

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2008 – 3:30 PM – 150 SHELBY HALL**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Sheila Black, Carolyn Cassady, Chase Wrenn, Lonnie Strickland, Karen Burgess, Thad Ulzen, Steve Thoma, David Arnold, Srinath Viswanathan, Norm Stein, Marcia Barrett

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Diane Sekeres/Cecile Komara

GUESTS: Adam Jones, Tuscaloosa News/ Cresandra Smothers, Dialog

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Jeanette Vandermeer.

The minutes of the September 16, 2008 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

President's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) Faculty Senate President Karen Steckol and Faculty Senate Vice President Clark Midkiff are members of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee. The University of Alabama Athletics Director, Mal Moore, addressed the meeting concerning a new ticket distribution for the A Club. As the group discussed this issue, comments were made that some faculty, staff and students are purchasing **football tickets** primarily to resell for a profit. Some of those tickets packages have been posted for sale on various web sites. The IAC is asking for suggestions to remedy the problem. The discussion included ticket allotments, a point system, qualifications to buy tickets, and the reselling of tickets for profit. The students now have their tickets on their ACT cards to be swiped as they enter the stadium. Any student not using their ticket can place that ticket in a pool for another student to claim and use. The demand for tickets has soared with the success of the football program. A study to determine the broadness of the reselling problem and inquiring how other SEC athletics programs have solved this problem was suggested. If it is determined that reselling entire packages is widespread, then some action would be in order.

A statement from **The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics** organization regarding Kansas State University giving an assistant men's basketball coach a \$200,000+ pay raise for recruiting a one-and-out freshman basketball player was forwarded to President Witt, Provost Bonner and all Faculty Senate members. President Witt responded that he was certain nothing similar would happen at The University of Alabama. John Mason is the University's COIA representative. It was pointed out that last year when the coaches received raises for doing a good job, the faculty was not recognized as doing a good job which could be interpreted by some as an affront to faculty members.

Gordon Stone will address the Faculty Senate's November 18th meeting concerning higher education issues.

Vice President's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) A meeting was held by the Provost to address complaints from the Faculty Senate Steering Committee concerning the complexities of

appointing **GTAs and GRAs**. Depending on an applicant's status, up to ten documents are required to be completed for an appointment for one semester, with the process repeated for the next semester. The Provost requested several administrators draft a proposal streamlining the process to be presented to a committee consisting of administrators, several representatives from various departments who are responsible for GTA/GRA appointments, the Faculty Senate and other representatives. The point system for the **P-card** and supposed consequences for unapproved purchases is being reviewed. There are confusing statements being issued and miscommunication involved in this issue. A letter of clarification will be sent to the entire faculty and staff.

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

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

Faculty Life – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn & Lowell Baker*) The Faculty Life committee is continuing to work on the **maternity/sick leave policy**. They are also in the process of developing ways to recognize faculty members with a certain number of years of service. The consensus of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee is to begin **recognition of faculty** with fifteen years of service. Some ideas are a medallion, cord or hood to be worn at graduation and an annual luncheon or dinner with the President and Provost with the presentation of some form of lapel pin connected to the number of years of service. More semi-permanent recognition forms visible by the University and community are being considered.

Financial Affairs – (*Katrina Ramonell & Steven Hobbs*) George Hutt and Charlotte Harris from the **Department of Human Resources** met with the Financial Affairs Committee to discuss how supplemental pay is calculated. There is a twenty-five percent flat tax rate for supplemental pay. According to Hutt and Harris individual calculations on supplemental pay cannot be done with the current system. The University matches any TIAA-CREF contribution made by the eligible employee. Normal deductions such as FICA, insurance, etc. are taken from supplemental pay. An electronic pay statement will be instituted for the entire University by December. A University employee can specify splitting their pay between three separate accounts by going online to the payroll web site.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson*) The Research and Service Committee met with Joe Benson, Interim Vice President for Research. The University is establishing a **Conflict of Interest Policy** with partial wording being dictated by the Federal guidelines. This policy is waiting on approval from the Council of Deans. The Academic Misconduct Policy is now titled the **Research and Creative Activity Misconduct Policy**. This policy targets misconduct in research, service or creative activity including acts such as plagiarism, data fabrication, etc. Federal guidelines mandate most of the wording of this document. Principal investigators of grants are having problems with real-time access to grant activities, budget allocations and interpretation of Banner. A weekly print out of research account status will be available to principal investigators soon, and more frequent information will hopefully be available by the end of the year.

