

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 21, 2006 – 3:30 PM – 150 SHELBY HALL**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE:** Rona Donahoe, Douglas Lightfoot, Ed Stephenson, Jeff Weddle, Allen Wilcoxon, Laura Hebert, Marcia Barrett

**ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE:** Steve Shepard/Kevin Chou, Linda Enders/Mike Perko, Norm Stein/Ken Rosen

**GUESTS:** Bob Sigler, Keith McDowell, Adam Jones-Tuscaloosa News

The minutes from the October 17, 2006 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

Former Faculty Senate Presidents Mathew Winston and John Mason presented **Bob Sigler**, former Faculty Senate Parliamentarian, with a **resolution** commending him for outstanding service and dedication to duty. The attached resolution was read aloud to the Faculty Senate. Bob Sigler's comments included that the recognition from his peers meant a great deal to him. He first thought he would serve a short term in the Faculty Senate. He found that the Senate had a voice and sincerely advocated for faculty members. He stated that it had been a privilege to work with the Faculty Senate for the past twelve years.

**President's Report – (John Vincent)** The **evaluation of department chairs** was opened this week. The Faculty Senate began the evaluations four years ago. This is the second time for chair evaluations. The second evaluation of deans will be held next spring. The push in higher education circles for **performance standards** for universities was featured in the Tuesday, November 14, 2006 issue of *USA Today*. The progress of this topic should be followed closely as the evaluation of performance standards could be implemented in the future. Deidre Leaver-Dunn has been appointed to the **IRB Accreditation Committee**. The text of the presentation made by John Vincent to the fall Faculty Staff campus meeting is on the Faculty Senate web page. A similar presentation was given by John to the Board of Trustees at their last meeting. The SGA representatives were absent from today's meeting. The **SGA** sent a list of announcements for the Faculty Senate meeting included the following: appreciation to professors for turning in book orders on time to the Supply Store; a request for faculty to turn in to the SGA any old tests, texts, syllabi, and study guides no longer being used in classes to be filed in the SGA office; any faculty member wishing to sell class notes should contact the Supply Store representative; the SGA has developed a Study Week Task Force; the SGA has developed a pilot study program called the Student First Testing Strategy in Human Environmental Sciences with interest in faculty participation and the expansion of this program to include the entire university; the SGA's hosting a Finals Frenzy the week of December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Ferguson Plaza with pizza, drinks, and study tips with an invitation to faculty members to stop by to talk with students concerning finals;

and finally, a special thanks was issued to everyone that helped with the Blackhawk Down Leadership Symposium.

**Vice President** – (*Karen Steckol*) No report.

**Secretary** – (*Clark Midkiff*) No report.

**Academic Affairs** – (*Marcia Barrett & Martin Evans*) This committee continues to work on Faculty Handbook revisions.

**Faculty Life** – (*Steve Shepard & Lowell Baker*) The proposed **Resolution on A Policy Prohibiting Smoking Near Building Entranceways at The University of Alabama** was presented for discussion by this committee. The resolution recommends a policy that prohibits smoking from any area within thirty feet of the entranceway to any University building. The discussion included these points: the distance of thirty feet was determined from recommendations made by the Tobacco Team of the health related teams working on wellness/fitness issues and from the Center for Tobacco Educational Studies; the University Law School adopted a policy of twenty-five feet; the detrimental health risks of breathing second-hand smoke; the inability of enforcement of this policy; all types of smoke (diesel, chemical, air pollution, etc.) are in indoor and outdoor air; moving the outdoor smoke receptacles away from the building entrances; smoking outside should be enough smoke removal; air intakes sucking in smoke from outside; keeping only the main building entrances smoke free; and the lack of a thirty foot distance between buildings on campus. The resolution passed with 25 For, 12 Against and 1 Abstention.

The Faculty Life Committee continues to work on a **Family Friendly Campus** resolution. The proposed policy would allow paid leave for an individual having or adopting a child. There would be a one year extension available for tenure earning faculty members having or adopting a child. Discussion and debate continues on this issue.

