

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
MARCH 27, 2007 – 150 SHELBY HALL – 3:30 PM**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Martin Evans, Kari Frederickson, Karen Steckol, John Hill, Gary Hoover, Karen Burgess, Margaret Garner, Jeff Weddle, David Arnold, Steve Shepard, Clark Midkiff, Linda Enders

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Micki Kacmar/Bill Motes; Kagendo Mutua/Wayne Urban; Lee Pike/Lisa Yuro

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Joe Hornsby, Faculty Athletics Representative; Chris King, Associate Athletics Director for Compliance

Roll call and quorum check by John Vincent.

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

Officer Elections – According to Faculty Senate bylaws, the first order of business for the Faculty Senate meeting was the election of officers conducted by John Mason and Douglas Lightfoot of the Faculty and Senate Governance Committee. The nominees were John Vincent for President, Karen Steckol for Vice President and Clark Midkiff for Secretary. There were no other nominations. **John Vincent, Karen Steckol and Clark Midkiff were unanimously elected to their respected offices.**

Joe Hornsby, Faculty Athletics Representative, began the meeting with a review of the **NCAA Athletic Certification process**. The second cycle of a ten-year review process is being conducted. The first cycle resulted in certification and compliance with NCAA governing principles. The “Athletic Certification Handbook” and “Self Study Instrument” are the two handbooks used during the review process. The certification process begins with the following steps developed between September and April:

Step No. One – Orientation videoconference and institution self-study

Step No. Two – Institution develops self-study report

Step No. Three – Self-study report submitted via ACS May 1, 2007

From May 1 to June 30:

Step No. Four – NCAA staff liaison reviews report for preliminary issues.

From July 15 to August 15:

Step No. Five – Full committee (CAC) reviews self-study report and approves issues.

Step No. Six – Institution has option to respond to CAC analysis.

A steering committee and three subcommittees are conducting the self-study of the University's athletics program including academic integrity, governance and commitment to rules compliance, as well as commitment to equity and student-athlete welfare. The members of the committees include faculty, non-athletic administrative staff, students and representatives of the athletics department. Dr. Judy Bonner, UA executive vice president and provost, chairs the steering committee.

Step No. Seven – A peer review team led by the President of Utah State will have an evaluation visit on campus in October 2007. This team will report to the NCAA Division One Committee on Athletics Certification. The outcome of the certification process will be announced publicly and conclude by February 2008. A website will provide information and feedback opportunities for faculty members and others. The web site will be linked to the steering committee and three subcommittee members. The three operating principles are “Governance and Commitment to Rules Compliance”, “Academic Integrity” and “Equity and Student Welfare”. The “Self Study Steering Committee for Athletics Certification” is the umbrella committee is coordinating the process of compiling the information that demonstrates that the university is in compliance with the three chief governing principles of NCAA certification. The three subcommittees charged by the steering committee have a broad based membership including faculty, athletic and non-athletic representatives and student representation. One issue reviewed by the certification process under governance and commitment to rules compliance is the adherence to NCAA rules not only by the athletics department but by the institution as a whole. The second operating principle of academic standards includes academic standards and support, gender and minority issues and student-athlete well-being. Information about the certification process will be in the Dialog and UA News. John Vincent is a member of the steering committee and Ken Wright is a member the equity and student athlete welfare committee. Any feedback should be forwarded to John Vincent.

