

FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

DECEMBER 9, 2003 – FERGUSON FORUM – 3:30 PM

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Roll call and quorum declared by Roy Ann Sherrod.

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Richard Richards, Joshua Rothman, Don Hooks, Karen Burgess, Frannie James (resigned), Will Schreiber, Mitch Shelton, Carol Drolen, Lori Messinger, Caryl Cooper, Harry Price (excused)

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Jessica Lacher-Feldman, ALT Lisa Yuro

GUESTS: Joanna Hutt, Dialog

The minutes of November 18, 2003 were approved with confirmation to be made that the Shelton State resolution was worded correctly.

The first action item was any additional nominations and the election to two University standing committees. Wythe Holt reported that Bill Andreen withdrew his name. George Franke nominated Kathy Bindon for the **Merger and Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee**. There were no more nominations. George Franke relayed Kathy Bindon's qualifications for this committee including her status as an accounting professor, experience in the Business School and her background qualifying her as an outstanding committee member. It was voted to close the nominations and Kathy Bindon was elected with a unanimous vote. Wythe Holt nominated Pam Bucy from the Law School for the **Mediation Committee**. Bob Moore nominated Al Brophy from the Law School. The point was made that diverse representation is needed on the Mediation Committee. Arts & Sciences has two representatives on this committee. Only two representatives may come from the same school or college. Someone from any other school or college could be elected but not from Arts & Sciences. Joan Atkinson was mentioned as a nominee, however, she is a member of the Merger and Discontinuance committee and cannot serve on both committees. It was moved to close the nominations. Wythe Holt stated that both nominees are committed to justice and would act according to their consciences. Pam Bucy and Al Brophy were elected to the Mediation Committee unanimously.

Sheri Shuler presented a resolution in memoriam of Professor H. Bailey Thomson. Professor Thomson passed away in November of 2003. The resolution reads:

Resolution

In Memoriam of

Professor H. Bailey Thomson

1949 - 2003

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate of The University of Alabama wishes to honor the memory of University of Alabama Professor H. Bailey Thomson, an exceptional professor of journalism in the College of Communication and Information Sciences, and to express its gratitude for his leaving irreplaceable gifts to the University, to his profession and to the state of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, to the University Bailey Thomson leaves a legacy of excellence in teaching, research and service that will always be difficult to match. Professor Thomson was a beloved teacher, colleague and mentor, as shown in the eagerness of students and faculty to come forward and express their gratitude for his example and sharing of knowledge. Many of these testimonials can be seen at the website Dateline Alabama at www.datelinealabama.com, created by students in C&IS; and

WHEREAS, Bailey Thomson joined the faculty as the Reese Phifer Visiting Professor of Journalism in 1997. He is called a "difference-maker" by friend and colleague Dr. Culpepper "Cully" Clark, dean of the College of Communication and Information Sciences. Bailey Thomson attained full professor status this year; and

WHEREAS, among Bailey Thomson's numerous gifts to his department and the University is the Clarence Cason Non-Fiction Writing Award, which is now recognized among the nation's finest prizes. Previous recipients have included Gay Talese, E.O. Wilson, Howell Raines, Albert Murray, Wayne Flynt, and Diane McWhorter; and

WHEREAS, a twenty-five-year journalist, Bailey Thomson believed passionately that journalism was not simply a profession but a "way of knowing," a way of coming to understand the social world in thoughtful, caring, practical language, as Dr. Clark said in his eulogy delivered at the Nov. 30 Memorial Service in Tuscaloosa, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, for his profession Bailey Thomson left a legacy of excellence in journalistic and editorial writing. In 1994 the Mobile Register published a special section titled "Sins of the Fathers," coordinated, edited and in part written by Bailey Thomson. This section explored Alabama's social, economic and political problems linked to the state's 1901 Constitution. It became a finalist for that year's Pulitzer Prize. In 1999, the American Society of Newspaper Editors presented him its Distinguished Writing Award for his series "Dixie's Broken Heart," published by the Mobile Register. Runners-up that year were Howell Raines of The New York Times and Paul Greenberg of The Arkansas Gazette. Two years later Bailey Thomson was again a finalist for that award and for the Pulitzer Prize; and

WHEREAS, another of Bailey Thomson's editorial series, "Century of Shame," won the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association's Carmage Walls Distinguished Writing Award; and

WHEREAS, to the state of Alabama, Bailey Thomson left a legacy of quiet activism for changes that would benefit all Alabamians; and

WHEREAS, Bailey Thomson had been actively and vigorously working for constitutional reform since 1995. He continued his fight for constitutional reform, and in recent years, was heavily involved with Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform. He also served as editor and contributor to a book of essays published by the University of Alabama Press titled Century of Controversy: Constitutional Reform in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Bailey Thomson leaves behind wife Kristi, a Brookwood Middle School teacher, and daughter, Sarah, a sophomore at the University, as well as countless friends, faculty and students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Faculty Senate of The University of Alabama that it extends its heartfelt sympathy to the family of H. Bailey Thomson and its gratitude for the legacies of excellence and activism he leaves to all.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be included in the permanent minutes of the Faculty Senate.

Unanimously adopted by the Faculty Senate

The University of Alabama

December 9, 2003

Karla Carmichael helped coordinate the resolution. The resolution was passed by a vote of the Faculty Senate unanimously. It will be printed on parchment paper and presented to H. Bailey Thomson's wife and daughter at the January meeting of the Faculty Senate. Copies will be sent to the Governor and the leaders of the House and Senate and Gordon Stone of HEP.