The possibility of the Office of Research returning research **overhead funds** directly to a P.I.'s account number was investigated by the Research and Service Committee. This is not possible according to the Office of Research due to the limited number of accounts that Banner can handle.

The Research and Service Committee recommended the annual reports from UA Centers be sent to the Provost and be subject to annual reviews.

Faculty and Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Michael Martone/Marci Daugherty*) At the December Faculty Senate meeting one member must be elected to a three-year term on the **University Merger or Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee**. Two faculty members must be elected for a three-year term on the **Mediation Committee**. The qualifications to be elected to the University Merger or Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee are to be tenured, cannot be a member of the University Mediation Committee and cannot be a member of the Faculty Senate. No two faculty members can be from the same college. Next year there will be one continuing member from Engineering, one from HES and the elected member coming from a college or school other than Engineering and HES. The outgoing member, Carol Prickett, is not eligible to be elected to the committee for two years. Dennis Sunal is also not eligible to be elected to the committee. One qualification to be elected to the University Mediation Committee is to be a non-administrative (no more than 50% administrative) faculty member. Nominations can be from any college, however, the Senate can elect only one member from A&S, C&BA, Communications and Libraries. Continuing committee members are from those four colleges and two members may be from any other college. Gary Copeland and George McClure are not eligible to be elected for another year. An email has been sent to the entire faculty from President Karen Steckol requesting nominations for these committees.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Carolyn Cassady*) The Student Affairs Committee met with Cason Kirby, SGA President. The primary SGA/student issue is **text books**. A text book rental system is being considered which could possibly require a commitment from faculty to use the same book for two years. At Bowling Green and Ole Miss students pay a 30% fee per semester. The economic situation is causing hardship for some students to purchase text books. In some cases the faculty member does not have a choice in changing text books due to the software connection. The SGA requested support from faculty to allow students to participate in **Higher Education Day** in Montgomery, Alabama next spring. The Student Affairs Committee will meet with Dr. Mark Nelson to discuss other opportunities to work with student concerns.

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

Reports from Other Committees –

Awards Committee – (*Seth Appiah-Opoku*) This committee met at the end of September to look at the purpose of the committee and the deadlines and criteria of each award. These **awards** include The William P. Bloom Award, The John Fraser Ramsey Award, The Morris Lehman Mayer Award, The Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, and The Catherine J. Randall Award. The duty of this committee is to recommend to the Vice President of Student Affairs qualified junior

or senior students or other qualified individuals for these Premier Awards. A copy of dates and deadlines and qualifications for each award was distributed.

Campus Security & Safety – *(Tom Zeiler)* A reminder was given to forward any issues or problems to this committee. The question was asked if the occurrence of vehicle break-ins had decreased and if the problem of poorly lit parking areas had been addressed. This was not discussed at the meeting.

Campus Master Plan – *(Rona Donahoe)* The Campus Master Plan Committee is meeting on Tuesday, October 28 with Dr. John McGowan, Vice Provost and CIO of Technology, to discuss integrating **networking and computing** into the master plan. Captain Tucker will also speak to this committee concerning campus safety issues. The issue of **mapping campus green space** was brought up. This would be addressed by the newly created Environmental Committee. Other concerns or suggestions should be sent to Rona Donahoe.

Curriculum Oversight Committee – This committee was reinstated for the 2006-07 academic year and was working on a revised core course issue. It did not meet for a year but will meet for the first time on Thursday, October 23.

Faculty & Staff Benefits Committee – *(Roy Maize)* This committee meets on the third Thursday of each month. The feasibility of GRAs or GTAs buying into the **retirement system** has been referred to Bill Jones. There is currently no pending action in the Legislature for this to be feasible. A report will be given at the next Faculty Senate meeting concerning human growth hormone treatment not being covered under the University's health plan. Health insurance **open enrollment** will be November 1 to December 1. A summary of the health plan and all forms can be found on the Benefits Office web site. The Benefits Office is focusing on educating employees on the benefits of flexible spending accounts and retirement plans/saving options. A report on the October 16th Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee will be given at the November Faculty Senate meeting.

Announcements –

The **Health Fair** will be held Wednesday, October 22 at Memorial Coliseum. Flu shots, glucose testing and other medical testing will be available.

A **Mental Health** liaison will be assigned in each college. Each liaison will receive training through the Counseling Center to assist with concerns about students in distress. The intent is to recognize distressed students early and direct them to proper resources. There is a crisis intervention team that will take a very pro-active approach.

Meeting adjourned 4:40 PM

A reception for the Deans hosted by the Steering Committee was held in the AIME Building Lobby from 5:00 to 6:30 PM.

