

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 2011 – 3:30 PM – ROOM 1026 CAPSTONE COLLEGE OF NURSING**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Priscilla Davis, James Hamilton, Rasma Lazda, Luke Niiler, Katrina Ramonell, Lew Silver, Dwight Hooper, Steve Miller, Brent Hardin, Shuhui Li, Stuart Usdan.

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Bruce Kim/Keith Woodbury; Brad Hodges/Marci Daugherty; Steven Hobbs/Fred Vars: Steve Katsinas/Karen Spector.

Guests: Gordon Stone, Executive Director of Higher Education Partnership; Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

Gordon Stone began the meeting speaking on behalf of the Higher Education Partnership established in 1997. This advocacy organization represents faculty, staff, students and alumni of Alabama's thirteen public universities. The budget has been assisted in the last two years by federal stimulus money. This funding is coming to an end leaving a ten percent deficit before the new budget process begins. The Higher Education Partnership and others are requesting elected officials return to the one-third for higher education and two-thirds for K-12 formula for Education Trust Fund budget appropriations. This systematic budget allocation was in place from 1974 until 1994. A philosophy being discussed in Montgomery is the appropriation of dollars as a whole by looking at an average of real growth over a number of years and setting a ceiling and a floor around that average creating boundaries and avoiding the effect of roller coaster budget years. This would give those in leadership positions a better opportunity to forecast the amount of available funding.

Director Stone encouraged everyone to attend Higher Education Day on April 7, 2011 in Montgomery. He also encouraged joining the Higher Education Partnership organization. The Ethics Reform package passed in the fall impacts the payroll deduction payment for membership which is no longer allowed. There will be a new method to make membership payments online on the HEP web page by the first of April.

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

The minutes of the January 18, 2011 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

President's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) The Faculty Senate Steering Committee will be meeting with the Provost on Friday and has requested a representative be present to explain how and why University closing decisions are made.

President Steckol read the following statement:

“The senate steering committee met last Tuesday and discussed the recent racially motivated incidents that occurred on the campus. Our conclusions were:

We are supportive of the administration's swift and decisive action and condemnation of the incidents, and pleased that they followed protocol for investigation and disciplinary actions. As the faculty senate steering committee we encourage the University of Alabama community to recommit to our

core values of inclusion, mutual respect and the creation of a society reflective of the Late Dr. Martin Luther King Junior's Great Dream. The faculty senate has a long history of condemning racism. The most recent faculty senate resolution, voted on in 2000, strongly condemned racism and expressed the current opinion of the senate. Therefore, on behalf of the faculty senate steering committee I move that we strongly reaffirm our 2000 resolution. Is there a second?" Second was made by Rona Donahoe.

An African American student was walking on campus and a fraternity member yelled a racial slur at the student. The student reported the incident to the University police. The fraternity member was located and will go through the Student Office of Judicial Affairs process. He has been suspended from the fraternity and has apologized to the student. The local and national fraternity expressed apologies to the student. The other incident was extremely inappropriate sidewalk chalkings near the Library.

Question was called. In order to halt debate a two-thirds vote is needed and was voted. Melondie Carter sponsored and seconded the resolution. The Faculty Senate voted to approve the resolution unanimously.

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

Secretary's Report – (*Jeanette VanderMeer*) Secretary VanderMeer brought forward the issue of senator absences. Those senators with excessive absences should not be re-elected. Senators have an obligation to secure an alternate to attend the meeting in their absence. The Faculty Senate roster is on the web site and alternates are listed under each college/school. The Faculty Senate bylaws state a senator may miss no more than three meetings per year. Senator absences have been called to the attention of their Dean.

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) The Academic Affairs Committee met on the first Tuesday of the month. Members were polled concerning the issue of faculty members having electronic office hours only. Their opinion was faculty members should have face-to-face office hours. The Faculty Handbook only states you must have office hours without further clarification.

Faculty Life – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn & Lowell Baker*) The Faculty Life Committee will meet on Monday to discuss the maternity issue.

