

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
March 24, 2009 – 3:30 PM – 150 Shelby Hall

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Seth Appiah-Opoku, Sheila Black, Arun Gupta, Doug Lightfoot, Tsun-Zee Mai, Michael Martone, Shane Street, Chase Wrenn, Bill Motes, Lonnie Strickland, Akram Temimi, Karen Burgess, Janis Edwards, David Arnold, Roy Maize, Jeanette VanderMeer, John Vincent

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Cassandra Simon/Gordon McNeal, Norm Stein/Steve Emens, Marci Daugherty/Ann Ramos

GUESTS: Adam Jones, Tuscaloosa News; Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Melanie Tucker, Amy & Milt Ward, Z.J.Wu, Samito Roy, Tawin Lee, Ryan Early, Susan Gaskins, Craig Formby, Missy Stevens (Tuscaloosa City Schools), Steve Marcus, Juan Lopez, John Clark

Roll call and quorum check by President Karen Steckol and Vice President Clark Midkiff.

The minutes of the February 17, 2009 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

The meeting began with President Karen Steckol introducing Dr. Joe Benson, UA Vice President for Research. Dr. Benson's comments to the Faculty Senate concerned access to the recent \$770 billion dollar financial stimulus package as it applies to The University of Alabama. The State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) was established with \$53.6 billion dollars to offset the impact of the economic downturn on education in the states. Five billion dollars of the \$53.6 billion dollar allotment were reserved for state incentive grants in what is called the innovation fund which will be determined by national competition. They will compete for funds based on productivity and success. Fourteen million dollars of this fund is earmarked for administration. The remaining \$48.5 billion dollars will be allocated to the states by a formula based on relative population. Sixty-one percent will be based on relative population of five to twenty-four years of age. The other thirty-nine percent will be based on relative total population. The estimate of today is the State of Alabama will receive \$726 million dollars. The funds will be in the form of grants allocated by the Governor and distributed within the state. The bill specifies that 81.8 percent support will be for elementary, secondary and post secondary education and as applicable to early childhood education, programs and services. At the discretion of the Governor the other 18.2 percent is for public safety and governmental services which may include assistance for early education and public institutions of higher education and for the modernization, renovation and repair of public school facilities and institution of higher education facilities including modernization, renovation and repair as recognized with the rebuilding rating system. In terms of the 81.8 percent the Governor is required to use the funds for elementary, secondary and public institutions of higher education to restore State support to the greater level of the fiscal year 2008 or 2009 year. If the funds are inadequate to support public education at the 2008 level, the Governor shall allocate funds between elementary, secondary and higher education in proportion to the relative shortfall in State support. To be eligible for this funding the State must specify that each of the fiscal years 2009, 2010 and 2011 State support will be at a level elementary, secondary and higher education equal to the level of the 2006 fiscal year. Funds were allocated to a number of Federal agencies beginning with the National Institute for Health receiving \$10.4 billion dollars with \$7.4 billion of that amount going to the institute's centers and common fund. The Office of the Director will receive \$800 million dollars, one billion allotted to the National Center for

Research Resources (NCRR) for external repairs, construction and alterations. NCRR will receive \$300 million for shared instrumentation and other capital equipment. There will be \$400 million dollars allocated for comparative effectiveness research. NIH is going to choose among peer review, highly meritorious RO1 and similar mechanisms from the pool of making significant advances within a two year time period. They will be reviewing proposals that are in-house and new RO1 applications that have a reasonable expectation of making progress in a two year period. There is competition for administrative supplements to take an administrative award and add additional people to it. They are particularly interested in enhancing diversity, adding additional students to projects and they are allowing faculty to take a grant that perhaps is in its final year, request a no cost extension and add funding in that no cost extension year. There is a competition for repetitive revisions taking an existing proposal and changing the scope of the proposal. Supplements are now working with existing grants. This would be a project that would say with additional funding we can follow this particular path. There is also competition for research experiences for students and science educators. There is one billion dollars available for those supplemental activities. There is somewhere \$100 and \$200 billion dollars available in challenge grants. NIH has identified fifteen general challenge grant areas and within those areas they have identified and targeted sub-areas where they will fund multi-year projects with \$500 million for research on those specific topics. This is all available on the web. NSF receives an additional three billion dollars allocation. Of that amount two billion dollars will go to research grants and \$200 million dollars for the MRI proposals. The academic research infrastructure program will be allocated \$200 million dollars. This is a program that funds construction, renovation and expansion. There is \$100 million dollars for education and human resources. This includes \$60 million dollars for teacher's scholarship program and \$25 million for the math and science partnership program. Fifteen million dollars will be allotted for the master's science program to retrain for teaching. There is \$400 million dollars for construction of major research facilities and centers. With the exception of MRI, AIR, math and science, the proposals will be used that are already in-house. The proposals that were denied on or after October of 2008 will be re-reviewed. If these were proposals that were highly rated but were not funded due to limited funding, there could be a reversal and funding provided. All the grants will be standard grants with a five year limit. Consistent funding is a concern. They will continue to prioritize funding for new PIs and for high risk, high return research. DOE has \$22.2 billion dollars available with \$16.8 billion dollars for energy efficiency and renewable energy resources. Most of those funds will be allocated by the State through existing funding channels. For applied research development, demonstration and deployment will be \$2.5 billion dollars with \$800 million dollars for biomass and \$400 million dollars for geothermal projects. There is \$3.4 billion for fossil research and development with one billion dollars for fossil energy research, \$800 million for clean coal power and \$1.5 billion dollars for carbon capture and energy efficient projects. The science program at DOE has an allocation of \$1.6 billion dollars. A significant portion of this program funds high energy physics. DOE and NSF will not ask for new proposals but will consider those proposals that are already in-house. There is \$400 million dollars for an advanced research project agency in the energy arena. There is \$20 million for health information technology. There is \$360 million for construction of research facilities half of which will be for competitive construction grants. The Department of Justice will be allocated \$450 million dollars with \$225 million dollars for violence against women and \$225 million dollars for the Bern (?) competitive grant program. Labor has \$3.95 billion with a significant portion going to work force retraining. Education has an increase of \$16.2 billion with \$15.6 billion dollars going to Pell grants. The National Endowment for the Arts will receive \$50 million dollars to support arts projects. The State Arts Agency will be allotted \$20 million dollars of the \$50 million dollars and another \$30 million dollars for selected arts projects and activities. To be eligible NEA funding must have been in use sometime during the last four years. UA will be ineligible. The amounts reported in this summary changes

