

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
OCTOBER 16, 2007 – 3:30 PM – 150 SHELBY HALL**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE:** Kagendo Mutua/Cecil Camara; Wesley Church/Fay Hobbs

**ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE:** Priscilla Davis, Arun Gupta, Shane Street, Tatiana Tsakiropoulou-Summers, Chase Wrenn, Giles D’Sousa, Karen Burgess, Margaret Garner, Joe Phelps, Sharon Nichols, Linda Enders, Norm Stein, Melondie Carter, Clark Midkiff

**GUESTS:** Gordon Stone, Higher Education Partnership; Susan Mitchell, College of Nursing; Cresandra Smothers, Dialog

Roll call and quorum check by Faculty Senate Vice President Karen Steckol.

The minutes from the September 18, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

Gordon Stone of the **Higher Education Partnership** began the meeting. This organization is the advocacy group for higher education. Higher Education Day will be held in Montgomery on Thursday, March 6, 2008. This rally provides an opportunity for the legislators to associate a face with an organization. It is also an opportunity for higher education to present their views on pertinent issues. Faculty members and students are encouraged to attend. The retreat sponsored by HEP will be moved to an annual summer meeting held next year during the second weekend in August. Further comments included the issues of economic forecasts, decreasing tax revenues, appropriation cycles and tighter budgets next year. Membership in the Higher Education Partnership was encouraged.

**President’s Report – (John Vincent)** **Off-campus security** is a concern due to recent incidents, criminal incidents. The University has more police presence than ever before, improved lighting and worked for regulations on operating hours of bars. Priority has been placed on this issue and the University has addressed the problems in a responsible manner. The University of South Carolina will host a spring meeting of **Southeastern Conference Faculty Senate** leaders. Advertisement for the position of **Vice Provost for Information Technology** should be out in the immediate future. A search committee has been organized for this position. The positions of **Vice President for Research and Vice President for Student Affairs** will be advertised next spring. The **UA budget** was presented at the Board of Trustees meeting with little change from the spring budget presentation. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee attended a reception held by the **SGA**. Gordon Stone of Higher Education Partnership spoke. The SGA’s proposed text book legislation was presented. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee will be hosting a

**reception for the Deans** on Tuesday, October 23 in the Hall of Fame Room located in Bidgood from 5:00 until 6:30 PM. Interim Vice President for Research Joe Benson addressed the October meeting of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee. Everyone was encouraged to turn in their **United Way** pledge cards. Lisa Scherff of the College of Education has been named the Faculty Senate representative for the new **Assessment Committee**. This committee is headed by Robert Smallwood and will be overseeing assessment as the University works toward SACS accreditation. President John Vincent on behalf of the Faculty Senate will write a letter of commendation to the coach of the **men's basketball team**, Mark Gottfried, for the basketball team's 80% graduate rate. President John Vincent's remarks during the faculty/staff meeting included the statement that the priority of the Faculty Senate is to examine the review process for deans and department chairs. The **Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans and Department Chairpersons and in the Evaluation of Academic Programs Committee** has not met. The chair of this committee has resigned. The four remaining committee members from the faculty are Karen Steckol, Lowell Baker, Martin Evans and John Vincent. The importance of naming another chairperson and moving this issue forward was stressed. The University currently has 25,580 students of which 4,538 are freshmen topping the goal of 25,500 students. The average ACT freshmen score places them in the top 25% of ACT scores. One in five freshmen qualifies for the Honors program. There are 2,867 African American students on campus. The University has increased 15% from last year in research expenditures at approximately 33 million dollars. UA President Witt pointed out in his fall faculty/staff meeting address that the faculty salary merit raise pool increased 35% over the last four years with the target being 50% after six years. Students will be using a **ticketless entry** along with a presentation of their identification card to football games next fall. Advantages, disadvantages and distribution of football tickets were discussed.

**Vice President's Report** – (*Karen Steckol*) Clarification of the parking situation at Ten Hoor was given.

**Academic Affairs** – (*Marcia Barrett & Rona Donahue*) The University of Alabama Director of Public Safety Steve Tucker, Director of Auxiliary and Support Services Gina Johnson and Executive Director for Public Relations Deborah Lane met with the Academic Affairs Committee regarding emergency preparedness for the UA campus. There is an ongoing campaign to educate faculty and students for the course of action to follow in an emergency situation. Upgrading emergency preparedness will include the installation of PA systems in all building on campus, electronic notification of emergencies and the development of a document establishing the process to follow during an emergency. Provost Bonner will meet with this committee in November to discuss the distribution of faculty positions between the colleges/schools.

**Faculty Life** – (*Lowell Baker & Deidre Leaver-Dunn*) This committee has been given a mental health survey to examine. The committee was asked to remain after the senate meeting to discuss the survey. The dangers caused by cell phone usage while driving or crossing streets on campus is an issue that should be pursued. An invitation to attend the Kentucky Art Festival was given. Several UA students are involved.

**Financial Affairs** – *(David Arnold & Jeanette Vandermeer)* Vice Chancellor for Financial Affairs Lynda Gilbert will make a UA budget presentation on November 6 from 3:30-5:00 PM in Room 17 Bidgood. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

**Research & Service** – *(Shane Street & Ed Stephenson)* No report.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – *(John Mason & Roy Maize)* One member for the **University Merger or Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee** will be elected in December. Two members will be elected to the **University Mediation Committee** in December. Faculty Senate members may not be nominated to the Merger or Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee. Nominations can be made at the November and December Faculty Senate meeting with elections to be held at the December meeting. The faculty member nominated for the University Merger or Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee must be tenured, cannot be a member of the University Mediation Committee, cannot be a member of the Faculty Senate; a faculty member from any college other than A&S or HES and permission from the nominee is required.