Steve Miller of the Student Affairs Committee presented the proposed changes for the University **Student Handbook**. This issue was postponed from last month's meeting. The proposed changes would be in the first six or seven pages of the handbook under Registration Privileges, Withdrawal and Denial of Registration. Standards and regulations are not stated clearly with clarification and strengthening needed. The three areas are rules and regulations for groups using University facilities, groups not following local, state and federal laws would be banned from campus and regulations for registration of student organizations. These would be recommended to the Vice President of Student Affairs to be added to the handbook in the appropriate places. There are 250 student organizations on campus with 250 advisers needed. Some advisers are serving multiple organizations and some advisers have never been on campus. Advisers should be part-time or full-time faculty or staff. It was also pointed out that the Student Handbook is disjointed and should be completely revised. The three recommendations came from the Steering Committee and the vote in favor of those recommendations was in favor with one "no" and one "abstention".

A resolution was presented at the November Faculty Senate meeting regarding **ACHE**. Bill Jones, the Government Liaison to Montgomery, and Tom Davis, member of ACHE, attended the Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting in December. It was their recommendation that a resolution not be passed at this time. The document composed by Roland Pugh after meeting with several University presidents determined that a central governing body for higher education was needed. Other recommendations were in this document but no one from ACHE had seen the document. It was recommended to wait and see what the developments are and address those when it becomes clear what issues require action. John Mason and Mathew Winston attended the ACHE meetings held last Thursday and Friday to get a better sense of this organization's direction.

Wythe Holt questioned what action had been taken concerning the request that the President of the Faculty Senate take questions concerning the **health care issue** of increased costs to the President of the University. It was also proposed that the Benefits Committee have a week to consider any changes regarding faculty benefits. John Mason responded that he had done so and was waiting on the University President's response.

President Witt had requested two weeks to consider those questions. The increases in health care costs, parking and recreation facility fees are considered a decrease in faculty salaries. The increase in co-pay begins January 1. The faculty spoke loudly and clearly with 100% voting against VIVA health care and it was defeated.

The **Committee on Committees** is meeting on Wednesday, December 10th for discussion of filling the vacancy left by the resignation of Frannie James with an email ballot to follow. Committee preference forms will be sent to the faculty. Everyone was encouraged to indicate the committee on which they would be willing to serve. Faculty representation is critical and the same faculty members seem to be the ones called on over and over for service. If there are any recommendations for faculty to serve on the University Committee on Committees, please forward those to President John Mason. It was suggested that committees review their charges regularly to make certain that their activities match their charges. The Senate Operations committee is addressing this issue at the present time.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Margaret Rice*) ACHE materials were sent to the committee for preparation in the event discussion of the ACHE resolution continued. This committee is also working on two proposed resolutions

Faculty Life – (*Karla Carmichael & Nick Stinnett*) This committee is continuing to work on faculty benefits.

Financial Affairs – (*Catherine Davies & George Franke*) This committee met with the new Vice President Kennedy concerning the financial situation of the **University budget**. Kennedy is working on a power point presentation to be posted on the Faculty Senate web site. Kennedy answered questions and was open with the committee.

Planning & Operations – (*Mohammed Sharif & Mathew Winston*) Planning and Operations is considering the issue of a **four week summer semester**. The Provost brought this forward again. The standing of this issue is uncertain at this time. A plan for identifying and **registering faculty organizations** not associated with a department or academic unit was brought before the Steering Committee with a negative response. The committee would welcome suggestions or ideas concerning the process of identifying and registering bona fide faculty organizations. The regulations for qualifying for cost-free campus mail usage were discussed. **Postal regulations** seem to be complicated and further inquiries are being made through the postal service in Chicago. They would be willing to send someone to explain and clarify the regulations. The Provost has banned a publication from free campus mail usage citing postal regulations. If the organization wishing to use free campus mail is a statewide organization, they do not qualify for cost free mailing. The Alabama Academe and The Alabama Observer are the publications questioning mail regulations and possible violation of the first amendment. It was suggested that attention brought to the mail system could possibly result in less privilege of usage. There is a legal case that a ruling went against a University in a similar case.

Research & Service – (*Wolfgang Bertsch & Don Hooks*) There has been difficulty in establishing a meeting of this committee. There is willingness to work and there was a request to review the charge of this committee.

Senate Operations – (*Robert Moore & Harry Price*) Continued work on the revision of the bylaws was reported by this committee.

Student Affairs – (*Caryl Cooper & Steve Miller*) No report. (Student Handbook report above)

Legislative Agenda – (Margaret Garner) The **Higher Education Day** will be held in Montgomery on February 26, 2004, with transportation and lunch provided. The next budget consideration by the Legislation will be a difficult one with strong efforts to fund K-12 with high education funding. There are 80,000 members of AEA presenting their influence on the next budget. The Faculty Senate has gone on record in support of the UA system PAC, the advocate for The University of Alabama educational system. The Higher Educational Partnership is composed of representatives of all fifteen educational institutions in the state of Alabama. A membership and participation campaign is being set in motion in January. A request for volunteers to assist in the advocacy for the University system was made. There is a retreat for training students willing to help in this area. The UA SGA has led the state in getting students and student organizations to join this effort. Support can be given through payroll deduction contributions and membership dues. One senator expressed dismay at a solicitation being made for a political action committee. It was stated that the Board of Trustees had endorsed the PAC and HEP. The Parliamentarian stated that anyone can speak at a meeting of the Faculty Senate meeting at their invitation and that the Faculty Senate had created the Legislative Agenda committee. The point was made that joining these organization will only strengthen the position of the UA system.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 PM