

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
November 15, 2011 – 3:30 PM – AIME

Approved Minutes

President Clark Midkiff introduced Gordon Stone, Executive Director of the Higher Education Partnership organization. Governor Robert Bentley has pledged support for higher education funding, communicating the value of higher education to our citizens and involving higher education institutions in Alabama's economic development. The national average of adults with college educations is 27% while in Alabama the average is 21%. That differential creates a huge challenge for economic development and creation of jobs in Alabama. To reverse this trend more resources must be developed to empower education at all levels. A great challenge is created for administrators with pressure on increasing tuition and fees and removing stumbling blocks for those young people wanting to pursue opportunities offered by acquiring an extended education. The Higher Education Partnership is committed to communicating to the public the great benefits offered and the good job done by higher education institution's faculty and staff.

Higher Education Day will be March 1, 2012 in Montgomery, Alabama. Faculty members are encouraged to schedule classes and tests allowing students to attend.

The HEP annual conference will be held the second weekend next August in Sandestin, Florida.

The tax revenue rate, appropriation and specific distribution were discussed.

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Steve Burch, Andrea Cevasco, Seth Panitch, Katrina Ramonell, Ed Stephenson, Vijaya Sundar, Steve Miller, Carol Mills, Steve Katsinas, Reuben Cook, Jeanette VanderMeer, Wesley Church.

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Priscilla Davis/Seth Appiah-Opoku, Phil Harris/Harold Stowell, Carmen Mayer-Robin/ Luke Niiler, Liza Wilson/Dave Dagle, Susan Burkett/Sarrit RoyPaul Horwitz/Fred Vars, Jill Grogg/Shawn Averkamp.

GUESTS: Gordon Stone, Executive Director of Higher Education Partnership; Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

Vice President Deidre Leaver-Dunn called roll in the absence of Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer and checked the quorum following the Gordon Stone comments.

The minutes of the October 18, 2011 Faculty Senate meeting were approved with the exception of the "Reports from Other Committee Report" which will be voted on in the December 13th meeting.

President's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) President Midkiff spoke at the Board of Trustees meeting.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Faculty Senate's Past President, Committee Co-chair and Senator Dr. Karen Steckol.

Vice President's Report – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn*) No report.

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

Reports from Senate Committees –

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) The Academic Affairs Committee met with the Financial Affairs Committee last month. The issue concerning quality of classroom space will be discussed in the December meeting.

Faculty Life – (*Lowell Baker & Wesley Church*) Deidre Leaver-Dunn reported the maternity leave update has been posted on the Provost's website. These updates are the guidelines developed to insure appropriate administration of the new policy now in place.

Financial Affairs – (*Robert McLeod & Katrina Ramonell*) The Financial Affairs Committee met with UA's Vice President for Financial Affairs and the Provost on November 1 to discuss the 2011-12 University budget. The State appropriation for 2012 is \$21,000 greater than it was in 2006. The highest appropriation was in 2008 and was \$44 million less than 2011 with the deficit addressed by increased enrollment and tuition. In 1978 State appropriation was 80% and tuition 20%. It is now State 20% and 80% tuition. Compared to the SUG average the University's out-of-state tuition is slightly below the average and in-state tuition is slightly above. The issue of sustainability of this model in terms of being tuition driven is a recurring item being considered by the Financial Affairs Committee.

Information Technology – (*Carolyn Cassady & Brad Hodges*) The Information Technology Committee will be meeting with John McGowan, Vice Provost of Information Technology, later this month. Vice President Joe Benson has formed a committee to develop a data management plan.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Ion Stancu*) No report.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Rona Donahoe & Charlotte Herrin*) Appreciation was expressed to Charlotte Herrin for agreeing to co-chair this committee. The **Mediation Committee** consists of six faculty members with two rotating off each year. The delayed election to replace Mediation Committee members rotating off was conducted last month with Elizabeth Aversa, School of Library & Information Studies and Elaine Martin, A&S Modern Languages & Classics elected replacing Mindy Nancarrow and Walt Robbins. Those nominated to replace Karla Carmichael (Education) and Janis Edwards (Communications) rotating off the Mediation Committee are Alan Blum (CCHS), Jerry Busenitz (A&S Physics & Astronomy), Susan Burkett (Engineering), James Cover (C&BA Economics & Finance) and Noel Engebretson (A&S School of Music). In voting for the replacements no more than two on the Mediation Committee can be from a particular college. Only one from A&S in this group of nominees can be elected since there is already a member from A&S on the Mediation Committee. Paper ballots were handed out. Jerry Busenitz of A&S and Susan Burkett of Engineering were elected.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Seth Panitch*) The Student Affairs Committee met with SGA President Stephen Vincent. The SGA is working on an endowed student scholarship fund based on financial need and merit with a one-million-dollar nine-year completion goal. The amount of \$46,200 has been raised in six months.

Seating problems at Bryant-Denny Stadium are being addressed by a committee with the SGA as one of the participants.

The SGA has a “Campaign to Connect” and co-sponsored an event for veteran students and their families.

The SGA requested continued efforts toward a pedestrian friendly campus particularly bicyclist and pedestrian safety.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) Senators were encouraged to go on the Higher Education Partnership website and fill out the membership form to become a member of this organization.

Reports from Other Committees –

Rona Donahoe reported from the Faculty & Staff Benefits Committee that the University basically subsidized the health care reserve shortfall to avoid a rate increase in January.

Old Business – A senator reported great interest from his colleagues concerning a **smoke-free** campus. The surroundings should not make smokers more comfortable or encouraging. The Faculty Life Committee is pursuing this issue. The University does have a no-smoking 30 foot perimeter around building entrances. A survey is being conducted to analyze how effective this policy has been in the past. The survey outcome will be reported to the Faculty Senate. There are several institutions declaring their campuses totally smoke free. A meeting is being held of those institution representatives to discuss implementation of the plan. The College of Nursing has voted to be smoke free. The University will pay for some of employee’s medications to help them in their efforts to quit smoking.

A second annual 5K run was held November 13 with 500 participants as part of a health and wellness promotion.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 PM.