President's Report – (*John Vincent*) The **Faculty Senate Office** will move to Room 401 in Martha Parham on Tuesday, April 3. **Student/faculty week** was comprised of a SGA Senate and Faculty Senate joint meeting. Difficulties were met in setting the agenda in light of non-response from the SGA. A meeting was held Sunday at 3:00 PM to set an agenda for the joint meeting. An emergency meeting was called by the SGA on Monday before the joint meeting on Tuesday to pass the Faculty Senate resolution. The meeting date and time was set by the SGA despite Faculty Senate concerns about the inconvenience of the meeting time for faculty senators. There was no discussion about textbooks at the meeting. There was a half-page ad in the Crimson White praising students on their GPA, test scores, etc. There was not a coupon in the Crimson White for a student to take a faculty member to lunch which was promised by the SGA. “**Books for Baghdad**” will be brought up again to the SGA as a joint project of the Faculty Senate and the SGA. One of the key issues for next year will be the SGA election methods. The **Coalition of Intercollegiate Athletics** will be meeting May 18, 19 and 20 at Stanford University. Past Faculty Senate President Mathew Winston will represent the UA Faculty Senate. The **Faculty Senate Deans and Chairs resolution** has been received by the Provost and passed on to the Deans. This will also be a priority for the

Senate next year. Available SUG institutions data indicates each one has a mandatory dean review periodically with the exception of The University of Alabama. The Faculty Senate **tenure extension resolution** regarding parenting and adoption was accepted by Provost Bonner. There is a meeting twice a year of the **Faculty Senate Presidents** of institutions in Alabama. The next meeting has been cancelled due to a conflict with the Board of Trustees meeting. Higher Education Day will be held in Montgomery in April also conflicting with the Board of Trustees meeting.

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & Martin Evans*) Marcia Barrett has been appointed to serve on the task force committee regarding **adequate cause**. Rob Ingram is the chair of this committee. The policy for dismissing a faculty member and the process to follow is need of clarification. Discussion included the motivation for defining the process, definition of “adequate cause” and a need for an agreed upon procedure.

Faculty Life – (*Steve Shepard & Lowell Baker*) No report.

Financial Affairs – (*Jeanette Vandermeer & David Arnold*) No report.

The Resources & Priorities Committee has looked at the budget for next year; however, it is very preliminary. The issue of increased salaries for faculty members remains one of the highest priorities.

Research & Service – (*Shane Street & Clark Midkiff*) Shane Street is the representative on the **Research Advisory Committee**. A proposed conflict of interest document and misconduct in research are two points of interest being reviewed by this committee. The reporting mechanism is of primary concern in both issues. One of these documents would replace Appendix L in the Faculty Handbook on academic misconduct and the other would not be a replacement in the handbook. Research procedures, federal research funding, lack of information and other issues were discussed.

Five faculty members indicated they would like to serve on the CUC on the Committee Preference Form. There were no other nominations from the floor. The first vote was called for voting on paper ballot for three of the five. Those nominees were Karen Croneis, Libraries; Donna Meester, Theater & Dance; Joseph Neggers, Mathematics; Tatiana Tsakiropoulou-Summers, A&S; Jeanette Vandermeer, Nursing. Due to a lack of a majority, one nominee was eliminated and a new vote taken. Elected to the **CUC** were **Jeanette Vandermeer, Tatiana Tsakiropoulou-Summers and Karen Croneis**.

The **Ombudsperson** election will end Monday, April 2 at 4:45 PM.

Thursday, April 5, 2007 will be **Higher Education Day** held in Montgomery. Buses will be available for transportation.

Student Affairs – (*Carolyn Cassady & Karen Burgess*) No report.

New Business – Each senator with a continuing term was urged to email their committee preference to the Faculty Senate office. A reminder email will be sent by John Vincent. **New senator training** will be held April 3 in Room 206F Shelby Hall at 3:00 PM. Three colleges have yet to have elections critically delaying Faculty Senate operations.

Norm Stein brought up two **retirement plan issues** for the Faculty Senate to address. The first issue was phase retirement taking part time status and drawing a portion of retirement funds. The second issue was the lack of survivor benefits unless there was 25 years of service or 62 years of age. Survivor benefits in the event of death earlier than these standards would leave only the employee's contributions plus a very small amount. These issues will be referred to the Faculty-Staff Benefits Committee.

The **Retired Faculty Association** has a place in the Faculty Senate meetings as provided in the Faculty Senate bylaws.

The **new Faculty Senate will meet April 17th**. The old Steering Committee will meet once more before the new Steering Committee is elected.

Meeting adjourned 4:35 PM