

FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

APRIL 16, 2002 – 3:30 PM – FERGUSON FORUM

MINUTES

Roll Call and Quorum Check – *(Keith Woodbury)*

ABSENT: George Franke, Don Hooks, Karne Burgess, Karla Carmichael

Approval of minutes

GUESTS: Joanna Hutt, Dialog and Crimson White representative

President Steve Miller welcomed new senators and thanked co-chairs for their dedication and hard work this past year. Appreciation was expressed to Marvin Johnson for the new ombudsperson proposal and implementation. Everyone was encouraged to bring forth issues, proposals and resolutions.

Appreciation was also expressed to Norm Baldwin for his outstanding service as president this past year. His valuable assistance in the transition to a new president of the Faculty Senate was acknowledged. An engraved gavel and a handmade book of poetry were presented to him. Norm thanked the committees and senators and stated that their goal this past year was to keep faculty needs a priority. Norm conducted himself and the business of the Senate in a commendable and admirable manner.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – *(Steve Miller)*

The goal of the Senate for this coming year will be to pursue concessions and benefits for the faculty and staff in the absence of salary increases. Salary increases will continue to be a top priority.

A motion was made and seconded to elect Bob Sigler Senate Parliamentarian. He was elected unanimously, with voice, to the Senate.

The Provost is developing a budget model for the University. A joint meeting with the Provost, Steering Committee and Financial Affairs Committee will be held for comments and review of the budget.

Priscilla Hancock, Associate Vice-President for Information Services and Academic Affairs, made a presentation to the Steering Committee concerning the Data Warehouse project. The Financial Affairs Committee will study the proposal and react in writing by the end of this month. Some concerns expressed were what information would be collected, who will have access to this information, how the information may be accessed and the cost of the project. The presentation was at the last minute and there seems to be a definite push to get this through. A letter from Steve Miller was sent to Priscilla Hancock with these concerns stated.

A letter is being sent to Alabama Scholars Association from Steve Miller, President, and the Faculty Senate Steering Committee. This is in response to actions by the ASA

concerning diversity issues. The letter reiterates the Senate's support for ongoing diversity efforts in all aspects of University life. It further stated that the Senate strongly supports dismantling racist structures and practices in all forms and urges all faculty members to redouble their efforts toward these goals.

Norm Baldwin gave an update on the status of Greek desegregation. The Senate has maintained a private rather than public profile in the recent past and has monitored progress on this issue. The Vice President of Student Affairs, the Provost and other administrators assured that progress would be made in this area. Acquiring recommendations for sorority applicants was addressed to a national organization of Vice Presidents of Student Affairs, sorority and fraternity officers and others with the information forthcoming that this seems to be a regional problem rather than a national concern. The Senate has supported a unified rush and has been very concerned with the blackball system. Correspondence will be sent to the national Pan-Hellenic organization with recommendations to modify the recommendation system. President Sorensen has issued a challenge to the sororities and fraternities to invite five African Americans to a social function this spring.

Legislative Agenda Committee – (*Margaret Garner*) Legislative Breakfasts with special speakers had an attendance of 80-100 individuals at each meeting. Higher Education Day conducted in Montgomery and organized by the Legislative Agenda Committee was very successful. The goal is to attain a 2/3 – 1/3 split in the Education Trust Fund, support and urge candidates to avoid signing a "no tax pledge" and urge their support of home rule. Constitutional reform is an important issue and would lead us into the next century. Support the candidate that is committed to the support of all education and to the solution of funding problems. Everyone is urged to be informed, communicate with elected officials and support the candidate of their choice. Membership in HEP is low at UA and increased membership will only serve to make this voice stronger.

Nominations for Ombudsperson were opened for any additional names from the floor of the Senate. Nominees at this point are Scott Hestevolt, Philosophy, Phil Johnson, Engineering, Yorgo Pasadeos, Advertising & PR, Bob Sigler, Criminal Justice, Bryan Fair, Law, Amy Ward, Biological Science and Paul Allen, A&S. Elections will be held electronically in two weeks. The position and criteria description is on the web page.

