

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2006 – 150 SHELBY HALL – 3:30 PM**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Brian Bishop, Kari Frederickson, Aaron Greer, Lisa Scherff, Allen Wilcoxon, Norm Stein/Bill Andreen, Lee Pike

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Viola Acoff/Mark Barkey, Jeanette Vandermeer/Melondie Carter

GUESTS: Rachelle Esser, UA Journalism student; Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Lynn Tobola, Professional Staff Assembly; Whitney Mork, Student Government Association, Keith McDowell, Vice President for Research; Gordon Stone, Executive Director, Higher Education Partnership.

The minutes from the September 19, 2006 Faculty Senate meeting were approved with one correction.

The meeting opened with remarks from the Executive Director of **Alabama Higher Education Partnership**, Gordon Stone. The comments referred to tax cuts/refunds, political posturing, state appropriations for higher education, tuition limits/increases, and urging everyone to vote. The Alabama Higher Education Partnership celebrates ten years of existence and accomplishments. **Higher Education Day** will be April 5, 2007 in Montgomery.

President's Report – (John Vincent) The UA **Student Government Association** will have representation at future Faculty Senate meetings. A meeting with David Johnson, Director of Enrollment Services, revealed that a committee has been looking at electronic course evaluations. After determining many obstacles would prevent the implementation of such evaluations, the committee has focused on **online extension course evaluations only**. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee will host a **reception for UA Deans** on October 24 in the Bidgood Hall of Fame Room from 5:00-6:30 PM. The **spring meetings** of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee and the Faculty Senate in 206F and 150 Shelby Hall have been confirmed. The letters for the non-CUC committee assignments have been received. The Teacher Education Council will not meet this year. The **President's Commission on Teacher Education Committee** has been formed to look at urgent issues in the College of Education. The Faculty Senate representative to this committee will be Martin Evans. Martin was the Senate representative for the Teacher Education Council. John Vincent will also serve on this committee. A reminder was given for everyone to turn in their **United Way** cards. The **Research Compliance Committee** is meeting to consider issues related to finance violations associated with grants and funding, violations relating to procedures involving animal and human research, and scientific research in general. An attempt to establish a uniform procedure policy is the goal of this committee. Input should be sent to John Vincent. Regular updates will be given. Marianne Woods has asked that a Faculty Senate member be named to the **IRB Accreditation Committee**. The committee is working on accreditation of the Human Studies Oversight Committee. Volunteers were solicited for the IRB Accreditation Committee by John Vincent.

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

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

Academic Affairs – *(Marcia Barrett & Martin Evans)* A final multi-media list for **shared classroom and equipment** use has been compiled and forwarded to the Provost. Mark Nelson, Vice President for Undergraduates, met with the co-chairs of this committee and the senate president and expressed his vision for academic integrity, development of a web site for academic misconduct and for faculty resources, and student membership in the Center for Integrity. The committee also met with University Supply Store representatives concerning **textbook availability**. Reasons given for the lack of textbooks this past semester were the increase of textbook titles from 3,500 to 5,000 and increased student enrollment.

Faculty Life – *(Steve Shepard & Lowell Baker)* Three separate issues are being researched by this committee. Statistical information has been requested concerning **PEEHIP health coverage** for retired University employees with less than 25 years of service. The Healthy Campus Initiative and the Director of Health Promotion and Wellness at the Student Health Center have requested the Faculty Senate endorse a recommendation to the administration to **ban smoking** in any area within 30 feet of any University building entranceway. A proposal from this committee will be brought forward at the next Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting. A final draft of a maternity/automatic tenure proposal from **Family Friendly Campus** has been received by this committee. Further information will be given at the next Steering Committee meeting.

Financial Affairs – *(David Arnold & Jeanette Vandermeer)* A meeting was held with Lynda Gilbert concerning the **budget presentation** on November 7 at 3:00 in 34 Bidgood. The committee requested more detailed information concerning certain budget items.

Research & Service – *(Shane Street & Clark Midkiff)* Interviews have been conducted regarding intellectual property research complaints involving the **Office of Research**. A report will be compiled by this committee with the final draft being brought to the Steering Committee at the next meeting.

Student Affairs – *(Carolyn Cassady & Karen Burgess)* A meeting was held with Dr. Margaret King, Vice President of Student Affairs. Concerns discussed included student body growth, dining facility availability, career counseling and mental health issues. Students are coming to the University from greater distances and remain on campus more often. The elimination of the Dean of Students Office caused no fundamental change in the services offered. There is more emphasis on individual student care. The **Ferguson Center** will be rearranged with the first two floors reserved for student related usage. Administration will be moved to the third floor. In the discussion regarding student elections, Dr. King noted that student elections are student generated and any change should come from students. Suggestions for Faculty Senate assistance included faculty help for students to think through issues more critically including University issues, and more faculty advisors for student organizations. Another idea was for freshmen to participate in small student and community groups to become acquainted with other students. A web site is being developed to allow student organizations to register online. A full-time assessment officer is now in place, Katy Busby, to assess student learning. A meeting was held between the co-chairs and the senate president and representatives of the **SGA**. A main point of the meeting was to have more communication with the faculty and the Faculty Senate. A joint meeting with the SGA Senate and the Faculty Senate is being planned for next spring. The SGA will be looking at the expense of purchasing textbooks.

Faculty & Senate Governance – *(John Mason & Doug Lightfoot)* The following resolution was approved unanimously by the Faculty Senate.

Robert Thomas (Bob) Sigler

Whereas, Professor Robert Thomas (Bob) Sigler served as Parliamentarian of the Faculty Senate from 1999 to 2006 and, prior to that, as co-chair of the Senate’s Student Affairs Committee from 1994 to 1999; and

Whereas, Robert Sigler served six Faculty Senate presidents, including Robert Ingram, Patricia Bauch, Norman Baldwin, Steve Miller, John Mason, and Mathew Winston, faithfully and with devotion to duty.

Therefore be it resolved, the Faculty Senate recognizes Robert Sigler for his tireless efforts and extraordinary duty to The University of Alabama and its faculty, his deep understanding and commitment to the principles of faculty governance, his clarity of expression, and his warmth and humor. **Be it further resolved** that his attributes merit our deepest respect and highest commendation.

Be it further resolved that this Resolution be included in the permanent minutes of the Faculty Senate.

Unanimously Adopted by Faculty Senate

October 17, 2006

One person should be elected to replace Carol Drolen on the **Merger or Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee**. The term will commence in January, 2007. It was stressed that the permission must be acquired from any faculty member before being nominated. No two faculty members from the Faculty Senate elected group (three members) can be from the same college. Continuing members on the committee from the Faculty Senate group are from A&S and Education. Thus, the Senate may elect a faculty member from any college other than A&S or Education. Nominations should be forthcoming at the Faculty Senate November meeting with the election being held in December. The **Mediation** Committee will need nominations to replace Al Brophy and Karla Carmichael. No more than two elected members can be from the same college. Continuing members on this committee are from A&S, Communications, and Education. No more than one member may be elected from any one of these colleges: Communications and Libraries. No members may be elected from A&S.

Legislative Agenda – A Legislative Breakfast will not be held until after state elections.

Meeting adjourned 4:15 PM

