

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
MARCH 20, 2012 – 3:30 PM - #110 AIME**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Lowell Baker, Katrina Ramonell, Ed Stephenson, Joe Calamusa, Paul Horwitz, Wesley Church.

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Stevan Marcus/Seth Appiah-Opoku, Vijayua Sundar/Grier Stewart, Kagendo Mutua/Stephen Tomlinson.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

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

The minutes of the February 21, 2012 Faculty Senate meeting were approved with corrections.

President's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) President Midkiff expressed his gratitude to the current senators for their service. In April new senators will replace those with terms ending in 2012.

President Midkiff was notified by the Provost and Mark Nelson, Vice President for Student Affairs, that the **math class** (CSM #116) would be labeled “temporarily approved” until the Core Curriculum Committee meets to determine the core curriculum status of this class. President Midkiff recommended the Faculty Senate take no action until the Core Curriculum Committee’s decision is made. The point was made that the Core Curriculum Committee has had ample time to meet to review this math class. A suggestion was made for the registrar to place an asterisk next to the class title to notify students it is a “temporarily approved” class. Questions were posed concerning how the class was published in the catalogue, the timeline of the process and the method used to present this class temporarily bypassing faculty approval system. The Academic Affairs Committee will look at the timeline and the process followed to declare a class “temporarily approved”.

Judy Bonner as Interim President of The University of Alabama has arranged to continue to meet with the Faculty Senate President and the Faculty Senate Steering Committee and stated the Faculty Senate will have a role to play in the UA presidential search.

Vice President's Report – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn*) There has been ongoing dialog concerning the immigration **bill HB56** regarding the impact on University faculty and students. The opinion of the Steering Committee is the spirit of HB56 is completely counter to the mission of higher education. A well-crafted resolution unanimously adopted by The University of Alabama-Huntsville concerning this legislation has been emailed to the Faculty Senate. A proposal will be made to the Faculty Senate meeting in April.

Secretary's Report – (*Jeanette VanderMeer*) Secretary VanderMeer expressed her thanks to the Senate for allowing her to serve.

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) The Academic Affairs Committee will meet with Lorne Kuffel from the Office of Institutional Research on March 27 to discuss participation percentages involving student opinion of teaching surveys.

Faculty Life – (*Lowell Baker & Wesley Church*) The Faculty Life Committee has not met.

Financial Affairs – (*Robert McLeod & Katrina Ramonell*) The Financial Affairs Committee will meet with Ira Harby on April 3 at 3:00 P.M. in the Dean's Conference Room-Fourth Floor-Alston Hall to discuss the transition phase of formula funding for higher education.

Information Technology – (*Carolyn Cassady & Brad Hodges*) Tom Wilson, Associate Dean for Library Technology, is leading the UA team for a data management plan for research proposals. The meeting with the Provost, Joe Benson and the Faculty Senate Steering Committee was cancelled.

The Center for Information Technology has invited the Faculty Senate to attend the 2012 CIT faculty showcase on Friday, March 30 from 10:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. There will be a presentation of new technology and there will be a drawing for prizes such as a Nook, an I Pad and other items.

The Information Technology Committee will be meeting on Monday, March 26 with two representatives from the College of Arts & Sciences to discuss new technology and college information technology interactions. The Information Technology Committee will meet immediately following this meeting.

Research & Service – (*Ian Stancu & Ed Stephenson*) A list compiled from several institutions revealed The University of Alabama and one other institution have a maximum three-year limit for **post-doctoral** length of appointments. This information has been forwarded to the Provost. The other issue concerns yearly raises for post-doctoral students.

The Research & Service Committee met with Kevin Stevens, Director of Procurement Services, to discuss bidding and purchasing policies. Alabama has a \$7,500 **minimum bid** limit which is under consideration to increase to \$15,000.

Per diem travel allocation for international travel is in the process of being increased. This would be on a city-by-city and country-by-country basis.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Rona Donahoe*) The Ombudsperson election is ongoing.

The slate of officers for the Faculty Senate election: Steve Miller, Faculty Senate President; Steve Katsinas, Faculty Senate Vice President; and Rona Donahoe, Faculty Senate Secretary.

Presidential candidate Steve Miller addressed the Faculty Senate and made the following remarks. Steve has been a UA professor since 1988, Director of the Book Art Program/Library School/College of Communications, has served as a Senator, Vice President and President of the Faculty Senate, served on the Mediation Committee, served on search committees, transitioned through three UA Presidents and now transitioning the replacement of Dr. Robert Witt as UA President. He stated the Faculty Senate is the moral compass and heart of the University campus and that if elected he would be the strong and direct voice for the Faculty Senate.

Vice Presidential candidate Steve Katsinas addressed the Faculty Senate and made the following remarks: Steve was here from 1985 until 1987 serving in his first job out of graduate school; discussed UA history, served on ad hoc committee at Oklahoma State University to consider an institutional review board, worked on the faculty council, believes faculty governance is at the heart of higher education, higher education is the best investment State government can make in view of

economic and academic growth and would like to see state-wide institutions and colleagues work to promote the public good of higher education, and will be a Faculty Senate advocate and voice.

Faculty Senate Secretary candidate Rona Donahoe addressed the Faculty Senate: Has been on the Faculty Senate for over twenty years, will work with Faculty Senate officers, review the Faculty Senate constitution and bylaws, establish a calendar to red flag and improve committee working efficiency, believes in shared governance at UA.

A motion was made and seconded to elect officers by acclamation. Steve Miller, Faculty Senate President; Steve Katsinas, Faculty Senate Vice President, and Rona Donahoe, Faculty Senate Secretary were elected unanimously.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Seth Panitch*) The Student Affairs Committee will meet with Mark Nelson, Vice President for Student Affairs; Sara Hartley, Director of External Affairs, Division of Student Affairs; and Tim Hebson, Dean of Students, on April 3 at 3:30 P.M. in 254 Rose.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) Changes are expected regarding the immigration issue with specific wording not in place at this time.

The minimum bid increase from \$7,500 to \$15,000 is out of committee and is awaiting placement on the Senate docket.

The State Legislature will adjourn three weeks early allowing redistricting considerations and avoiding the cost of a special session.

The General Fund will have to make adjustments for a 10% state budget reduction.

Higher Education Day in Montgomery had 2,000 in attendance. Emphasis continued to be placed on 2/3-1/3 educational funding.

For the tenth year the Higher Education Alumni Task Force met with over 100 alumni present to discuss how alumni can help their respective campuses and higher education in general.

The 2012 Higher Education Partnership Board met and marked the fifteenth anniversary of the Partnership and its considerable impact. Being a HEP member of this organization has many benefits including insurance protection from various legal actions that might be taken.

It was suggested to pursue some type legislation to decrease the age limit from 19 to 17 for higher education students participating in various research projects.

Reports from Other University Committees

The Academic Affairs Committee requested an update on the SEC Faculty Award recommendation sent to the Provost.

President Clark Midkiff expressed thanks to Deidre Leaver-Dunn and Jeanette VanderMeer for their years of service and the Senate gave them a round of applause. Clark Midkiff was also given a round of applause for his service as Faculty Senate President.

Meeting adjourned 4:35 P.M.