

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

JANUARY 23, 2001 - FERGUSON FORUM - 3:30 PM

APPROVED MINUTES

Absent: Cornelius Carter, Bill Chaplin, Anup Agrawal, Chuck Schmidt, Michael Taylor, Carol Drolen

Alternates: Martyn Dixon for Bill Keel, Ken Wright for Chris Nagy, Dan Filler for Bill Andreen, Benita Strnad for Marcia Barrett

Role Call & Quorum check by Secretary Steven MacCall - Quorum present

The December 12, 2000, minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

Rules were suspended to allow Gene Marsh, Intercollegiate Athletic Faculty Representative, to speak to the Faculty Senate concerning the NCAA inquiry. Gene Marsh opened his comments with a review of his experience including 20 years in the Business School, Director of the Honors Program, taught in the Law and Business School, six years at the Law school and four and one-half years as The University of Alabama Faculty Representative. He pointed out that the graduate rate for athletes surpasses the graduation rate of the average student at The University of Alabama and that athletic admits met higher standards than general admits. The NCAA representatives arrived on campus for a week in December and interviewed four or five players and some coaches. The NCAA and federal authorities continue to investigate the charges by a high school coach that another high school coach accepted money to steer one of his players to The University of Alabama. There is no proof, at this time, linking an Alabama booster to those charges, who might have provided the funds. There are other issues such as drastically improved test scores and transcripts being investigated, but it is too early to know what the results might be. The financial cost of this investigation to the University at this time is minimal. Pat expressed sincere thanks from the Faculty Senate to Gene Marsh for the great job and sacrifices he has made on behalf of the University. Gene has two years remaining in his term. During his last year, a designated replacement will go with him to all meetings, etc., to become acclimated to the demands of this position.

President's Report - (Pat Bauch) The challenge for increased **HEP membership** continues with urging everyone to join and the importance of doing so. At present, there are 337 members including faculty and students. The January 7-9 anti-racist workshop had 30 participants and 40 have registered for the February 1-3 workshop.

Vice President's Report - (Norm Baldwin) The Ad Hoc Committee on the **Evaluation of Deans and Chairs** met last week. This committee is working to develop a systematic, reasonable and acceptable way of evaluating deans and department chairs that will be acceptable to both deans and department heads and the President and Provost. Members of the committee are Martin Baker, Pat Bauch, Scott Bridges, Judy Burry-Stock, John Dew, Norm Baldwin, and Clyde Scott.

The **Ombudsperson** is the Vice President of the Faculty Senate. This person acts as an advocate for anyone who comes to the ombudsperson with a problem. The ombuds should have knowledge concerning where grievances or other situations should be directed. Pat directed the Senate Operations Committee to consider revising the By-Laws to reflect what has become a norm in the Senate; that is, that part of the role of the Vice President is to serve as the Faculty Ombudsperson.

Secretary's Report - (Steven MacCall) Work is being done on the **web site** to make information more readily available. There is a new "Pending Business" link, which will be a great asset. All documents needed to be reviewed before the Faculty Senate meeting will be under the Pending Business link. **Incoming and outgoing correspondence** will be listed under the "Pending Business" category.

The **dean search for the College of Continuing Studies** committee is being reconstituted. This position needs a person with an extensive knowledge concerning technology. Clark Midkiff volunteered to serve on this committee.

Margaret Garner reviewed the **UA System Strategic Planning Initiative** process. Members of the committee included the Presidents, Vice Presidents, Provosts, and Presidents of the Faculty Senates of all three campuses in the UA system. This group brainstormed and came up with many ideas. The next step was to sift through, categorize, and prioritize the issues into three areas to be considered. There were two drafts and a final document. There was a long period between the last two meetings while the document was being drafted. The last meeting was called with a very short notice to attend. At this meeting, it was learned that the document was being presented to the Board of Trustees in three days. The Board endorsed it at the November 13-14, 2000 meeting. The main concerns expressed by the Senate were: the secretive and hasty process with which this document and its issues were developed and passed with very little input from the faculty, the "collaboration" mandate between the campuses, and the extremely short time to implement. The collaboration proposal included maintenance, merging academic programs, and purchasing. The meanings of such phrases as "mutually beneficial" and "unique programs" were also a concern. That morning, an emergency meeting was held of the Steering Committee with Chancellor Meredith and Vice Chancellor Nash requesting an extension of time in order to bring the document to the attention of the faculty. Pat had asked Margaret to form an ad hoc committee to address the academic issues of this initiative. Ron Rogers was on the Task Force and has agreed to serve. It was suggested that the faculty's response should address the four questions indicated by Dr. Nash in his letter. The response, should also stress that faculty approval is crucial. The ad hoc committee should focus on those four questions. Anyone wishing input to the response is requested to direct his or her concerns to this committee.

By-laws revisions - The Senate Operations Committee proposed two revisions to the by-laws: the **addition of the Faculty Life Committee** as a Standing Committee of the Faculty Senate, and a resolution **changing Senate meeting dates** for the month of January to allow more time for committee meetings before the Steering Committee and Faculty Senate meet. By-law revisions must be presented today and voted on at the next meeting. Revisions were proposed allowing a flexible January meeting date. 17 in favor, 12 opposed, and 3 abstentions accepted the revisions. The [final wording of these resolutions is on the web](#) site for Senators to review before voting at next month's meeting.