**Student Affairs** – *(Carolyn Cassady & Melondie Carter)* This committee will be meeting with SGA and other representatives to discuss block seating and the football ticketless entry to be implemented next fall.

**Legislative Agenda** – *(John Vincent, on behalf of Margaret Garner)* Legislative breakfasts in the spring and promotion of Higher Ed Day are the issues of this committee.

#### **University Committee Reports –**

The Campus Master Plan Committee has set up sub-committees to review the Campus Master Plan document. A report will be compiled at the November meeting of this committee. A recycling plan will also be discussed.

The Committee on University Committees will meet Friday, October 19 at 2:30 PM.

The September meeting of the Resources and Priorities Committee was cancelled. A new committee chair has been named. Establishing monthly progress reports on campus building projects and the status of the five-year plan has been requested to be a priority.

Parking and Transportation Services has made improvements following the first football game on campus.

**New Business** – It was reported that sprinklers on University Boulevard are watering the sidewalk. With the drought situation it was pointed out that the University should be proactive in this area. Reporting this to the Grounds Department was recommended.

It was pointed out that riding bicycles on sidewalks is a great danger on campus. Signage and enforcement would be some corrections that could be made. There are marked bike lanes on campus.

Parking for working faculty during game days will be considered by Transportation and Parking Services on a case-by-case basis.

The progress of the no smoking policy will be brought up during the meeting with the Provost.

Meeting adjourned 4:50 PM.

**Nomination and Election of  
Two Members to Three-Year Terms on University Mediation  
Committee  
Terms to Commence in January 2008**

**Duties**

All grievances by the Faculty are directed to the University Mediation Committee as the first step in the grievance process. The committee makes the determination of grievability and attempts to mediate and solve the grievance. In cases where mediation is not possible, the committee will assist in the selection of a Hearing Tribunal and call the first meeting of that tribunal and the Senior Faculty Member who is appointed as a liaison person by the Provost/Academic Vice President and the President of the Faculty Senate.

A. Faculty Senate must replace the following two members this year:

Gary Copeland, Prof, Telecomm & Film, 1/1/05 – 12/31/07

George McClure, Prof, History, 1/1/05 – 12/31/07

1. Thus, the Senate is to nominate faculty members at the November and December meetings and elect 2 faculty members to Mediation Committee at its December Meeting
2. The faculty member's permission is required to nominate him or her.

B. Requirements for election:

1. Faculty members elected to the committee by the Faculty Senate may not be administrators.
2. No more than 2 members can be from same college. Continuing members on committee are from Arts & Sciences, Communications and Libraries, Libraries, and Law. Thus, the Senate may elect:

- ✓ No more than 1 member from any one of these colleges: A&S, Communications and Libraries, Libraries, and Law.
  - ✓ 1 or 2 members from the other colleges.
3. Outgoing faculty members of committee (Gary Copeland and George McClure) are not eligible for election to committee for two years; also, those members whose terms expired a year ago (Al Brophy and Karla Carmichael) are not eligible for election to the committee for another year.
- C. The committee will select its chairperson in January.
- D. Continuing members selected by the Faculty Senate during past two years:  
 Mary Alice Fields, Head, Gorgas Inf Services, Libraries, 1/1/05 – 12/31/08  
 Shane Street, Assoc Prof, Chemistry, 1/1/05 – 12/31/08  
 Steve Miller, Assoc Prof, School of Lib & Inf Studies, 1/1/07 – 12/31/09  
 Kimberly Bart, Asst Prof, Law, 1/1/07 – 12/31/09

**Nomination and Election of  
 One Member to Three-Year Term on University  
 Merger or Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee  
 Term to Commence in January 2008**

**Duties**

To represent the faculty as a whole in cases where merger or discontinuance could result in termination of a faculty appointment. Determine whether merger or discontinuance of an academic unit would benefit the educational mission of the University as a whole. This determination will be based essentially on educational considerations similar to those that affect the President's decision and the recommendations by Deans and the Provost/Academic Vice President. In accordance with "Principles and Procedures for Merger or Discontinuance of Academic Units," effective November, 1994.

- E. Faculty Senate must replace the following member this year:  
 Dennis Sunal, Education, 1/1/05 – 12/31/07
1. Thus, the Senate is to nominate faculty members at the November and December meetings and elect a faculty member to Merger or Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee at its December Meeting
  2. The faculty member's permission is required to nominate him or her.
- F. Requirements for election:
1. Faculty member elected must be tenured.

2. Faculty member elected cannot be a member of the University Mediation Committee.
  3. Faculty member elected cannot be a member of the Faculty Senate
  4. No two faculty members from the Faculty Senate elected group (three members) can be from same college. Continuing members on committee from the Faculty Senate group are from A&S and HES. Thus, the Senate may elect a faculty member from any college other than A&S or HES:
  5. The outgoing member of committee from the Faculty Senate group (Dennis Sunal) is not eligible for election to committee for two years; also, last year's member (Carol Drolen) is not eligible for election to the committee for one year.
- G. Continuing members selected by the Faculty Senate during past two years:  
Carol Prickett, A&S, 1/1/06 – 12/31/08  
Lori Turner, HES, 1/1/07 – 12/31/09