

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2012 – 3:30 PM – ROOM 110 AIME BUILDING**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Osiris Molina, Mindy Nancarrow, Katrina Ramonell, Joe Calamusa, Wilson Lowrey, Brad Hodges, Deidre Leaver-Dunn.

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Stevan Marcus/Seth Appiah-Opoku, Patricia Parmelee/Sheila Black, Vijaya Sundar/Scott Arnold, Daniel Fonseca/Keith Williams, Steve Emens/Fred Vars.

GUESTS: Linda Hill, UA Relations.

Roll call and quorum check by Faculty Senate Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

The minutes of the January 17, 2012 Faculty Senate meeting were approved with corrections.

President's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) Tom Wilson, Associate Dean for Library Technology, is heading up a committee/program to install a plan to improve **data management**. Tom Wilson's presentation scheduled for the Faculty Senate meeting was cancelled due to illness.

Appreciation was expressed to Dwight Hooper for his willingness to serve as the Faculty Senate **IACUC** representative.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee has appointed three members to the **CUC**. The names came from the Faculty Committee Preference Survey.

President Midkiff had requested any faculty or student incident resulting from **HB56** be forwarded to him. There were a few incidences reported. The current political leadership of the State of Alabama realizes the law is flawed and efforts are underway to make improvements. There is time remaining to report any situations occurring as a result of this law.

The Math Department discovered Human Environmental Sciences had created a course "Mathematics of Compounding". This is essentially a strong consumer-based **math class**. This course did not come before the Core Curriculum Oversight Committee. The course was listed on the UA web site but will be removed as a math core requirement until a permanent status decision is reached. The Provost will grant emergency approval for those students that have already taken the course. The State-wide articulation agreement description of core curriculum math courses specifies there should be general mathematic courses not specific math courses with such names as "Consumer Mathematics" and "Business Mathematics." The course has not been analyzed to determine the math course level of CSM#116. This situation will continue to be monitored by the Faculty Senate.

Vice President's Report – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn*) No report.

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

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) The Academic Affairs Committee met to look into issues involving the student opinion of teaching surveys. Several faculty members

have expressed concern regarding the percentage drop of student participation since the change from paper to electronic. The committee will meet March 27 with Lorne Kuffel from the Office of Institutional Research. He will present data on the participation percentage including comparisons between colleges and between graduate and undergraduate students. A faculty member took their class to a computer lab, asked the students to complete the survey, and then left the students alone to complete the survey. A dean in this college indicated this action was improper; the committee disagrees with this interpretation. Cell phone use to complete the survey has been discussed for several years but has not been implemented due to software issues. The committee will ask if this can be reexamined.

In addition to the issues around the student opinion surveys, the committee is also looking into ways to increase summer session enrollment.

Faculty Life – (*Lowell Baker & Wesley Church*) The Smoke-Free Resolution (attached) was brought before the Faculty Senate from the Steering Committee for discussion. The resolution was passed in the Faculty Senate Steering Committee by the following vote: 8 For, 3 Abstentions, 1 Against. A motion was made to title the resolution “Tobacco Free Resolution” but there was not a second for the motion. The points made concerning the resolution to make The University of Alabama a smoke-free campus were: individual freedom infringement, effects on the health of the smoker and others, exposure to second-hand smoke, enforcement-policing and/or penalties, insurance costs, combined effort with other campus organizations, timing of resolution, smoke allergies, sensitivities & asthma, and freedom to smoke off campus. Input is being sought from faculty and students but has not been organized. A number of SEC schools have a smoke free campus at this time. There was a call for the question. The Faculty Senate voted to pass the resolution – 33 in favor, 10 opposed, 5 abstentions.

Financial Affairs – (*Robert McLeod & Katrina Ramonell*) The State Legislature passed a bill a year ago providing a formula based methodology for the Education Trust Fund. This bill requires going back 15 years to look at the average increase in the budget and use that figure as the basis for the next year’s budget. It was suggested the Faculty Senate would be interested in the impact this would have on future UA budgets. The Financial Affairs Committee is in the process of trying to locate someone to address the Steering Committee and the Faculty Senate concerning this issue. It is important to understand how this formula works. If there is a surplus over a certain percentage in any given year that surplus could be reallocated and not necessarily returned to the Education Trust Fund. There is also the issue of paying back the Rainy Day Fund. These issues have an impact on education and the University in particular.

