

FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

January 18, 2005 – 3:30 pm – Ferguson Forum

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Karen Burgess, Caryl Cooper, Dee Goldston, Vivian Wright,

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Marcia Barrett/Lisa Yuro

GUESTS: Joanna Hutt, Dialog; Marlin Caddell, Crimson White; Ronnie Robertson, Director of Transportation Services

The December 14, 2004 Faculty Senate minutes were approved.

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary John Vincent.

The **Parking and Traffic Regulations Committee** met in December to vote on increasing parking fees. There were only five members of the committee present with nine absences. The Faculty Senate liaison, Martin Evans, was not notified of the meeting. Ronnie Robertson was invited to address this issue and began with information about his background. He attended The University of Alabama, has lived in Tuscaloosa most of his life and was Assistant Director of Transportation Services for four years before becoming director. More parking spaces are available this semester than last semester. The Parking and Traffic Regulations Committee met in November with Mr. Robertson personally visiting nine committee members conveying that the December meeting would be a critical one. There are thirteen people on the committee and there were five voting members at the December meeting. The resolution voted on by the committee was a parking fee increase of ten dollars per year for the next four years. This increase would go toward paying the debt and construction of parking decks on campus. The parking permit costs over the last ten years are as follows: August, 1994 parking fees \$25.00; August, 1995 parking fees \$30.00; August 1996 parking fees \$35.00; August 1997 parking fees \$40.00; August 1998 parking fees \$45.00; August 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 parking fees \$45.00; August 2003 and 2004 parking fees \$60.00. There has not been a great increase in parking fees since 1994 in Mr. Robertson's opinion. The Ferguson parking deck recently opened with a net gain of 530 parking spaces. The cost of the deck was \$5,890,000. The Campus Drive parking deck was recently opened with 632 parking spaces with 216 additional spaces in the surrounding surface area for a total of 848 parking spaces giving a net gain of 504 parking spaces. The cost was \$6,979,000. A new parking deck is being constructed behind Ten Hoor with 699 parking spaces. Changing the area behind the parking deck along with the new deck will be an addition of 730 parking spaces at a cost of \$8,139,500. The total cost of parking facilities over a two-year period will be \$15 ½ million dollars. The primary reason for these additional parking facilities is that The University of Alabama is land-locked. There is no land area around the campus available for expansion other than the Bryce Hospital space. The land that is available now will be used for academic or residential facilities. There is a great need for a parking deck on the south side of campus around Barnwell Hall, Rose Administration and academic and residential facilities in that area. Parking services receives no state funding and is supported by parking permit fees and parking citations. The new Campus Master Plan Committee will make recommendations as to the

exact location of such a deck. The parking facility budget does not include citation revenue. Hopefully, with the additional parking facilities, citation revenue will be reduced. There are 17,000 parking spaces available on campus at this time. Ole Miss is the only SEC school with a better parking space per population. Approximately 20,000 parking permits are sold each year. The committee has discussed the addition of levels to existing parking decks. The cost would be prohibitive and the deck would be closed from six months to one year. ACT cards and Bama Cash cards can be used to exit some decks with a visitor's parking fee of one dollar. There was discussion on methods to publicize this more. Increases in parking fees after the four-year period are possible. The revenue from the parking fees will be used to pay off deck debt. Alabama ranks in the middle of SEC schools and the rates paid for parking. Shuttle service and trolleys were discussed. Two trolleys are available now with more needed. The Campus Master Plan Committee will guide in the direction needed in this area. The suggestion was made to send faculty a notice concerning the use of ACT cards in the parking facilities.

The next item for discussion was the **Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics' (COIA) Statement on Academic Integrity in Intercollegiate Athletics**. Mathew Winston will be the Faculty Senate representative to this group that provides an athletic and academic voice to faculty nationwide. The main point to be made is that no one Faculty Senate or individual will approve every point and recommendation of this document. The issues are approval of the document in principle with significant differences to be forwarded to Mathew and the empowerment of Mathew as the voting representative of the Faculty Senate to forward document amendments to COIA and vote on the final document. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee so voted at its meeting January 11, 2005. Wythe Holt made a motion, seconded by Nick Stinnett, to approve the document in principle and to designate Mathew Winston as the Faculty Senate representative. The Chair of the Athletics and Academics Committee pointed out that they were not sent a copy of this document, input should be sought and such a document should not be approved without consultation and due process. The time frame is unfortunate. The COIA meeting was two weeks ago, the Steering Committee meeting was January 11 with the Faculty Senate meeting convening on January 18. Amendments to the document are due the middle of February with the final vote on the document due the end of February. Possibly one of the reasons for the rush by COIA is the presentation of three sections of the document at the next NCAA meeting. It was suggested that other institutions could possibly be having problems with the deadline and that Alabama issue a statement that although they agree with the principle of the document and that the steps recommended are in the right direction internal organizational structure is not conducive to the tight deadline imposed by COIA. Faculty Senates are not being asked to rewrite the document. Amendments will be ongoing and the document will be voted up or down by February 21. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate is February 15. Amendments must be presented by February 11. Bob Sigler as a rule of procedure recommended that as much information as possible be made available to John Mason and Mathew Winston. They should make every effort to request an extension from COIA on the deadline. Mathew Winston was given the power to be the Faculty Senate representative in the Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting. It was suggested that the document be distributed to those interested parties and committees with a request to forward all information and comments to Mathew. Wythe Holt withdrew his former motion and replaced it with this motion seconded by Margaret Garner: To empower the Faculty Senate Steering Committee to act as the Senate to approve this document in principle or not at their next meeting and for the Senate to actively invite input from all people on campus including those committees particularly charged with academics and athletics. The NCAA has considerably strengthened the academic requirements of athletes. Athletes must now have a certain number of credit hours by their sophomore, junior and senior years. If that standard is not achieved, they do not participate in athletics. This will cause academic problems with athletes if they change their major