Mediation & Grievance Document - The proposed changes to the [Mediation & Grievance Document](#) were brought before the Faculty Senate for approval. These will then go to the Provost who then brings them before the entire faculty for a vote. A voting majority of faculty in a majority of the departments must approve the revisions. The vote will be concerning Part II - Items 1-7; there are no changes for items 2 and 7; and changes for items 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Recommendation #1 - The Provost wanted to eliminate attorneys from the system. The Mediation and Grievance Committee refused to accept this. Recommendation #2 - The Provost wanted to eliminate recording devices and the committee rejected this. Recommendation #3 - the definition of "petitioner" was relocated in the document. Recommendation #4 - The Tribunal members up to this point have not been chosen by the Faculty Senate. They have been selected by lot. This proposal would require the Senate to undertake the task of developing a list of potential Tribunal members. According to this proposal, each year the Senate would nominate seven people. They would serve three years and then rotate off. The first year 21 names would be submitted. This gives the faculty complete control over who would be serving on the Tribunal Board. A concern was expressed regarding reducing the Tribunal from five to three. The reason given was that it is very difficult to schedule five people together at one time and that three could administer justice as well as five. There is no provision for alternates. The panel list has been reduced from 60 to 21. The Chair of the Tribunal serves for one year. It was suggested that the Chair serve for two years and continue with the knowledge of the position. This is an extremely demanding position and it was pointed out that one year was adequate. Recommendation #5 - The Tribunal needs legal counsel because their position places them in legal jeopardy. The proposal recommends that faculty legal council receive compensation. The Senate objected to this. The point was made that if anyone should be compensated, it should be the Chair of the Tribunal. A motion was made to eliminate payment to a consulting faculty member, seconded, and the Senators voted to accept. Therefore, in Section 3, the line "and shall be paid by the University. Payment may consist, in whole or in part, in released time for a faculty member." was eliminated. The document was then voted on and accepted as a proposal to the Provost from the Faculty Senate.

Academic Affairs - (Don DeSmet & Steve Miller) This committee presented a list of revisions regarding the **Suspension/Probation Policy**. None of the changes were considered major. There is a continued effort to improve undergraduate retention. This committee is also considering and debating a recommendation to abolish the "forgiveness" policy. This will be brought forward in the future.

The University Standing **Information Technology Committee** has requested that Faculty Senate and other interested faculty members meet to discuss technology issues pertaining to all areas of the University campus. Please refer any comments about this issue to Don DeSmet.

Legislative Agenda Committee - (Margaret Garner) The focus of the Committee has been reshaping and determining future strategy concerning state funding. A breakfast meeting on February 2 at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel at 7:15 AM has been set to discuss budget issues. Chancellor Meredith will be addressing the group. To make reservations contact sasberry@advancement.ua.edu. This will be an opportunity to understand the issues and become a part of the legislative process concerning funding for higher education. The January 13 workshop had 55 people in attendance. The University is lagging in faculty support. Higher Education Day will be Tuesday, March 6 in Montgomery.

Meeting adjourned 5:25 PM

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE SENATE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION I

WHEREAS the ad hoc Faculty Life Committee of the Faculty Senate has addressed significant issues and concerns that have not fit neatly under the jurisdiction of the current standing committees of the Faculty Senate, and

WHEREAS the ad hoc Faculty Life Committee has proven to be one of the Faculty Senate's most active and productive committees during its trial run, and

WHEREAS the ad hoc Faculty Life Committee has helped distribute the workload of the Faculty Senate standing committees more evenly,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the bylaws of the Faculty Senate be amended to incorporate the Faculty Life Committee as a permanent standing committees of the Faculty Senate.

Moreover, be it resolved that the responsibilities of the Faculty Life Committee be described in the bylaws as follows:

The Faculty Life Committee addresses issues relevant to the general welfare and quality of life of the faculty.

These issues fall outside the teaching, research, and service roles of the faculty and outside the domain of the Financial Affairs Committee. Such issues include, but are not limited to, nonpecuniary faculty benefits, faculty rights, faculty diversity, and faculty relations with the surrounding community.

Moreover, be it resolved that the approximate number of members of the Faculty Life Committee be six senators.

RESOLUTION II

WHEREAS January marks the beginning of Spring semester, and early January is an unusually busy time for faculty, and

WHEREAS the bylaws of the Faculty Senate prescribe the third Tuesday of January to be the January meeting date of the Faculty Senate, and

WHEREAS this meeting date and the demands of the beginning of Spring semester *sometimes* make it difficult for Faculty Senate standing committees to conduct business in preparation for the January meeting,

THEREFORE be it resolved that the bylaws of the Faculty Senate be amended to establish the *fourth* Tuesday of January to be the *alternate* January monthly meeting date of the Faculty Senate.

Note: Article III Section 1(3) of the Senate Bylaws specifies that the Steering Committee meeting be conducted the week before the Faculty Senate meeting. This resolution would consequently make the Steering Committee meeting the third week of January when the Senate meeting is moved to the alternate date.

See embedded text of proposed revisions to [the Faculty Senate By-Laws](#) on the Senate Web Page.

See embedded text of proposed revisions to the [Mediation and Grievance](#) document on the Senate's web page under "Documents."