

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
MARCH 25, 2008 – 3:30 PM – 150 SHELBY HALL**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Priscilla Davis, Arun Gupta, Tatiana Tsakiropoulou-Summers, Chase Wrenn, John Hill, Giles D’Sousa, Karen Burgess, Steve Miller, Jeff Weddle, Kagendo Mutua, Laura Hebert, Viola Acoff, Linda Enders, Norm Stein

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Lee Pike/Lisa Yuro

GUESTS: Teresa Shrieve, University Supply Store; Adam Jones, Tuscaloosa News

Roll call and quorum check by Faculty Senate Secretary Clark Midkiff.

The minutes from the February 19, 2008 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

As mandated by Faculty Senate Bylaws the election of officers was the first order of business for the Faculty Senate meeting. John Mason and Roy Maize of the Faculty and Senate Governance Committee conducted the election. Those elected are Karen Steckol, Faculty Senate President; Clark Midkiff, Faculty Senate Vice President; and Jeanette Vandermeer, Faculty Senate Secretary. Officers were elected by acclamation.

Teresa Shrieve of the University Supply Store gave a presentation regarding textbooks, course materials, class notes, clickers and faculty book orders. Text book orders are due by April 15. Exclusive book orders may be placed by faculty members with twenty-five or less student class enrollment. The goal of the Supply Store is to have the right books on the shelves at the right time and to help students stretch their education dollars.

President’s Report – (*John Vincent*) Newly elected **officers** will take office on April 1. The present Steering Committee will remain in place until the Faculty Senate meeting on April 15. The present committees will continue to meet/address issues until the new committees are formed on April 15. Interviews for the new **Chief Information Officer** are being conducted with Mike Russell being interviewed Thursday, March 27 in the AIME Building. The next candidate, John McGowan, will be interviewed Thursday, April 2 at 4:00 PM. The advantages of **G-mail** were discussed. The University-wide **Faculty/Staff meeting** will be held April 2 at 1:30 PM in the Bryant Conference Center. The **Faculty/Student week** reception was well attended and successful. A **block seating** plan has not been developed by the Office of Student Affairs and the SGA. The last Intercollegiate Athletic Committee meeting called to discuss only the stadium block seating issue revealed a three page plan containing the following six sentences, “The first and most fundamental change for the 2008 season will be the addition of grades into the judgment criteria. As an academic institution student organizations should be rewarded for their academic and research pursuits and this will be reflected in the development of a block seating chart of the upcoming season. The Office of Dean of Students currently maintains these group records. The SGA has enlisted Dr. Frank Thompson to develop a more objective ranking system. The SGA is confident that Dr. Thompson will be a valuable resource to enable the committee to raise the bar further on objectivity and accountability to students. The committee also plans to further expand the communication strategies to provide the most diverse and accomplished applicant pool for block seating”. Dr. Frank Thompson is in the Department of

Communication Sciences. John Vincent and Carolyn Cassady developed a block seating qualitative equation based on a 100 point scale as follows – 25 points for each of 4 parts; academics, stadium behavior, campus involvement and campus service. For academics the average GPA of the group would be multiplied by 25 and divided by 4. Stadium behavior ratings could be done one of two ways; 25 points as a base with 5 or 10 points deducted for every violation; or have a zero base and every year without a violation is an addition of 5 points. Campus involvement and campus service would call for one, two or three points for every activity the group is in on or off campus based on the type activity for a maximum of 25 points. The block seating committee would decide what activity would receive what amount of points. John Vincent and the committee members were commended for continuing to pursue this issue. The Faculty Senate is disappointed with the lack of progress on the development of a block seating plan. The Faculty Senate Vice President reiterated in a meeting with the SGA President Elect that the Faculty Senate will continue to pursue a solution to the block seating issue. The **Review of Deans and Chairs** has been forwarded to the Provost. The Provost has forwarded the review to the Deans and the Deans will forward it to the Chairs. An update is due this week.

Vice President's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) It was reported that the College of Arts and Sciences has twenty-one faculty members running for thirteen senator vacancies.

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

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & Rona Donahoe*) No report.

Faculty Life – (*Lowell Baker & Deidre Leaver-Dunn*) No report.

Financial Affairs – (*David Arnold & Jeanette Vandermeer*) A report will be given as soon as the PEEHIP update is received.

Research & Service – (*Shane Street & Ed Stephenson*) A review of the first draft of the Conflict of Interest Policy has been done by this committee. The new policy proposes a fairer method of resolving potential conflict of interest situations. Faculty members engaged in research will have to file an annual conflict of interest report disclosing financial holdings that could possibly indicate a conflict of interest. The Research Compliance Officer (RCO) has been requested to provide more clarification on the standards to be applied to this report. The RCO will refer any potential conflict of interest situations to the Vice President for Research. It will then go to the University Conflict of Interest committee composed of four faculty members experienced in the administration of Federal Grants/Contracts appointed by the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs; Associate Deans for Research in A&S, CCHS, C&BA and Engineering; and a representative of the Faculty Senate. The Research Compliance Officer and a member of the University's Office of Counsel will serve as ex-officio members. With several steps to be taken in between, the Provost will have the final decision. The Research and Service Committee presented the policy to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee. In the interest of time following minor changes the document was forwarded to the Office of Research. As soon as the document is revised the document will be sent to the entire senate. There was further discussion regarding requirements, regulations and time to completion. The Academic Misconduct Policy will involve a Faculty Handbook change.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Roy Maize*) The nominee for Ombudsperson is Michael Dugan of C&BA. An email was sent to the entire faculty requesting any objections to

his election as Ombudsperson with none being received. The new Ombudsperson is Michael Dugan.

Student Affairs – (*Carolyn Cassady & Melondie Carter*) The representative from the Office of Student Affairs handling the block seating issue cancelled a scheduled meeting with this committee.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) Approximately three thousand people were in attendance at the Higher Education Day in Montgomery. Three buses from UA with approximately one hundred students assisted in showing a good response from higher education. Talking points on advocacy for higher education were reviewed on the way to Montgomery. In Governor Riley's proposed budget higher education will receive twenty percent of the funds and fifty percent of the cuts. Everyone was encouraged to contact their representatives expressing the great need for equitable funding for higher education. Bill Jones will speak to the Senate in April.

Reports from University Committees –

John Mason reported that the CUC will complete committee assignments in their meeting on April 17. The proposal for the establishment of an environmental oversight committee has been recommended to the Provost by the CUC.

Following discussion of the proposed academic plaza including details about the site, the consensus was this project has been placed on hold in view of the current and future budget concerns.

John Vincent expressed his thanks and appreciation to everyone for electing him to serve for two years as Faculty Senate President. The Evaluation of Deans and Chairs has made great progress, access to the administration has been excellent, Faculty Senate input has been seriously considered by the administration, few resolutions have needed to be passed, and many issues have been resolved.

Deep appreciation was expressed from the Faculty Senate to John Vincent for his excellent and exemplary leadership as President for the last two years.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 PM