

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2010 – 3:30 PM - #33 CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Michael Martone, Donna Meester, Osiris Molina, Katrina Ramonell, Ed Stephenson, Mike Dugan, John Hill, Gary Hoover, Karen Burgess, David Arnold, Wesley Church, Rona Donahoe

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Rasma Lazda/Priscilla Davis, Harold Stowell/Jeff Tick; Liza Wilson/Wayne Urban; Kevin Chou/Alex Zhang

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Adam Jones, Tuscaloosa News

The minutes of the January 19, 2010 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

President's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) The Faculty Senate meeting opened with a moment of silence for the victims of the **UA-Huntsville** campus shooting. UA-Huntsville has been contacted with offers of assistance with teaching duties and counseling. UAH classes will resume Monday, February 22, 2010.

The **Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics** (COIA) with 57 NCAA D1A schools as members are requesting a one-time \$100 contribution to offset the cost of filing for tax exempt status as a non-profit organization. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee voted to make this contribution.

There is confusion concerning the proper **syllabi** content. President Steckol requested the Academic Affairs look into this issue. UA Ops, the Core Curriculum Committee and Mark Nelson of the Student Affairs Office have recommended differing standards to be followed. John Vincent suggested asking the Provost to provide an official syllabi content document. The Core Curriculum Committee is reviewing syllabi content to make certain there is compliance with core requirements.

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

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

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) The Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics at the **University of California-Berkley** has requested member institutions pass a resolution similar to theirs condemning financial assistance from the academic side of the institution. The Athletic Department of the University of California-Berkley has a \$160 million dollar deficit. The Academic Affairs Committee determined that The University of Alabama Athletic Department is self-sustaining and no action will be taken.

The Academic Affairs Committee is waiting on a response from the **Core Curriculum Committee** concerning the proposed prologue and learning goals for the core.

The **plus/minus grading** system is at the discretion of the professor and is not required by the University.

The question regarding the **student discipline** policy for cheating forwarded to the Academic Affairs Committee last year by a senator. The committee decided not to pursue this issue.

Faculty Life – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn & Lowell Baker*) The committee is following up on the **maternity leave** policy.

The Faculty Life Committee found funding for serving alcohol at University functions can only be done through **foundation money**. The question had been raised concerning departments having available funding for serving alcohol at receptions and other official events.

Lowell Baker requested input concerning **in-state travel expense** reimbursements. The in-state per diem seems low. The amount allotted for meals does not seem adequate and more flexibility is needed. The suggestion was made to compare Alabama's policy to surrounding states and to Federal travel expense allotments. It was pointed out that often at conferences there are extra charges to attend a banquet. Any comments or suggestions should be forwarded to Lowell Baker or Deidre Leaver-Dunn.

Financial Affairs – (*Katrina Ramonell & Steven Hobbs*) No report.

Information Technology – (*Ray White & Jim Hall*) The **Information Technology** Committee has met with John McGowan, Vice Provost of Information Technology. Ray White reported that the wireless rollout is ahead of schedule. The University has entered into campus licensing agreements for desktop products. Selected software is available at a reduced cost. Servers, storage, web addresses and MyBama were other topics discussed. A Research Advisory Committee is being organized. Anyone wishing to become a member should contact John McGowan.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Harold Stowell*) No report.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Michael Martone & Marci Daugherty*) The **election** of Faculty Senate officers will be held at the March 23 Faculty Senate meeting. Nominations are open and will be taken from the floor at the March meeting. Karen Steckol would like to run again as President, Clark Midkiff is interested in running for Vice President and Jeanette VanderMeer would like to run as Secretary. The letters reminding Deans to hold elections for Faculty Senate representatives from their school/division were mailed Tuesday, February 16th. An attendance reminder in the letter to the Deans requested for those senators missing five meetings or more not be re-elected. The departments/schools do not have an adequate voice during missed meetings. The senator allotment for Arts & Sciences increased from 22 to 25 and Libraries increased from 2 to 3 senators.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Carolyn Cassady*) The Student Affairs Committee was charged with reviewing the **cost of copying** student packets. The committee met with Jeff Smith, Academic Publishing Specialist, to determine printing policies. He reported the six to seven cents per page charge had remained the same for quite some time. An increase in cost up to twenty cents per page would result if copyright material was included due to clearing the material through a copyright clearing house. The faculty member is notified about the cost increase giving them an opportunity to approve printing. The booklet "Questions & Answers on Copyright for the Campus Community – 7th Edition" will be sent

to all faculty members. There was further discussion concerning using and copying copyright material.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) Higher Education Partnership membership forms are available. **Higher Education Day** will be March 4 in Montgomery, Alabama with buses provided for transportation departing the Moody Music Building parking lot at 7:30 A.M. returning at 5:00 P.M. The purpose is to advocate for equitable and fair funding for higher education. Everyone was encouraged to research the candidates for the fall elections.

Reports from Other Committees –

The meeting of the **Alumni Outstanding Student Award Committee** met and selected those deserving of the award.

University Programs and Services Committee met and reported there are twelve Kindle electronic devices available for checkout at the University Library. Bama Dining Dollars are being reviewed regarding the acceptance of the plan at local restaurants. The expense of purchasing books and the establishment of a book rental program are being investigated. The plus/minus system was discussed at the meeting.

The **Internal Grants Committee** will be meeting in a week or so to begin dispersals. The available funds have been increased.

The **meeting** place of the Faculty Senate was discussed. The location has changed several times over the last few years. Meeting space has been difficult to secure with acoustics, lighting, seating, time of meeting and parking to be considered. Meeting sites will be researched. The issue will be discussed with the Provost and any suggestions should be forwarded to President Steckol.

Meeting adjourned 4:40 P.M.