The Faculty Life Committee also continues to research the **PEEHIP** insurance situation. More accurate information is being sought.

**Financial Affairs** – (*David Arnold & Jeanette Vandermeer*) The budget presentation by Lynda Gilbert and Reba Essary will be given on December 5 at 3:30 PM in 34 Bidgood.

**Research & Service** – (*Shane Street & Clark Midkiff*) A two-person study of **intellectual properties** is being pursued by this committee. The **Office of Research** is also being studied. Seven faculty members with complaints have been interviewed. A report has been compiled and given to the Research and Service Committee. The committee will review the report, and the report will be given to the Steering Committee and then to the Faculty Senate.

**Faculty and Senate Governance** – (*John Mason & Douglas Lightfoot*) Nominations, with the nominees permission, are being sought for the **Committee on Merger and Discontinuance for Academic Units**. Those nominated can be from any college other

than Arts & Sciences and Education. One must be elected. Lori Turner, Professor in Human Environmental Sciences, has been nominated by Deidre Leaver-Dunn. There are no nominees for the **Mediation Committee**. Two vacancies need to be filled with no one from Arts & Sciences eligible. One can be from Communications, one from Libraries, and two can be from any other college. Please forward any nominations to John Mason or Douglas Lightfoot or to the Faculty Senate. Elections will be held in December with those elected taking the position on January 1, 2007. Details concerning the requirements of both committees will be emailed to the Deans and the continuing members of each committee.

**Student Affairs** – (*Carolyn Cassady & Karen Burgess*) There is an interest for faculty members to become more involved in student organizations, particularly Greek organizations. The Student Affairs sub-committee will be meeting with Dr. Margaret King next Monday to discuss methods to promote more faculty involvement. Any suggestions should be emailed to the co-chairs of this committee.

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

**New Business** – Allen Wilcoxon will no longer serve as a senator due to his workload. An election will be held to name his replacement from his college's alternates.

The aim of the **SGA Student First Testing** pilot program is to prevent students from having three exams the same week during the semester. According to the proposal for one hundred and two hundred level courses, Monday, Wednesday and Friday classes would test on the first and third week of the month. Tuesday and Thursday classes would test on the second and fourth week of the month. This would not apply to any lab test or final exams. The policy would not be mandatory but the SGA would like to encourage faculty members to participate. The Dean of HES has approved a letter from the SGA to be sent to HES faculty members.

The **Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics** was formed four years ago with The University of Alabama being the first Faculty Senate to join the organization. There are presently sixty Division 1-A institutions represented as members of the coalition. The next meeting will be held in May of 2007 at Stanford University. John Mason gave a report to the Faculty Senate regarding COIA activities. A senator recommended that the policy of not allowing athletes to change their majors due to the number of credits to be achieved toward their degree be reviewed. Athletes must be on schedule for graduation in five years. The policy is definitely a disadvantage for athletes.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 PM

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON**

**A POLICY PROHIBITING SMOKING NEAR BUILDING ENTRANCEWAYS  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA**

**Whereas**, multiple major reviews of evidence have concluded that secondhand smoke causes adverse effects, particularly to the cardiovascular and respiratory systems and on the health of those exposed; and

**Whereas**, the Divisions of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs have been working together since the fall of 2005 through a working group regarding tobacco education and student health; and

**Whereas**, the Tobacco Education Strategic Health Team is aware of a variety of concerns which relate to smoking around the entrance sites to campus buildings; and

**Whereas**, the Team has studied the recent report from the U.S. Surgeon General on *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*; and

**Whereas**, it is the position of the Tobacco Education Strategic Health Team that The University of Alabama needs to take additional actions to protect students, faculty and staff from exposure to secondhand smoke by eliminating smoking from building entranceways on the campus;

**Therefore**, be it resolved by the Faculty Senate of The University of Alabama that The University is encouraged to adopt the Team's recommended policy that smoking be prohibited from any area within thirty feet of the entranceway to any University building.

***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**