

**Resolution of the Faculty Senate to convene a Task Force
24 September 2013**

Recent events at the University of Alabama and our interactions with the greater community have cast the University in a negative light, belying the great progress that we have made in the areas of research, teaching and service. Through the mobilization of students and faculty, these incidents have been subsequently transformed into a period of inward reflection, action, and growth. The Administration has been active in the past few weeks and has shown that by taking an ethical stand, progress can be made in correcting systemic historical injustices. Nonetheless, major hurdles remain and the current momentum must not be lost.

To continue the momentum engendered by this unique opportunity, but mindful that the next steps will require deliberation, study, concrete proposals and action, the Faculty Senate on behalf of the Faculty resolves to form an *ad hoc* task force to explore mechanisms to: (1) Extend the recent desegregation of some sororities to all Greek letter organizations and other student organizations; (2) Facilitate systemic changes in the governance of student organizations, including the SGA and the Greek system; and (3) Create an environment where every student has a reasonable and equal opportunity to serve in any student position or join any campus organization for which they qualify for membership.

We have confidence that the Administration is committed to solving these problems, and are certain of the resolve of the Faculty in holding them to their word.

Composition of and charge to the Task Force

The *ad hoc* task force will be comprised of five faculty members, three students, and two administrators. All will be voting members.

The five faculty members on the task force will include two members of the Faculty Senate and three faculty at-large. These will be selected as follows: Two members of the Faculty Senate and two faculty at-large will be elected by the Faculty Senate on 15 October 2013; and one of the at-large faculty will be appointed by the Black Faculty and Staff Association.

Faculty members wishing to be considered for the elected positions (two Senate and two at-large) should submit self-nominations to Senate President Steve Miller by 8 October 2013. All regular faculty members are eligible to serve.

The student members of the task force will be: one student appointed by the SGA; one student appointed by the President of the Faculty Senate; and one graduate student appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School.

Two persons that serve in administrative roles in the University or University System will be appointed by the University President.

The task force will conduct open and transparent meetings, and will issue regular reports to the Faculty Senate. In its first meeting the task force will propose a time-line for its operation and for reporting its progress. While none of the following should be construed as limiting its scope, the task force is charged to explore the appropriateness of each of the following, and to suggest modifications if necessary:

- 1) The Code of Student Conduct and its enforcement;
- 2) The election process for student government offices;
- 3) Student education on diversity, civil responsibilities, and ethical behavior;
- 4) Governing documents that regulate student organizations, including: (a) Whether the governing documents should contain language prohibiting discrimination in membership or opportunity; and (b) Whether student organizations with selective membership practices should be required to submit regular diversity plans and progress toward those plans;
- 5) University policies and administrative actions on diversity, including whether the University should: (a) Issue an annual report on the diversity of organizations with selective membership practices; (b) Formally acknowledge that it has the right and responsibility to oversee and regulate the practices of any organization that claims an affiliation with the University; (c) Create a university standing committee on diversity or expand the responsibilities of another standing committee to cover this area; (d) Name a campus diversity officer; (e) Modify procedures for investigating, enforcing and reporting violations of student non-academic regulations; (f) Modify its procedures for the oversight of student organizations.