

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2008 – 3:30 PM – 150 SHELBY HALL**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Carolyn Cassady, Arun Gupta, Shane Street, Giles D’Sousa, Margaret Garner, Jeff Weddle, David Arnold, Anware Haque, Linda Enders, Steven Hobbs, Norm Stein, Marcia Barrett, Lee Pike, Ellen Csikai, Dee Goldston

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Karen Burgess/Vijaya Sundar, Janis Edwards/Steve Miller, Tom Zeiler/Mike Freeman

GUESTS: Adam Jones, Tuscaloosa News

Roll call and quorum check by Faculty Senate Secretary Clark Midkiff.

The minutes from the December 11, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting were approved with one correction.

President’s Report – (*John Vincent*) The SGA representative to the Faculty Senate was again absent from the meeting. The Provost requested the Faculty Senate review the **academic schedule** for 2008-09. Public schools have scheduled their **spring break** so late that the University cannot schedule its spring break at the same time. The University more than likely will schedule spring break March 13-20, 2009. This should coordinate with Shelton State’s spring break. The University **Faculty/Staff meeting** will be held April 2, 2008 at 1:30 P.M. in the Bryant Conference Center Rast Room. Ed Stephenson is the new Faculty Senate **webmaster**. The **non-discrimination policy** of the University has been changed to include sexual orientation and is posted on the Human Resources webpage. The committee responsible for the dean and chairs evaluations paid for by the senate has promised results on last year’s **chair review** soon and progress on this year’s **dean review**. The search for the **Vice President** of Information Technology is ongoing. There were approximately forty applicants with the short list to be presented on Friday. An inquiry will be made about the search progress on two other Vice President positions. The Provost has requested the Senate provide three faculty members to serve on the committee charged with selecting students and faculty to be recognized in the **academic plaza** being constructed near the Main Library and Clark Hall. This will be a walking area and plaques will be placed in recognition of those selected.

Vice President’s Report – (*Karen Steckol*) No report.

Secretary’s Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) No report.

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & Ron Donahoe*) This committee will meet Tuesday, January 22 at 3:30 P.M. in Room 104 in the Bevill Building.

Faculty Life – (*Lowell Baker & Deidre Leaver-Dunn*) The Faculty Life committee deferred to the Financial Affairs committee for their report.

Financial Affairs – (*David Arnold & Jeanette Vandermeer*) The Faculty Life and Financial Affairs committees have been meeting jointly to address the PEEHIP issue. Refined numbers regarding cost, attrition and other factors were requested. That information is now available and will be presented at a meeting on February 5 at 3:00 P.M. at the Bruno Library.

Research & Service – (*Shane Street & Ed Stephenson*) The Research and Service committee will meet Wednesday, January 23 at 4:00 P.M. in the Biology Building to review the campus environmental committee issue.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Roy Maize*) Faculty Senate officer elections will be held at the March 25 meeting. Currently the nominations are: Karen Steckol for Faculty Senate President, Clark Midkiff for Vice President and Jeanette Vandermeer for Secretary. The Ombudsperson election is due with nominations acceptable only from Engineering and C&BA. John Vincent will send out an email to the entire faculty in early February requesting nominations. The web address for those faculty members wishing to apply and serve on a University committee was printed in Dialog. An email will also be sent to faculty and staff with this information.

Student Affairs - (*Carolyn Cassidy & Melondie Carter*) No report.

Other committee reports –

Intercollegiate Athletic Committee – An Office of Student Affairs representative presented information about block seating at football games at Bryant-Denny Stadium. Behavior and misconduct guidelines were presented with work continuing on exact student seating arrangements.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) No report.

Lowell Baker of the “Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans and Department Chairpersons and in the Evaluation of Academic Programs Committee” reported that John Vincent had drafted new language for the Faculty Handbook regarding the review of deans and chairs. The language is being reviewed with a second draft due on January 18 and this draft returned to the committee by January 23. The committee is currently looking for someone with expertise to assist in the development of the survey instrument to be used in the review process. The review process now being developed will replace the Faculty Senate ad hoc committee system. The ad hoc committee worked many hours and were volunteers. The every other year review will go to the chair and the dean or the dean and the Provost with faculty not viewing the results. The fifth year decision on the retention of a dean or chair will be addressed with a “yes or no answer and any additional comments” question. The Provost after making a decision about that dean or dean making a decision about that chair has to go to that college or department respectively,

and explain their decision in relation to the overall faculty review. The changes in the Faculty Handbook will go to the full Senate and the Council of Deans with the Provost and the President making the final decision. Any suggestions or questions should be given to Lowell Baker.

The League of Women Voters of Greater Tuscaloosa “Meet the Legislators” event will be held Thursday, January 17 at 6:30 P.M. at Central High School auditorium. Representatives Bentley, England, Allen, Thigpen, and maybe Bishop are expected to attend. Senator Poole is expected to attend.

There was discussion concerning language used in certain syllabi. The standard seems to differ from college to college and the particular interpretation of SACS criteria. Karen Steckol will follow up and report back to the Senate.

Meeting adjourned 4:20 P.M.