

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
APRIL 17, 2007 – 3:30 PM – 150 SHELBY HALL**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Ed Stephensen, Giles D’Sousa, Karen Burgess, Joe Phelps, Jeff Weddle, David Arnold, Clark Midkiff, Linda Enders, Norm Stein, Sharon Nichols, Kagendo Mutua, Lisa Scherff

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Marcia Barrett/Lisa Yuro

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog

Roll call and quorum check by Faculty Senate Vice President, Karen Steckol.

The minutes from the March 27, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

President John Vincent welcomed all new senators to their first 2007-08 Faculty Senate meeting. The election process in Arts & Sciences is being reviewed in light of one division being smaller than the other two. All Faculty Senate committee preferences were filled with the exception of one request. There were more names for the Research and Service Committee than available slots. The Senate approved the Faculty Senate Committee list and the Faculty Senate Committee Representative list for 2007-08. Dee Goldston was re-elected Parliamentarian for 2007-08. The meeting divided into committee groups to elect co-chairs.

COMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRS

Academic Affairs

Rona Donahoe & Marcia Barrett

Financial Affairs

Jeanette Vandermeer & David Arnold

Research & Service

Shane Street & Ed Stephenson

Student Affairs

Melondie Carter & Carolyn Cassady

Faculty & Senate Governance

John Mason & Roy Maize

Faculty Life

Lowell Baker & Deidre Leaver-Dunn

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee composed of Faculty Senate Officers, Committee Co-chairs, Parliamentarian and Past President meets the second Tuesday of the month at 3:00 PM in 206F Shelby Hall. The full Senate meets the third Tuesday of the month at 3:30 PM in 150 Shelby Hall. Committees usually meet the first Tuesday of the month and meetings of the steering committee with the Provost are usually on Thursdays.

President's Report – (*John Vincent*) A handout with information about the Fulbright Scholar Program was made available by International Student Affairs. The Faculty Senate office has relocated to Room 401 Martha Parham West. The Provost sent the Faculty Senate a letter of congratulations on the historical joint meeting of the Faculty Senate and the SGA Senate. There is great concern about the preservation of archaeological finds on campus. Excavation for a trolley stop threatens the remains of an antebellum dorm burned during the Civil War. Arts & Sciences will celebrate their 175th birthday today. Since the Faculty Senate meeting and the celebration are on the same day and time, the hours of the celebration have been extended to allow A & S Senators time to attend. The Professional Staff Assembly has passed a resolution regarding parking and transit changes on campus. Concern was expressed in the resolution about the lack of input regarding the decisions. John Vincent wrote the assembly a letter expressing the sympathies of the Faculty Senate adding that the plan is in place. Other than addressing individual problems that arise, little can be done to alter the plan at this point.

Vice President's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) No report.

Secretary's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*)

Academic Affairs – (*Rona Donohoe & Marcia Barrett*) Student enrollment increases, transition from web CT to new software and sufficient classroom space are issues this committee will be addressing in the new senate year. Any issues concerning academic affairs should be brought to the attention of this committee.

Faculty Life – (*Lowell Baker*) This committee deals with any issues regarding the status of faculty life. Maternity leave and smoking restrictions were items of action by this committee last year.

Research & Service – (*Shane Street & Clark Midkiff*) Proposed conflict of interest and misconduct in research documents are being reviewed by this committee. Concerns include the reporting mechanism process suggested in both documents.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Douglas Lightfoot*) Ken Wright of HES was elected Ombudsperson. This committee oversees elections and adherence to the Faculty Senate bylaws.

Student Affairs – (*Carolyn Cassidy & Karen Burgess*) Items under review by this committee include football priority student seating and tickets and increased student enrollment.

Financial Affairs – (*Jeanette Vandermeer & David Arnold*) The Financial Affairs Committee works with the UA Vice President for Financial Affairs, Lynda Gilbert. Budget presentations are presented periodically by the Financial Affairs Office. Continuing work is being done on the PEEHIP issue and pay check deductions for teaching summer school. The Alabama Legislature in 2003 passed a law stating anyone retiring with less than 25 years service will pay two percent of the employer's cost per year under 25. The Faculty Senate passed a resolution requesting those with less than 25 years be grandfathered in, and to inform those newly hired employees about the impact of the percentage increase if they retire with less than 25 years.

Legislative Agenda – *(Margaret Garner)* There were approximately 2,000 in attendance at Higher Education Day held in Montgomery. Bill Jones, Director of Government Relations, spoke to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee last week. There is a training program for students conducted by the Higher Education Partnership organization in August. Student leaders are trained specifically to related legislative issues. This includes public advocacy and higher education issues. The benefits of membership in the Higher Education Partnership were reviewed. Anyone not a current member was encouraged to join.

Reports from University Committees -

The Faculty Senate representatives on University Committees should give a report to the Faculty Senate about their committee meetings. Committee assignment notices from the President's Office will go out this summer.

The Intercollegiate Athletic Committee voted to send a resolution to the Athletics Director requesting a ban on the "Rammer Jammer" football cheer.

Each senator was encouraged to review any issues that pertain to faculty and staff benefits and forward those to the Financial Affairs Committee.

In the absence of full Faculty Senate meetings during the summer, the Faculty Senate Steering Committee will act on behalf of the Senate.

New Business –

The new Faculty Senate roster, committee assignments and university committee assignments will be posted on the Faculty Senate web page. A list of Faculty Senate and Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting dates, times and locations will be posted. The list serve will also be updated. The university committee assignments will be emailed to Kathy Morrow in the Provost's Office.

A moment of silence was observed for the tragic loss of life on the Virginia Tech campus.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 PM.