

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
November 17, 2009 – 3:30 PM – Ferguson Forum

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Seth Appiah-Opoku, Steve Burch, Martin Evans, Jim Hall, Katrina Ramonell, Luke Niiler, Harold Stowell, John Vincent, Chapman Greer, Lew Silver, Karen Burgess, Brent Hardin, David Arnold, Wesley Church, Joe Sedila, SGA Representative

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Mike Dugan/Ron Dulek; Thad Ulzen/Pam Foster

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

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

The minutes of the October 20, 2009 Faculty Senate meeting were approved with one correction.

Ballots for the election of two Mediation Committee members were distributed.

Margaret Garner, Chairperson of the Legislative Agenda Committee, introduced Gordon Stone, Executive Director of the Higher Education Partnership, to speak to the Faculty Senate meeting. Mr. Stone expressed his appreciation for the hard work of the faculty which is the core of the **Higher Education Partnership** organization. This organization also represents alumni, students and all employees of state partnership institutions. Revenue for the Education Trust Fund is economically based, so funding decreases have occurred due to a downturn in the economy. Partnership members should remind elected officials of the continuous need for education funding. Fairness and representation in policy decisions are primary issues. March 4, 2010 is Higher Education Day in Montgomery. Beginning in 2008 there was a 13% cut in education funding, proration up to 18% in 2009. With administration using monies from the Rainy Day Fund, the 18% was cut back to 11%. The year 2009 is ending with 24% less money. October 2 brought a 7 ½% across the board cut bringing the number to 31.5% less money. There will be 41.5% less money for education if the economy does not improve by October 2010. One proposed method of dealing with the decreased funding is having benefit contributions increased. The other side would be a per student funding proposal to educate every child on the same monetary scale. The Courage and Conviction Award citing boldness and standing for convictions was awarded to Speaker of the House Seth Hammett. Gordon Stone will be happy to go to any department or group to speak about Higher Education Partnership activities and membership.

President Karen Steckol announced the election of Pat Bauch of Education and Meredith Render of the Law School to the **Mediation Committee**.

The Director of **Procurement Services**, Kevin Stephens; Judy Voss, Assistant Director of Purchasing; Susan Petty, Assistant Director for Facilities Procurement; and Tina Dora, Assistant Director of Accounts Payable attended the Faculty Senate meeting to address questions forwarded to them by members of the Faculty Senate. Cindy Hogue was present to address contracts and grants questions. A power point presentation will be sent to President Karen Steckol to distribute to Faculty Senate members. The standing contract web site is currently up-to-date. Web site accuracy is critical to users. A “Find” option or index for this web site is being developed. The best way to purchase low-cost research items needed immediately should be put on a P-card. If access to a P-card is not available, use your best judgment and explain circumstances to the Purchasing Department for reimbursement. If in doubt on the proper method to make a purchase, call 348-5230 for assistance. If a vendor will not allow a tax exempt purchase using University documentation, notify the Purchasing Department. Taxes should be paid on purchases from foreign countries. Ownership of P-cards is determined by each department chair. Usually standing contracts are for one year or no more than five years with multiple renewals. Input and recommendations are needed from faculty members. Competitive pricing and convenience are the goals of the Purchasing Department. Cooperative purchasing with other institutions is a method of cost savings. State law requires The University of Alabama to bid any purchase over \$7,500. Surrounding states have anywhere from \$15,000 to \$40,000 limits before bids are sought. P-card purchases from \$2,000 to \$7,499 require one written quote. Grant reconciliation issues were discussed along with foreign purchases, EBay purchasing, charges posted when item is shipped, and the new reconciliation system.

President’s Report – (*Karen Steckol*) President Steckol gave a presentation to the Board of Trustees meeting. UAB will give their presentation in February.

Comments and input from anyone concerning the **Foster Auditorium** renovation and civil rights commemorative displays will be reviewed. There will be two public forums conducted with dates to be announced. Comments can be made online on the Campus Master Plan website. Plans are certainly open to change. The use of the building, parking, courtyard design and design of the markers were discussed. Dan Wolfe of the Facility Department is the point person. Steven Hobbs suggested using space in Farrah Hall as museum display space for Foster Auditorium historical artifacts.

Vice President’s Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) No report.

Secretary’s Report – (*Jeanette VanderMeer*) No report.

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) The Core Curriculum Oversight Committee has been presented a resolution draft addressing the learning goals for the Core Curriculum. There will be a campus-wide discussion concerning this issue and it will come back to the Senate.

Faculty Life – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn & Lowell Baker*) The staff version of the Climate Survey has not been sent. The faculty version has been delayed. The committee wanted more specificity in the survey.

Financial Affairs – (*Katrina Ramonell & Steven Hobbs*) Vice President Lynda Gilbert will make a budget presentation at a December 1 meeting in Room 2436 in the Science and Engineering Complex. This will be the regular Steering Committee meeting with an invitation for all Senators to attend.

Information Technology – (*Ray White & Jim Hall*) This committee will have information technology exchanges in the next meeting with John McGowan sometime after Thanksgiving. Wireless technology implementation, state of networking, classroom and lecture hall technology, costs, interaction between the three campuses, help desk issues were discussed and addressed by this committee.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Harold Stowell*) The proposed Research Misconduct Policy will replace the current policy following the process which includes a Faculty Senate vote in January. This document will be an appendix to the Faculty Handbook. The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee will determine if this requires a full campus-wide faculty wide vote.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Carolyn Cassidy*) No report.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) Gordon Stone's presentation was this committee's report.

Other Committees –

President Steckol requested that she be notified of any University committees that are not meeting or have not met, especially UA Standing Committees that have a Senate representative.

New Business – The Faculty Senate will meet in Room 110 in the Child Development Center for all spring semester meetings.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 PM.