

# FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

## FACULTY SENATE MEETING

NOVEMBER 15, 2005 – 3:00 PM – FERGUSON FORUM

### APPROVED MINUTES

**ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE:** Pieter Visscher, Art Allaway, Bruce Barrett, Allen Parrish, Norm Stein

**ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE:** Natalie Adams/Pat Bauch, Nick Stinnet, Diedra Leaver-Dunn

**GUESTS:** Susan Lucas, Professional Staff Assembly; Adam Jones, Tuscaloosa News; Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Wesley Hallman, Crimson White

Roll call and quorum check by Karen Steckol.

The October 18, 2005 Faculty Senate meeting minutes were approved with corrections.

**President's Report** – (*Mathew Winston*) The announcement was made that the Faculty Senate will meet in December in the Ferguson Forum. In January, February, March and April, the Faculty Senate will be meeting in **150 Shelby Hall**. A reminder will be sent regarding the location of the January meeting. This change was prompted by the new policy of charging a fee for the use of the Forum and other meeting spaces in Ferguson. The efforts to discontinue the fee for faculty meetings were not successful. Twenty-eight percent of faculty members have not submitted **book orders** for the spring semester. Everyone was encouraged to get the orders in as soon as possible. Ken Wright, the Faculty Senate representative to the **Institutional Review Board** for non-medical matters, will step down from this position. Bruce Barrett will fill this position on the board. The Faculty Senate is short a representative to the Parking and Transportation Committee. The **Student Government Association** forwarded copies of two resolutions to the Faculty Senate. The first resolution was an acknowledgement of an outstanding professor of accounting in the Culverhouse School of Accountancy, **Dr. William D. Samson**. Dr. Samson died unexpectedly while attending a conference at Cardiff University in Wales. The recently deceased **Dr. Harold Bishop** was acknowledged by the President of the Faculty Senate. The second resolution requested that decisions to cancel or discontinue classes or university functions be made the day prior to impending weather emergencies.

The **Faculty Leadership Review Committee** is headed by Professor Norm Baldwin. This committee conducts the feedback surveys for deans and chairs. The chairs were reviewed the first year. The deans were reviewed the second year. Those results were given only to those reviewed. This year the results will be given to the chairs and to their respective deans. Continuing on this committee are Martin Bakker-Chemistry, Scott Bridges-Music, Norman Baldwin-Political Science, Pat Bauch-Education Leadership, Clyde Scott-Management, and Judy Stock-Education Research. The four volunteers for the Faculty Leadership Review Committee are Faythe Freese-Music, Sandi Laing-Communicative Disorders, Kenneth McGuire-Music Education, and James Leeper-Community Health Sciences. A motion was made to accept these for membership on the Faculty Leadership Review Committee. The Senate voted to accept this slate for membership. This ad hoc

committee has had a Faculty Senate representative. There were no volunteers from the floor so this position remains vacant. Virginia Wimberley has volunteered to fill a vacant position on the committee. The Senate voted to approve this addition.

The **Alabama Council of University Faculty Presidents** met on The University of Alabama campus last week. A reception at the Gorgas House was hosted by the Provost and Faculty Senate President Mathew Winston. If anyone wishes details about the meeting, contact Mathew Winston.

**Vice President's Report** – (*John Vincent*) No report.

**Secretary's Report** – (*Karen Steckol*) No report.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – (*John Mason & Kim Andrus*) An election was held to elect two members for the **Mediation Committee**. The Steering Committee nominated six faculty members willing to serve. They were James Cover-C&BA, Mary Alice Fields-Library, Ken McGuire-Arts & Sciences, Clyde Scott-C&BA, Norm Stein-Law, and Shane Street-A&S. There were no nominations from the floor. Paper ballots were handed out with instructions to vote for two faculty members. Over 50% of the vote went to Mary Alice Fields. A runoff was held between the next two with the highest number of votes - Norm Stein and Shane Street. Shane Street was elected. The **Merger and Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee** is composed of nine members. One member is to be elected. Those nominated are James Cover-C&BA, James Leeper-CCHS, Carol Prickett-A&S, and Clyde Scott-C&BA. The Senate elected Carol Prickett. Mathew Winston will notify those elected.

**Academic Affairs** – (*John Vincent & Marcia Barrett*) This committee continues to work on Faculty Handbook revisions as requested by the Provost.

**Faculty Life** – (*Steve Shepard/Natalie Adams & Nick Stinnet/Deidre Leaver-Dunn*) No report.

**Financial Affairs** – (*Jeanette Vandermeer & Jim Hall*) Issues concerning PEEHIP continue to be addressed by this committee. Mathew Winston made a recommendation that Karen Steckol be added to the committee established by the Provost regarding this issue. Provost Bonner has established an ad hoc committee to investigate the impact of the legislation passed concerning insurance benefits. If a person retires with fewer than 25 years of service, it costs two percent per year of what the University pays toward PEEHIP. After 25 years, the cost is two percent less per year. It is felt this will be a negative in hiring people in mid-career with 10 or 15 career years remaining.

**Research & Service** – (*Clark Midkiff & Dee Goldston*) No report.

**Student Affairs** – (*Priscilla Davis & Karen Burgess*) No report.

**Legislative Agenda** – (*Margaret Garner*) **Higher Education Day** will be held in Montgomery, Alabama on March 2, 2006. Faculty members were encouraged to be sensitive to academic needs of participating students. Transportation will be provided. Membership in the Higher Education Partnership and the UA Systems PAC was encouraged. Membership forms are available on the University of Alabama web page and through a link on the Faculty Senate web page. The organizations must grow to increase their impact on the positive development of higher education.

Meeting adjourned 4:25 PM