almost daily. The Office of Sponsored Programs web site will list all the opportunities and will be available next week. To receive further information concerning the receipt of funding faculty was encouraged to contact their program manager. One senator asked if a new proposal should be submitted even though it has been stated that new proposals would not be considered and Dr. Benson answered yes. The question was asked if proposals submitted in January or February would automatically be reconsidered or if a request should be submitted. It has not been specified how proposals would be considered for the stimulus funding or regular grant money. Stimulus funding has some very strict reporting requirements. Reports must be filed quarterly within ten days of the end of the quarter. A sub contractor must report to the faculty member in order for them to report to the agency. There will be some funding available through ADECA. A University group went to Montgomery to determine the application of those funds. Dr. Benson will email this outline to President Karen Steckol for distribution.

President's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) HES, Law and Nursing have reported senator elections are complete. The senators were encouraged to urge the completion of elections in their college/school. There will be a training session for new senators prior to the next Faculty Senate meeting. Committee assignments will also be made at that time.

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

Secretary's Report – (*Jeanette VanderMeer*)

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) The Academic Affairs Committee was asked to consider the issue of dossiers for first year faculty members. The committee's recommendation is retention of the requirement.

Faculty Life – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn & Lowell Baker*) The Faculty Life Committee is working with Bob Smallwood regarding the climate survey. An electronic draft was sent to the committee and a meeting has been scheduled in two weeks.

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

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Shane Street*) Shane Street has been elected co-chair of the Research & Service Committee. The draft of the Research Misconduct Policy has been received and returned with a few suggested changes. This will come back to the Faculty Senate for a vote since it involves a Faculty Handbook revision. The proposal review process allows only a certain number of proposals to be forwarded. Qualifications and expertise needed to review the entire range of proposals is a concern. The Vice President of Research and research deans of the college involved make the decisions.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Michael Martone/Marci Daugherty*) The addition of an Information Technology Committee to the standing committees of the Faculty Senate was approved by the Faculty Senate at the February meeting. The change to the Faculty Senate By-laws included the addition of the **Information Technology Committee** to the list of Standing Committees with the addition of the following paragraph:

“Information Technology (IT) Committee. The Information Technology Committee studies and makes recommendations on matters that affect the information technology component, including computer hardware, computer software, personnel, policies, and procedures.

Number 8 to 11 were renumbered as 9 to 12. Diane Sekeres offered the amendment to insert “of faculty life” after the word component. The amendment as proposed was passed unanimously and the Bylaws will be updated on the web site.

Karen Steckol was elected **President** of the Faculty Senate by acclamation, Clark Midkiff was elected **Vice President** of the Faculty Senate by acclamation and Jeanette VanderMeer was elected **Secretary** of the Faculty Senate by acclamation. Two members were to be elected to the CUC with the Faculty Senate being the only ones that can elect CUC committee members. The CUC places members on all University committees. Those faculty members indicating interest on the committee preference survey in being a **CUC member** were on the ballot with no other nominations being submitted. John Mason and Ann Ramos counted the ballots. Amalia Amaki, Professor of Art & History and Lori Turner, Professor of Health Science were elected.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Carolyn Cassady*) A meeting was held with Dr. Kathleen Cramer, Senior Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, to discuss some ways to fill the need for faculty advisors. Dr. Cramer determined the most efficient method would be for her to work at the departmental and college level. The importance of the faculty advisor role will be stressed and faculty will be encouraged to be involved at this level. The addition of bike racks will be addressed by this committee. Dr. Steckol suggested the committee contact Hank Lazer, Associate Provost. Creative Campus designed some bike racks and have been on display in the past. A member of the Parking and Traffic Committee reported this committee is currently in discussion concerning bike storage and access. There are surplus sales on campus with over one hundred bikes usually available for sale in groups of ten.

Dr. Steckol will be meeting with the newly elected SGA President and Chief of Staff to stress the importance of the SGA representative’s attendance at Faculty Senate meetings. The SGA inauguration and dinner will be held in April with a thirty dollar ticket required.

Legislative Agenda (*Margaret Garner*) Last week the Presidents of all Alabama four-year institutions and the Chancellors met with the Governor to advocate higher education funding and equitable distribution of the stimulus financial package. It is important to be involved with local representatives and encourage them to support higher education funding. Additional members are needed for the Higher Education Partnership. Discussion included new ways to bring higher education to the forefront, the value of college education for not only the students but the value to the State of Alabama and suggestions to become more viable as an influence for higher education.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 PM