

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**MARCH 22, 2011 – 3:30 pm – ROOM 1026 CAPSTONE COLLEGE OF NURSING**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE:** Steve Burch, Rasma Lazda, Katrina Ramonell, Lew Silver, Brent Hardin, Steve Thoma, Bruce Kim, Clark Midkiff.

**ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE:** Patricia Parmelee/Sheila Black, Todd DeZoort/Tom Albright, Vijaya Sundar/Scott Arnold, Susan Burkett/Sushma Kotru, Brad Hodges/Marci Daugherty, Stuart Usdan/Jen Nicholson.

**GUESTS:** Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

The minutes of the February 15, 2011 Faculty Senate meeting were approved with one correction.

**President's Report** – (*Karen Steckol*) The majority of the Faculty Senate expressed their opinion to continue to meet at the Capstone College of Nursing building. Jeanette VanderMeer will check on another **meeting space** in the Capstone Nursing building with a friendlier configuration. Other opinions expressed were to have the Faculty Senate meetings at a more campus-centered location such as the Ferguson Center (rental fee is charged) or the AIME building.

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

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

**Academic Affairs** – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) The Provost has requested feedback from the Academic Affairs Committee regarding a possible **mandatory student academic plan** as a retention and graduation tool. The plan requires freshmen students to declare a major putting them on a preliminary track to graduation. For example, options might include “undecided-science”, “undecided-social science”, “undecided-humanities” and the option to change majors. The University of Florida has such a plan in place and has been successful in increasing retention and graduation rates. A student in good standing would be guaranteed enrollment in classes required for their major. According to the Florida plan the student “on track” would not be required to see an advisor. The report to the Provost will include comments made at the Faculty Senate meeting and the Academic Affairs Committee survey generally favoring the Florida model. If the system is implemented, suggestions included having the Academic Affairs Committee review the program every three years, one hundred percent acceptance of course credits for transferring community college students, online programs indicating a student’s interest and offering vocational guidance, establishing resources already available at The University of Alabama, a balance to avoid an overwhelming volume of information for the student and adequate personnel to administer the program. The Florida or similar model program would improve the institution’s organizational structure and provide the student with direction for the future. The Faculty Senate consensus favors implementation of a mandatory student academic plan

with the stipulations that advisor meetings not be eliminated and the opportunity be given at the department level to give specific feedback on the planning and impact of the implementation of the program. Marcia Barrett will distribute copies of an article titled "Improving Graduation Rates" referenced in this discussion. This article was published in the July/August 2006 issue of the journal Challenge.

**Faculty Life** – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn & Lowell Baker*) The Faculty Life Committee has sent the Provost a **maternity leave plan** which would be applied to nine and twelve-month faculty the same. The committee will follow up with the Provost, making certain the issue remains active.

**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*) According to Faculty Senate bylaws **officer elections** are held at the March meeting with those elected assuming officer positions at the April meeting. Rona Donahoe expressed the Faculty Senate's great admiration and appreciation to Karen Steckol for her service as Faculty Senate president for the past three years. The Faculty Senate bylaws are not quite clear concerning nominations from the floor stating that nominations should be made at the February meeting. There were no nominations made from the floor at the February meeting or any nominations received by email. The election proceeds from the President to the Vice President and then Secretary with each election being completed before advancing to the next officer position.

A motion was made and seconded to accept **Clark Midkiff as Faculty Senate President** by acclamation. The vote to approve was unanimous.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to suspend the rules to allow nominations from the floor for **Faculty Senate Vice President**. Andreas Piepke, Professor of Physics and Astronomy, was nominated for Vice President. Diedre Leaver-Dunn was nominated in February. Both made statements concerning their qualifications and goals if elected and answered questions. Small pieces of paper were distributed to all faculty present to use for casting their vote. Faculty recorded their votes on the slips of paper. Rona Donahoe and Steve Emens collected and counted the votes. **Deidre Leaver-Dunn** was elected.

Jeanette VanderMeer was the only nominee for Faculty Senate Secretary. A motion was made, seconded and approved by the Senate to elect Jeanette by acclamation.

There were no further nominations for the position of Ombudsperson. The three nominees are Alan Blum, College of Community Health Sciences, Dee Goldston, College of Education and Cassandra Simon, School of Social Work.

**Student Affairs** – (*Melondie Carter & Seth Panitch*) The Student Affairs Committee met last week to review a letter from a student condemning the racial slur and expressing concern about the decrease of living-learning accommodations due to sorority house construction on campus. The committee will respond to the letter, meet with Kathleen

Cramer, Vice President of Student Affairs, and report back to the Senate at the next meeting.

**Legislative Action** – (*Margaret Garner*) Email notices will be sent regarding the location of the buses to transport those participating in **Higher Education Day** in Montgomery on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Buses depart at approximately 7:15 A.M. Everyone was encouraged to participate and show support for higher education.

President Karen Steckol expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve for three years as Faculty Senate President. She also expressed appreciation to the officers and co-chairs and three different Senates for their hard work and support. Many things were accomplished during President Steckol's terms.

#### **Reports from Other Committees –**

Faculty Senate representative to the **Campus Master Plan** Committee gave an update concerning the activities of this committee. The operating campus master plan used by the University was developed in 2007. Policies and the master plan are updated every five years. The process to develop the campus master plan for 2012 is just beginning. Two of the largest challenges facing the University are increased enrollment and the purchase of the Bryce Hospital property. A call has been issued for input from faculty and staff to submit ideas and comments on what is the most important elements of the campus master plan process. There is an online survey on the University's web page with links to the survey. A planning firm from Birmingham will be handling the development of the master plan. Darryl Myer, a consultant for the campus master plan, will be invited to address the Faculty Senate meeting.

**Old Business** – President Steckol will request a faculty member representative be added to the committee making closing (weather, ball games, etc.) the University decisions.

President Steckol expressed appreciation to the outgoing senators for their dedication and service.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 P.M.