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

Information Technology – (*Jim Hall & Osiris Molina*) No report.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Brian Gordon*) No report.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Rona Donahoe & Steve Emens*) Faculty Senate officers will be elected during the Faculty Senate meeting on March 22, 2011. Keith Woodbury has been elected as Ombudsperson serving a two year term. Nominations for the third Ombudsperson position from any college other than Arts & Sciences, Business and Engineering are open. The two current nominees are Dee Goldston, College of Education and Alan Blum, College of Community Health Sciences. Ombudsperson criteria includes being tenured, serving full-time faculty teaching and research responsibilities for a minimum of seven years, cannot be an administrator, cannot be a current member of the Faculty Senate or the University Mediation Grievance Committee. Faculty Senate nominations

can be made from the floor at the February or March meeting. Nominees for Faculty Senate officers are: Clark Midkiff, Faculty Senate President; Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Faculty Senate Vice President; and Jeanette VanderMeer, Faculty Senate Secretary. Letters of intent to run for office have been submitted from each nominee. All nominees will have an opportunity to address the Faculty Senate March meeting. Any nominations may be emailed to Rona Donahoe.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Seth Panitch*) The Student Affairs Committee met the first Tuesday in February. The Student Affairs Strategic Health Team presented information concerning student health issues. There are two to three faculty members on every strategic health team. The information concerning all student health resources will be emailed to all faculty members.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) The UA Office of Government Relations provides buses to transport faculty and students to Montgomery for Higher Education Day to be held on April 7, 2011. The buses will be at the Moody Music Building on April 7 at 7:00 AM and will return approximately at 3:30 PM. Students work in the higher education advocacy area year round attending leadership workshops and other activities.

The CUC met and made committee assignments and will meet again in April to finalize those appointments. The names of those assigned are sent to the committee chairs/presidents to assess if those assigned would be appropriate to serve.

The Faculty Staff Benefits Committee will meet next week. Rona Donahoe has compiled a list of issues per Faculty Senate discussion to be presented to the committee in her absence.

The University has plans to demolish Little Hall to make space for four sorority houses eliminating seventy more parking spaces. Decreased parking space is the number one issue for the Campus Master Plan Committee and is a major issue for faculty.

Meeting adjourned 4:40 PM.

ATTACHMENT:

FACULTY SENATE DIVERSITY RESOLUTION

Whereas, The University of Alabama Faculty is dedicated to the creation and maintenance of a learning environment which respects and enhances the potential of all members of its community, and

Whereas, the creation of this environment is central to The University of Alabama's mission to achieve excellence in research, teaching and service, and

Whereas, both increasing international emphasis and increasing diversity are part of The University of Alabama's strategic plan, and

Whereas, The University of Alabama bears a special moral and ethical responsibility to promote diversity and inclusiveness, and

Whereas, acceptance of diversity in terms of race, ethnicity, religion, culture, gender, sexual orientation, or physical challenges is critical to responsible leadership and citizenship, and

Whereas, silence in response to individual and institutional racism, sexism, and bigotry, facilitates their perpetuation if not contagious expansion, and

Whereas, race exclusive units and departments still exist at The University of Alabama, and

Whereas, all faculty at The University of Alabama have an ethical obligation to promote a positive learning environment in their roles as educators and mentors and to act in ways that develop mutual trust, shared power, equitable benefits, and positive results for all,

Be it resolved, that The University of Alabama Faculty Senate reaffirms its commitment to promote respect for and appreciation and celebration of diversity in all aspects of University life, and to dismantle racist structures and practices in all their forms, and

Strongly urges all faculty members to redouble their efforts towards these ends, including

Direct challenges to all instances of prejudice, racism, sexism and bigotry, and

The promotion of a healthy, inclusive and welcoming university community which attracts a diverse student body, faculty and staff representative of our increasingly multi-cultural society, and

Endorsement and active support for all other initiatives towards these ends.

Adopted by the Faculty Senate, March 21, 2000
Rob Ingram, Faculty Senate President