

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2012 – 3:30 pm – ROOM 110 AIME

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Stevan Marcus, Katrina Ramonell, Steve Miller, Ed Back, Steve Emens, Jeanette VanderMeer.

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Vijaya Sundar/Grier Stewart; Kagendo Mutua/John Petrovic/Jill Grogg/Karen Croneis.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Denzell Bell, UA Student Government Association.

Roll call and quorum check by Melondie Carter in the absence of Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

The minutes of the December 13, 2011 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

President's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) A memorial service was held Friday, January 13 for Dr. Karen Steckol, Past President, Senator and Committee chairperson of the Faculty Senate.

Applications are needed for Faculty Senate officer elections. Written statements are due by February 10th and additional nominations will be taken from the floor in the February meeting.

The scheduled January 10th meeting of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee was cancelled.

The role of the Faculty Senate regarding the UAB resolution on **immigration law HB56** is not to engage in national or state politics but is to look at the role of the University and effects on faculty. Allegations were contained in the UAB HB56 resolution of the direct impact of this law on UAB. Senators were asked to forward to President Clark Midkiff any factual instances of the impact of this law on UA faculty or staff. Bill Jones will be attending the meetings of President Clark Midkiff with the Provost and the Faculty Senate's Steering Committee meeting with the Provost. He will hopefully have more information concerning the tweaking of the HB56 immigration law. President Midkiff will compose and respond by letter to the UAB Faculty Senate.

Two faculty complaints have been sent to President Midkiff regarding anonymous **student opinion of instruction** specifically regarding discursive comments. The majority of the Faculty Senate members felt the student comments should remain anonymous and not identify the student by name. The chair/department head, professor, deans of the college and the Provost would see those comments. A student might possibly have to take another class under that same professor. A tenure/promotion committee should be able to discern the positive and negative aspects of a student's remarks.

Some University faculty members are concerned about undergraduate students taking **summer courses** at community colleges. Some of those concerns are the quality of those courses, lower tuition, offering UA summer school discounts, standards to offer summer school courses at UA and the ratio of students going to summer school at community colleges. UA offering lower tuition for summer school would not be feasible due to the current economic situation. The size

of classes at community colleges allows more one-on-one instruction particularly desirable in difficult courses. It was suggested to obtain data on the progress of those students transferring from community colleges and students going to summer school at community colleges transferring summer school course credits. The State of Alabama mandates the acceptance of community college credits.

A request was made by President Midkiff for a volunteer to fill a vacancy as the Faculty Senate representative to the **Institution of Animal Care and Use Committee**. The responsibilities of committee membership were discussed. Following the meeting Senator Dwight Hooper accepted the assignment.

Vice President's Report – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn*) No report.

Secretary's Report – (*Jeanette VanderMeer*) No report.

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) The Academic Affairs Committee compiled a list of survey questions for the Provost's classroom use survey. The survey is formatted and ready to go as soon as the Provost approves. The survey will provide feedback concerning classroom readiness such as any broken furniture, marker supplies, problems with multi-media equipment and the process to be followed to report those problems. Problems with scheduling through Astra have been encountered.

Faculty Life – (*Lowell Baker & Wesley Church*) No report. The Faculty Life Committee was asked to remain for a short discussion following the Faculty Senate meeting.

Financial Affairs – (*Robert McLeod & Katrina Ramonell*) No report.

Information Technology – (*Carolyn Cassady & Brad Hodges*) The Information Technology Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, January 24th at 3:30 P.M. in Shelby Hall-Room #2002 with Tom Wilson from UA Libraries to put together a **data management plan**. Anyone can attend this meeting. A short power point presentation will be given with time allotted for input from those attending.

On Tuesday, January 9th the Information Technology Committee met and discussed UA's IT department. Several meetings are planned by the Faculty Senate Information Technology Committee including meeting with the Director for the Center of Instructional Technology and Academic Services; Ivon Foster of Academic Affairs Special Projects and A&S E-Tech representatives.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Ion Stancu*) The Research & Service Committee is working on the issue of **post-doctoral** length of appointments. Only one of six or seven institutions contacted had appointment restrictions. The compiled information will be forwarded to the Provost following the committee's next meeting.

The Research & Service Committee will be meeting with Kevin Stevens, Director of Procurement Services. Any questions or problems with procurement should be forwarded to Ed Stephenson or Ion Stancu for discussion in this meeting.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Rona Donahoe & Charlotte Herrin*) Nominations for the **Ombudsperson** vacancy are needed. The nominee must be from Arts & Sciences. The Ombudsperson vote according to Faculty Senate By-laws should be held at the same time Faculty Senate elections are held. The Ombudsperson qualifications include seven years at The University of Alabama and teaching and research experience. The nominees must not be a Faculty Senate member, an administrator or a member of the Mediation Committee.

Nominees are needed for Faculty Senate officer positions. Letters of intent for nominations are due by February 10th. Statements from nominees can be made at the March meeting.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Seth Panitch*) No report.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) **Higher Education Day** will be held Thursday, March 1 in Montgomery, Alabama. Faculty members are urged to schedule class work allowing students to attend the rally.

Faculty can give input concerning the **Immigration Bill HB56** recommending specific ways to improve this bill resulting in no negative impact on the University and its faculty, staff and students. This would provide our Legislators information about unintended consequences of this legislation.

The proposed merging of the **Educational Trust Fund** into the General Fund impact on higher education was discussed. Retirement benefits were also discussed. A few years ago education seminars were held on campuses all over Alabama on the need for Constitutional reform.

Reports from Other Committees –

Parking fees will increase over the next few years to provide funds for parking decks and maintenance.

Campus Master Plan – The Campus Master Plan Committee will meet Wednesday, January 18 at 4:00 P.M. This committee has a web site for reference.

The **Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee** will be meeting Thursday, January 19th. Concerns were expressed regarding insurance rate increases and changes in co-pays/deductibles for faculty and staff. A two million dollar deficit was paid by the University last year.

Old Business –

President Midkiff is to invite Ronnie Robertson, Director of Transportation and Parking Services, to speak to the Faculty Senate concerning new parking issues.

The IOCUC finally sent their letter to Joe Benson and funds will be found to repair short term problems such as power outlets, cage washing equipment, breaker box and emergency power at the animal care facility located in the Knott Hall Annex. This will not cover long term needs at this facility. Research and faculty recruitment for the animal care division was discussed.

Meeting adjourned 4:40 P.M.

