

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2011 – 3:30 PM – ROOM 110 AIME**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Stevan Marcus, Osiris Molina, Seth Panitch, Katrina Ramonell, Ian Stancu, Vijaya Sundar, Carol Mills, Steve Katsinas, Kagendo Mutua, Wayne Urban, Brad Hodges, Reuben Cook, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Paul Horwitz, Marcia Barrett, Charlotte Herrin.

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Harold Elder/James Cover, Carmen Mayer-Robin/John Blitz.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

The minutes of the November 15, 2011 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

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

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

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) The Academic Affairs Committee has forwarded their recommendations for the Provost's survey concerning quality of classroom space.

The committee has been waiting for the Provost's response to questions regarding how grades are calculated for major GPA and whether a change has been made without informing faculty members. The senate president informed the senate that he had received the information. When the Registrar calculates the major GPA, the last successful grade is counted. For example, if a student makes a "F" and later makes a "C" the "C" is the grade counted in the undergraduate grade calculation. The committee had received information contrary to this previously but was glad to learn that the calculation was being performed properly and had not been changed.

Faculty Life – (*Lowell Baker & Wesley Church*) No report.

Financial Affairs – (*Robert McLeod & Katrina Ramonell*) No report.

Information Technology – (*Carolyn Cassady & Brad Hodges*) The National Science Foundation now requires a data management plan be incorporated in proposals. Most of the data management plans from other institutions involve the University Library. Tom Wilson from UA Libraries is heading up the committee to develop a data management plan and will involve Joe Benson, Vice President for Research, and John McGowan, Vice Provost of Information Technology. The Faculty Senate Information Technology Committee has been invited to meet with the data management group early next semester for an update and input. The date and location of the meeting will be forwarded. Any Faculty Senate member is also invited. The University Information Technology Committee is focused on governance while the Faculty Senate Information Technology Committee is focused more on input and bringing faculty related technology issues to the attention of the UA Information Technology Committee.

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

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Rona Donahoe & Charlotte Herrin*) The three Ombudspersons serve three year terms and qualifications include a minimum of seven years experience teaching and research at The University of Alabama, cannot be a member of the Faculty Senate or a member of the Mediation Committee, cannot be an administrator and must be from Arts & Sciences for this particular set of nominations. The Ombudsperson member distribution stipulates one from Arts & Sciences, one from Business and Engineering and one from the other colleges/schools. Keith Woodbury and Dee Goldston are continuing members. Current member, Tatiana Summers, will rotate off this year. Nominations must be in by the February Faculty Senate meeting. The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee will make certain the nominees are qualified. An email should be sent to the entire faculty two months prior requesting nominations.

Faculty Senate nominations are due for the positions of President, Vice President and Secretary. Letters of intent should be submitted to the Faculty and Senate Governance Committee by February 10th with elections to be held at the March Faculty Senate meeting.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Seth Panitch*) No report.

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

Reports from Other Committees—

No reports.

President Clark Midkiff received a resolution from UAB Faculty Senate President John C. Chatham opposing the Alabama Immigration Law HB56. It states as follows:

Faculty Senate Resolution on Alabama's Immigration Law HB56

Compliant with the Faculty Senate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham's (UAB) mission of "Creating, maintaining, and protecting an environment conducive to the promotion and growth of teaching, learning, research, and service," the Faculty Senate states publicly that:

Whereas Alabama teenagers, citizens legally able to attend UAB, have been taken out of the state by parents fearful of arrest and deportation,

Whereas lawfully present faculty members—who should give attention to teaching, research and patient care—have been subjected to time-consuming, demeaning and discriminatory questioning in public agencies,

Whereas the research, teaching and clinical enterprises of departments have been jeopardized, as faculty and investigators leave—or plan to leave—Alabama to avoid such aforementioned questioning,

Whereas lawfully present students—who should concentrate on their studies—have spent hours being subject to custodial and non-custodial interrogation demonstrating their legality,

Whereas students, eager to focus on learning, have had to cope with the emotional stress and fear of losing family members to arrest,

Whereas promising candidates to UAB graduate programs have already withdrawn their applications so as to avoid subjection to suspicion and harassment despite their lawful presence, and finally,

Whereas UAB has gained international acclaim not only for its research, teaching and patient care, but also for its attention to diversity, and therefore has its image tarnished by all of the aforementioned facts,

The Faculty Senate calls attention to the harm the Alabama Immigration Law HB56 does not only to the University of Alabama at Birmingham, but also to the state as a whole, and strongly urges the Alabama lawmakers and governor to repeal the law.

President Midkiff asked for a volunteer committee to consider the implications of this resolution and give recommendations. Since the issue crosses the charges of several committees an assignment was not made. Suggestions from senators included sending a letter of support to the UAB Faculty Senate, consideration and concern about UA Faculty Senate actions reflecting the faculty's opinions and actions on their behalf, appointment of an ad hoc committee to consider the issue, determination of truthful statements and credible situations, requesting from the entire faculty situations affected by the immigration law, examination and documentation of information about the impact of HB56 directly on The University of Alabama, forwarding suggestions to improve the immigration law to the State Legislature and unintended consequences of the law. An example was given concerning the denial of a student's driver's license renewal with one month remaining before graduation. A straw vote was taken concerning the question, "How many feel we need to look into the issue to a greater degree". The Senate indicated their support. It was suggested to write a letter to the UAB Faculty Senate President indicating UA Faculty Senate's support for their resolution. President Midkiff will compose a letter to the UAB Faculty Senate President and email it to the UA Faculty Senate for approval and input.

Meeting adjourned – 4:20 P.M.