

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2007 – 3:30 PM – 150 SHELBY HALL**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Douglas Lightfoot, Shane Street, Seth Panitch, Giles D’Sousa, Jerry Weaver, Karen Burgess, Jeff Weddle, Sharon Nichols, Kagendo Mutua, Lisa Scherff, Viola Acoff, Clark Midkiff, Linda Enders, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Norm Stein, Wesley Church

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Brian Evans/Brian Bishop

Roll call and quorum check by Faculty Senate Vice President Karen Steckol.

The minutes from the November 20, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

President’s Report – (*John Vincent*) The **SGA** representative to the Faculty Senate was again absent from the meeting. The **United Way** campaign raised \$308,000 reaching 137% of the goal set by the University. Provost Judy Bonner has named Tom Zeiler to the “**Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans and Department Chairpersons and in the Evaluation of Academic Programs Committee**”. Christian Smith and Stacy Jones of the Office of Dean of Students presented the proposed **registration process** for all campus events to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee. The Steering Committee protested the proposal in light of the number of events on campus, approval response time, and the lack of clear guidelines on which events require registration. Some suggestions included limiting registration to student events, catered events or events with a certain minimum number of people. Steve Gregory and Charlie Boswell of Logistics and Support Services gave a report/review of **recycling** on campus to the Steering Committee. Campus recycling does not make a profit putting the University in a financial subsidizing position. Congratulations were extended to faculty members of **Shelton State** Community College for the selection of a president sought and recommended by this group. The new president is addressing administration and faculty joint governance for the institution. The Faculty Senate passed a resolution a few years ago requesting the establishment of an **environmental committee** but was denied. The Provost is receptive to this proposal at this time. This committee would survey our environmental resources on campus and establish policies regarding the preservation of plants and woodland areas. The environmental committee proposal was given to the Faculty Senate Research and Service Committee.

Vice President’s Report – (*Karen Steckol*) There were three Legislators on campus for a meeting to determine methods to acquire funding from the Legislature for a model autism program. In speaking with Robert Bentley, Cam Ward and Gerald Allen, Karen expressed disappointment with the omission of a nursing doctoral degree program at UA. One such program was awarded to Troy State University. Funding for UA was also discussed.

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & Rona Donahoe*) This committee met with the Provost last Tuesday. The Provost presented information about the addition of faculty in response to increased enrollment. The delay in adding faculty was attributed to the concentration of raising faculty salaries which is now close to the fiftieth percentile. The addition of new faculty will be

the main priority over the next few years. The Provost reviewed information about this year and five year trends to determine new faculty allocations. Arts & Sciences has 59% of total credit hour production. There are 4,285 new majors with 23% in C&BA, 20% in HES, 14% in A&S with the remaining distribution in other colleges. New money from the Legislature is not expected in the coming year other than the coverage of expenses of the retirement system and PEEHIP. There is increased interest in another cluster hire with the focus on research. Funding is a major consideration in such a hire. The Provost has made every effort to have an instant response for instructional support requests such as classroom space, etc. The Provost was asked if it would be helpful for this committee to collect information from faculty concerning teaching loads in their programs and the use of temporary faculty. The problem with this proposal would be the chain of command. The lists composed from faculty input would need to correspond with the needs listed by the deans. It was suggested to formulate a standard questionnaire. Concerns expressed included the quality and number of temporary faculty, contract faculty, different track faculty, and models for hiring faculty.

Faculty Life – (*Lowell Baker & Deidre Leaver-Dunn*) The Faculty Life Committee had a joint meeting with the Financial Affairs Committee and defers to them for their report.

Financial Affairs – (*David Arnold & Jeanette Vandermeer*) Information had been gathered concerning the cost of remedying the PEEHIP problem experienced by those retiring prior to twenty-five years of service. Efforts are constant to keep this issue before UA administration. The numbers will be refined to include attrition, exact cost and other factors. These committees will review this information and present it to the Faculty Senate in February.

Research & Service – (*Shane Street & Ed Stephenson*) No report.

Student Affairs – (*Carolyn Cassady & Melondie Carter*) Margaret Garner met with this committee and presented an overview of student services including alcohol awareness and health and safety. Ninety six percent of students have completed the alcohol awareness program with ninety nine percent logged on to complete the program.

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

Faculty and Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Roy Maize*) Stan E. Jones, Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics Professor and Walter Robbins, Culverhouse School of Accountancy Professor were nominated for the **Merger and Discontinuance Committee**. There were no nominations from the floor. Stan E. Jones was elected. The nominees for the **Mediation Committee** were Mindy Nancarrow, Art History Professor; Walter Robbins, Culverhouse School of Accountancy Professor; Stan E. Jones, Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics Professor; and Jeffrey Richetto, Associate Professor of Geography. There were no nominations from the floor. The motion was made, seconded and passed to elect Walter Robbins by acclamation. Only one of the two remaining could be elected since two could not be elected from Arts & Sciences. Mindy Nancarrow was elected to the Mediation Committee. John Mason will forward the election results to the Provost and the chairperson of the CUC.

The usage of the **faculty activity reporting system** was discussed. The ease of using the system depends on the amount of information that has to be put into the form. If you have a discipline that does not generate a lot of paperwork and does not have a lot of student advisees, it is easier to use. If you have a lot of information to be entered, it takes a lot of time. Discussion continued

with helpful tips to make using the system easier. There is much to be worked out before the system is ready for campus-wide usage.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 PM

The Steering Committee was asked to remain for an information item.