petrovic)* John Vincent followed up concerning requests for nominees for the Undergraduate Council.

**Community & Legislative Affairs –** *(Amy Dayton & Steven Yates)* The Steering Committee will host a reception for State Legislators on April 1, 2019 at Gorgas House from 4:00 – 6:00 P.M.

**Diversity, Equality & Inclusion –** *(Mirit Eyal-Cohen & Osiris Molina)* The webinar titled “Confronting Racism” has been cancelled. There will be a meeting at Villanova University on June 25-28th, 2019 hosted by the Institute on Truth, Racial healing and Transformation Campus. Representatives of the General Education Task Force will be attendance along with other UA representatives.

**Faculty & Senate Governance –** *(Ibrahim Cemen & Janie Hubbard)* The Faculty Senate elections for senators and ombudsperson is ongoing. Officer nominations are: Rona Donahoe for President, Chapman Greer for Vice President and Barb Dahlbach for Secretary.

**Faculty Life –** *(Julia Cartwright & Andrea Glenn)* The Faculty Life Committee distributed the “Proposed Resolution for a Parental Leave Policy for 12-Month Full-time Faculty Members at The University of Alabama”. Following discussion there were two revisions: deleting “revised” in the title of the resolution and inserting “and/or” before the phrase “sick and annual leave”. Discussion included twelve-month faculty benefits, parental bonding, fostering time limit, abortion a medical situation and accrued medical leave. The vote of the Steering Committee was to forward the proposal to the Faculty Senate which was approved with one opposed and one abstention. A revised copy will be sent to President Donahoe and put on the agenda for the full Senate meeting on March 19th.

**Financial Affairs –** *(Peter Johnson & Rainer Schad)* The Financial Affairs Committee is researching faculty salary comparisons across similar institutions and UA. President Donahoe requested data by salary averages and ranks for the Southern Universities Group recognizing there are huge disparities from department to department and disciplines to disciplines. Support for graduate students and post-docs should be on the agenda for this committee beginning in the fall. Information is needed for the forty new faculty hires instituted under the Strategic Plan.

**Information Technology & Strategic Communications –** *(Dan Meissner & Matthew Hudnall)* The Cyber Security summit report will be given at the next meeting.

**Research & Service –** *(Ajay Agrawal & Mike Kreger)* The committee met with the new Vice President for Research, Russ Mumper, to discuss a strategic plan. The committee gave an overview of what their expectations were concerning research. The results of their survey were given to him and they continue to analyze the written comments from their survey. The Institutes of UA were discussed including soliciting from faculty what the next institute should be. Placing directors for several of the institutes is removing quickly.

**Student Life –** *(Haley Strickland & Alan Tidwell)* The final event will be April 11 from 5:00-7:00 PM with dinner provided. There is an Amazon gift card student wish list through Alabama Reach which would benefit specific needs of those special students. There are 28 students registered in the program. Meals for students can be donated through Bama Dining. There are student life issues from the Faculty Senate Task Force initiated by former Faculty Senate President Steve Miller that have not been completed. An update is needed including data from the fraternity recruiting process.

Editing of the Faculty Handbook has altered the meaning of some of the sentences. This will be checked on to make sure it is the correct version to be forwarded to the Board of Trustees.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 P.M.