

FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

DECEMBER 10, 2002 – 3:30 PM – FERGUSON FORUM

Minutes

Roll call and quorum check – (*Keith Woodbury*)

Absent: Karen Burgess, Catherine Davies, Jeff Richetto, Mitch Shelton, Roy Ann Sherrod, Tavan Trent, Susan Vrbsky, Gary Warren

President's Report – (*Steve Miller*) Wythe Holt served as substitute Parliamentarian for this meeting. Copies of Dr. Mason's letter responding to the reallocation issues brought forward by the Faculty Senate were made available. Dr. Mason's letter stated that the process of the Reallocation Committee report will be for him to check with the Systems Office concerning any legal issues, then Dean Robert Olin, Chair of the task force, will present the recommendations to a joint meeting of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee and the Resources and Priorities Committee, with two weeks to comment on the recommendations. The Task Force will have one week to consider those comments before returning the recommendations to Dr. Mason. There will be a review of the recommendations to determine the legalities of the proposed changes. Dean Olin will provide the committee report to Dr. Mason by December 20.

The reception for the deans in November was very successful and it has been recommended to have a social reception for the deans once a year hosted by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee, plus a working meeting with the deans every year.

Committee Reports

Legislative Committee – (*Margaret Garner*) Higher Education Day will be March 13th, 2003, and all faculty members are encouraged to support and participate in this event. The Education Trust Fund is in trouble and the need for building the case for serious tax reform to provide a more stable source of funding for all education is critical. It would be very helpful to assist students wishing to participate. There is a Job Fair in conjunction with Higher Education Day activities. On December 3, Governor-elect Bob Riley met with all four-year University Presidents, the Executive Director of the Higher Education Partnership and a number of the governmental relations representatives of each institution with supportive comments concerning higher education and its role in research and development of the economic engine of the state. The Legislative Agenda Committee will again sponsor the Legislative Breakfasts in the spring. New benefits have been developed for members of the Higher Education Partnership and everyone is encouraged to join this organization.

Faculty Leadership Review Committee – (*Norm Baldwin*) Copies of the survey forms providing feedback concerning deans and chairs were given to Faculty Senate members to fill out and return to Norm. This committee is developing an instrument to provide feedback to deans and chairs.

Student Affairs – (*Clark Midkiff & Jeff Richetto*) The Student Affairs Committee has met with John Schmidt and ELI members concerning the quality of instruction by International

Teaching Assistants. Some students have registered complaints and this committee will try to determine if there is a problem in this area. A representative from the Math Department will be invited to meet with this committee since the Math Department employs a good number of GTA's to teach freshman math.

Senate Operations – (*Frannie James & Harry Price*) The first issue addressed by this committee is a proposed change in by-laws allowing one delegate representing the Black Faculty and Staff Association privileges of the floor including the right to address the Senate on any pending questions subject to applicable rules or parliamentary procedure. This delegate would be allowed voice but would not be allowed to vote. Hopefully, over time this delegate would seek election as a senator. This proposed change was presented at this meeting with a vote to be taken at the January 21, 2003, Faculty Senate meeting. The policy for qualification and acceptance of delegates was questioned. No guidelines are currently in place. It was suggested that a policy should be established. The positive impact of this particular addition would be to accomplish inclusion and broaden the Faculty Senate. Any group associated with the University could seek the addition of a delegate with the Faculty Senate determining the appropriateness of that addition. A concern was expressed that a great number could seek representation.

The second item from this committee concerns the election of a representative to the Merger and Discontinuance Committee. This person cannot be a senator. Scott Bridges has been nominated with nominations from the floor of Amy Ward, Stephen Tomlinson and Pat Bauch. Scott Bridges was voted in to serve and he has accepted. If for any reason he is unable to serve, we will then contact Amy, Stephen and Pat, in that order.

Research & Service – (*Jim Eddy & Subhabrata Chakraborti*) This committee is looking at library policy concerning lost and late returns of library books. The other issue being considered is the manner in which funds generated through grants and contracts are distributed. Healthy Campus 2010 is moving rapidly and efficiently addressing issues and problems pertaining to creating a healthy campus for students, faculty and staff. Healthy Campus 2010 is divided into three groups, with one group considering academics, one group looking at campus life issues, and the third group looking at reduction of harm. Hazing has not been addressed by any of these groups but it will be brought forward in their next meeting.

Planning & Operations – (*John Mason & Mathew Winston*) The SGA recycling project is being monitored by this committee. With the permission of the University, the SGA is seeking bids on 24 three-container canisters costing \$1,500 each. The Chairman of Parking and Traffic has been contacted concerning the reservation of two-to-five parking spaces at Ferguson for Post Office patrons. A meeting with Roger Thompson will be held concerning the drafting of the University calendar for 2003-04 and 2004-05. The Faculty Handbook states that the Planning and Operations committee is to be consulted in the development of this calendar. They will discuss having two four-week summer sessions rather than having two five-week summer sessions. This would allow a later start for the spring semester and more flexibility all around. A fall break was denied by administration but could possibly be addressed again in the future. The majority of educational institutions in Alabama have a fall break. Spring break has been set to align with city and county schools state testing dates (no break before testing) and has no connection with AEA.

Financial Affairs – (*Keith Woodbury & Catherine Davies*) The consensus was that a statement should be issued from faculty to administration concerning salary enhancement and reallocation. The statement is in two parts. The introduction states the purpose and gives the state of salaries at The University of Alabama with data included. The second

part deals with revenue shortfall being created by the mandated salary increase for faculty. There are three groups, the system level recommendations would be long-term and would not impact the immediate budget problems, while the University level includes recommendations for revenue enhancement and a reiteration that all revenue enhancements be exhausted before reallocations are considered. At the division level there is a statement that this is an opportune time to critically assess courses, programs and departments to ensure they contribute to the mission of their division and The University. This committee recommends that this document, with the approval of the Faculty Senate, be forwarded to Interim President Dr. Mason, for his consideration and use before the final decisions are made concerning reallocation. Concern was expressed that tuition increases of 8% over the next five years would be a financial problem for students and would impact the diversity of the student body. It was also suggested that the source and amount of money for financial aid for students be determined. This is not an endorsement by this committee of the tuition increase but a statement of fact that approval came from the Board of Trustees for the increase. The point was made that the growth in administration expenses should be addressed. The statement "Scrutinize and reduce administrative costs" will be added as 2.B.b. A copy of a printout of all University administrative salaries compared to all 30 institutions in the SUG was made available by one of the senators. A recommendation was made to delete the naming of specific non-academic units since this could be interpreted as targeting those named. The Senate voted to request the Financial Affairs Committee to complete fine-tuning this document and forward it to the Interim University President. The document will be emailed to all senators for comments before being forwarded.

Faculty Life – (*Wythe Holt & Nick Stinnett*) No report.

Academic Affairs – (*Beth Macauley & Garry Warren*) The statement from the Faculty Senate on "Enhancing Student Attendance" was presented. This statement addresses the concerns over student class attendance in lower level classes. A survey suggested that this is a growing problem. The sentence from the prior statement under 7.a. has been changed to read: "Faculty are also encouraged to consider: a. adjusting class content and standards such that habitual attendance will result in commensurately higher grades". The right of faculty to have academic freedom was stressed in the document. The committee's intention is to circulate this statement to all faculty members, Vice President of Academic Affairs and all Deans. The Senate voted to accept the statement as amended.

The senators were reminded to respond to Dr. Mason's request for feedback on "10 for 2010".

Meeting adjourned 5:00 PM