and this was brought up by the Athletic Oversight Committee. The NCAA is demanding that athletes achieve a degree in six years and is more stringent for athletes than other students. The motion was approved with four abstentions.

Elections for the Faculty Senate officers, senators and Ombudsperson replacing Phillip Johnson will be held in March. Nominations at this point are: Mathew Winston for President, John Vincent for Vice President and Karen Steckol for Secretary. The person nominated for Ombudsperson should come from the School of Engineering or C&BA, cannot be a current senator and will be voted on by the entire faculty. Ombudspersons cannot succeed themselves and the next term begins August 15. John Mason expressed dismay at the lack of attendance by the Parking and Transportation Committee members after they were informed of the importance of the issue to be presented at their next meeting. Committee members were encouraged to take their responsibilities seriously and to perform their duties as committee members.

President's Report – (*John Mason*) No response has been received from Dr. Robert Witt concerning the three health resolutions sent to him in December. A follow up letter will be sent to Dr. Witt. A follow up letter has been sent to Dr. Margaret King regarding the behavior of performers on campus with no response. A plus/minus survey of students resulted in a vote to discontinue the plus/minus system. There could possibly be a faculty-wide vote on this issue. In the past faculty recommendations are usually followed. It was suggested that the student's perception is that there are a lot more minuses than pluses and this lowers their GPA. Margaret Garner has authored an article in the HEP publication of the 2004 annual report. The CUC has sent a form online for committee preferences. A paper form is available and should be turned in by the end of the month. There has been no progress on the suggestion of an ad hoc diversity committee.

Vice President's Report – (*Mathew Winston*) Mathew reminded everyone that feedback on the Athletic Integrity Document be forwarded to him for referral to the Steering Committee.

Secretary's Report – (*John Vincent*) No report.

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) No report.

Faculty Life – (*Wythe Holt & Nick Stinnett*) No report.

Financial Affairs - (*Wolfgang Bertsch & Karen Steckol*) No report.

Research & Service - (*Clark Midkiff & Tatiana Tsakiropoulou-Summers*) This committee will meet with Marianne Woods, Associate Vice President for Research, on January 25 to review committee restructuring and responsibilities, creation of new positions and policies and other issues in the Office for Sponsored Programs. Suggestions would be welcome by the committee.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Robert Moore & Jerry Weaver*) No report.

Student Affairs – (*Caryl Cooper & Priscilla Davis*) No report.

Legislative Agenda Committee – (*Margaret Garner*) There will be a Legislative Breakfast on Friday morning, January 21. Robert Bentley, State Representative for District 63, will be the speaker. Everyone was encouraged to attend. It is an opportunity to pose questions and to voice concerns. A budget surplus is projected for this year with efforts by higher education to secure a fair portion of those funds classified as critical. There is a critical shortage in Medicaid and the prison system. There has been discussion in

Montgomery about taking money from the Educational Trust Fund to defray the shortfall in the General Fund. The Educational Trust Fund growth in the first quarter was nine percent this year with the usual average being four percent. All of that money is not recurring money. Last year a promise was made in the Legislature that this year would be the year for higher education due to some concessions made by higher education last year. Everyone should be diligent in reminding the Legislature of that promise. When joining HEP, the email of the participant should be listed to receive all information from the HEP. To add your email address to your membership information, call 334-832-9911 and ask for Diane, the administrative secretary. March 3 is Higher Education Day in Montgomery with transportation and lunch provided. This is an opportunity to advocate for higher education. There is a pre-rally in conjunction with Auburn University and various speakers will prepare the participants for contact with the Legislature. The University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa secures a small meeting room and invites their representatives to meet with them. There is a job fair for junior and senior students. Faculty members were encouraged to show respect and consideration for the students participating in Higher Education Day.

Meeting adjourned 4:50 PM