Academic Affairs – (*Don Desmet and Beth Macauley*) This committee dealt with the issue of the student's request to publish student evaluations. This issue has been laid to rest. Grade inflation and a reserved parking space and drop box at Testing Services for grades is being considered.

Research & Service – (*Bing Blewitt*) The matter of missing library books was an action item for this committee. Guidelines will be proposed by the Faculty Library Committee and forwarded for review by the Research and Service Committee.

Financial Affairs – (*Terry Royed & Keith Woodbury*) Three issues addressed by this committee were intellectual property rights, graduate student health benefits and faculty salaries. The Intellectual property rights issue, after minor revisions, has been given to an ad hoc committee of faculty and deans appointed by the Provost. Underwriting health benefits for graduate students by the University was considered, with cost being a deterrent. It was found that there was a health plan that the grad students could purchase. Faculty salary increases have barely kept pace with inflation recently and administration has been asked for a plan to be put in place to permanently deal with this situation.

Faculty Life – (*Wythe Holt & Jerry Rosiek*) Diversity has been one of the main concerns

of this committee. They have chosen not to bring forth a resolution yet. The clarification and change of maternity and sick leave policy of the University is ongoing.

Planning & Operations – (*Bill Keel & John Mason*) This committee dealt with the issue of the elimination of Saturday exams. Next fall a Monday-Friday schedule of four possible exam periods will be implemented. A Fall Study Break was brought forward by the SGA and was researched and processed by this committee. Administration is not in favor of this. The timing of Spring Break was brought forward coordinating with local schools and other considerations. Information collection for a faculty database that the Systems Office wants appears to be threatening to privacy and division of workloads,

and should be considered by newly appointed members of this committee. It has also been suggested by a student organization that the University conduct an environmental audit.

Student Affairs – (*Alvin Winters*) The resolution for privatization of the Greek system was referred to this committee. After research, discussion and processing the issue, it was determined that the cost would be over one million dollars and legal lease issues would make this prohibitive. They also determined that it would not promote desegregation of the Greek system.

Senate Operations – (*Harry Price & Wythe Holt*) Benefits for same sex domestic partners was an issue that came before this committee. A supporting resolution passed the Senate but implementing the benefits was denied by Administration. Proposed Grievance Document changes and compromises were not accepted and will not be pursued further at this time. The establishment of an Ombudsperson with a new description of duties and qualifications is in place. Electronic election will be held in two weeks. The definition for regular faculty to serve as senators was changed to allow wider representation in the Senate. Excessive absence of senators also concerns this committee. Arts & Sciences have not held their election of new senators at this time. There will be a faculty meeting on Thursday, April 17, to discuss the lack of nominations.

Faculty Leadership Review – (*Norm Baldwin*) A survey instrument is being developed over the summer. Three resolutions have been passed in the Senate to create a system of more frequent feedback to deans and chairs. More frequent feedback is good management but several deans have objected to two of those resolutions. After lobbying the deans and department heads individually, and with a lack of support forthcoming, the Faculty Senate determined to take this responsibility. The majority of deans was not opposed but did not want to impose this on their colleagues. All progress from this committee will be reported to the Steering Committee.

New Business – There are University committees and task forces that do not have Senate representation and should be addressed by the Senate.

The first Courage award given by Higher Education Partnership went to The University of Alabama graduate, Wallace Malone, for his courage and service in support of higher education.

The newly assigned senate committees then met to elect Co-chairs.

Academic Affairs Beth Macauley & Gary Warren

Research & Service Subhabrata Chakraborti & Jim Eddy

Financial Affairs Keith Woodbury & TBA

Faculty Life Nick Stinnet & Wythe Holt

Planning & Operations John Mason & TBA

Student Affairs Jeff Richetto & Clark Midkiff

Senate Operations Harry Price & Frannie James

Meeting adjourned 5:05 PM