Information Technology – (*Carolyn Cassady & Brad Hodges*) The Information Technology Committee met with a UA group that puts together data management plans for research data. Tom Wilson is the chair of that committee and was unable to speak to the Faculty Senate due to illness. Tom Wilson, Associate Dean for Library Technology; Luoheng Han, Associate Dean (Natural Sciences/Mathematics) Arts & Sciences; and Kevin Whitaker, Associate Dean (Academic Programs) College of Engineering, met with Joe Benson, Vice President for Research; John McGowan, Vice Provost of Information Technology; and Louis Pitschmann, Dean of University Libraries to discuss funding and hardware structure for storing data.

The Information Technology Committee met with Karl Aldag, Executive Director of the Center for Instructional Technology and four section leaders. The four sections are Multi Media

Services, Faculty Resource Center, Audio Visual Support and Emerging Technology and Research. Some issues addressed were the demise of e-learning and implementation of blackboard learn, Department of Justice effect on course literature, standardized classroom technology, TV screens in every building, people server infrastructure enabling construction of web sites, infrastructure replacing the myBama server, and Apple TV music and video streaming.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Ion Stancu*) The Research & Service Committee will meet next week with the Director of Procurement Services, Kevin Stevens. Any suggested questions concerning procurement will be forwarded to him prior to the meeting.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Rona Donahoe*) Mindy Nancarrow, Art History; John Rutledge, School of Music; and Jane Street, Chemistry, are the candidates for the Arts & Sciences Ombudsperson position. Faculty Senate officer elections will be held at the March meeting. Steve Miller has been nominated for President, Steve Katsinas has been nominated for Vice President and Rona Donahoe for Secretary. No further nominations can be accepted following the February meeting.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Seth Panitch*) The Student Affairs Committee has a meeting scheduled the first Tuesday of March with Mark Nelson, Vice President for Student Affairs.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) Any comments concerning HB56 should be sent to President Clark Midkiff. Higher Education Day will be March 1 in Montgomery. Buses will be provided in the parking lot of Moody Music Building departing at 7:30 A.M. and returning approximately 5:00 P.M.

Reports from Other Committees –

The Faculty Staff Benefits Committee meeting scheduled for January 19 was cancelled. The committee met last Thursday to begin reviewing last year's health care expenditures. A resolution was introduced recommending the University establish parody for mental health but not for substance abuse. The resolution was tabled and forwarded to a subcommittee for their consideration. Any opinions or suggestions related to this committee should be forwarded to Rona Donahoe.

The committee will invite George Brown, Executive Director of University Recreation, to address the Faculty Staff Benefits Committee. UA Recreation Center membership fees and related faculty benefits will be discussed.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 P.M.

Smoke Free Campus Resolution

A Resolution Calling for the University of Alabama to Become a Smoke-Free Campus

Whereas, the dangers of tobacco use have been well documented by the United States Surgeon General since 1964;

further, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has designated environmental tobacco smoke a Class A carcinogen,

Whereas, in the United States of America tobacco use is responsible for about one in five deaths annually (i.e., about 443,000 deaths per year, and an estimated 49,000 of these tobacco-related deaths are the result of secondhand smoke exposure),

Whereas, in the state of Alabama 7,400 adults die each year from their own smoking, 174,000 youth currently under 18 will ultimately die prematurely from smoking, and between 440 adults and 1,240 children and babies die each year from others' smoking (secondhand smoke and pregnancy smoking).

Whereas, environmental tobacco smoke is known to trigger asthma, allergies, and other critical respiratory problems in individuals,

Whereas, according to the Center for Disease Control, Alabama has the 8th highest adult smoking prevalence rate in the nation,

Whereas, students, staff, faculty and guests should be able to walk through campus and enter their respective buildings free of exposure to tobacco smoke,

Whereas, tobacco smoke outside of campus buildings can be drawn in through ventilation intakes, in-window air conditioners, and/or open doors and windows,

Whereas, smoking remnants litter campus building entrances and increases the amount of time and labor spent cleaning,

Whereas, to date 467 colleges and universities, including peer institutions have become smoke-free campuses,

Whereas, The University of Alabama is setting a precedent for the colleges and universities in the state of Alabama by promoting individual and community health and encouraging a healthier campus environment,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, The University of Alabama expresses a commitment to become a smoke-free campus,

Therefore, Be It Further Resolved, The University of Alabama implements a strategy and plan to become a smoke-free campus, by May 1, 2013.

Passed by UA Faculty Senate
February 21, 2012