

FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

AUGUST 26, 2003 – 3:30 PM – FERGUSON FORUM

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Roll was called and quorum declared by Roy Ann Sherrod. Delegates representing the Retired Faculty Association of The University of Alabama, Black Faculty and Staff Association, Professional Staff Committee, Office Clerical Staff Committee, Maintenance Personnel Committee, Student Government Association, Graduate Student Association and the Office of Alumni Affairs have privileges of the floor and the right to address the Senate.

The minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting held April 15, 2003, were approved with one minor correction.

President John Mason welcomed everyone for the 2003-04 year and senators introduced themselves stating the school/college they are representing.

Joe Hornsby, **Faculty Athletic Representative**, was introduced. The newly enacted NCAA eligibility standards for scholar-athletes were presented. Dr. Hornsby has attended three conferences over the summer concerning this subject. The presidents of NCAA member institutions are taking more control of the standards scholar-athletes must meet to participate in athletics. The first modification for all scholar-athletes of all sports is a score of 2.0 or better in core courses in high school. The number of core courses has been increased with a requirement of sixteen by the year 2008. The second change concerns the GPA and ACT/SAT scores to be eligible. The old standard of 2.0 in thirteen core courses and ACT score of 21 would admit a student. The new sliding scale to determine eligibility would admit a student with 2.5 or better and ACT score of 17 or better. The details of the sliding scale are listed on the NCAA web page. If a high school senior has a 3.5 in fourteen core courses, the scholar-athlete could be eligible for competition with an ACT score of ten or SAT score of 400. If a student has 2.0 score in the core, the ACT score should be 21. With the sliding scale, a 3.4 core average the ACT score could be eleven. The new NCAA standards allow scholar-athletes with high GPA's and low testing skills to attain eligibility. There is discussion in Academic Affairs, the NCAA committee chaired by Hank Lazer, the academic support staff, the compliance office of the Athletic Department, the head of admissions and the vice president of admissions concerning the impact the new NCAA standards will have on the university and the admission of scholar-athletes. There are special cases of athletic and non-athletic admissions. The NCAA has also increased the academic standards to be maintained by scholar-athletes toward obtaining their degree. Initial eligibility has become more flexible but once eligibility is established the scholar-athlete is held to a higher academic standard than regular students. For example, a scholar-athlete entering the second year of college must complete 24 hours with a 1.8 GPA. The third year 40% of degree requirements must be completed with a 1.9 GPA. The fourth year 60% completion is required with a 2.0 GPA and the fifth year (red shirt scholar-athletes) standard is 80% completion with a 2.0 GPA to be eligible. Only 61% of University of Alabama students graduate within six years. The NCAA also is implementing the Incentive-Disincentive program for those institutions that are not maintaining the academic standards, graduation and retention set forth by the NCAA. Features of that program include penalties of a warning, loss of scholarships and denial of

competition in bowl or championship competition. Miles Brand of the NCAA may be contacted if the senators have any concerns about the new NCAA legislation concerning these academic standards. The NCAA has implemented new standards in response to a lawsuit alleging the ACT/SAT admission standards are ethically biased. The NCAA web site has a listing of subjects that meet core standards. John Mason attended a conference of SEC leaders last May. Miles Brand announced these changes at the meeting. All have been implemented except the incentive/disincentive program with final decisions still to be made. Miles Brand stated that over a five-year period over 36 basketball programs failed to graduate a single athlete. Concern was stated that the 3.5 GPA on four-subject standard would pressure institutions and others to admit students based on outstanding athletic abilities rather than academic standards.

Through an oversight Bob Sigler was unanimously elected **parliamentarian** but was not voted speaking and floor privileges. There was a motion, a second and a unanimous vote to give Parliamentarian Bob Sigler those privileges.

Membership in the **Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics** organization was the next item presented for the Senate's consideration. This organization began in 2002 as an email network of faculty leaders from over fifty Division I-A schools in Bowl Championship Series conferences including the Atlantic Coast Conference, the Big-12, the Big East, the Big Ten, the Pac-10 and the Southeastern Conference. The Coalition functions through a Steering Committee of thirteen members, nominated by faculty leaders in each conference. The purpose as stated by the organization is to promote serious and comprehensive reform of intercollegiate sports, so as to preserve and enhance the contributions athletics can make to academic life by addressing longstanding problems in college sports that undermine those contributions. The University of Arkansas Faculty Senate has become a member of this group. The UA Faculty Senate Steering Committee in June with Margaret Garner making the motion that the UA Faculty Senate join this organization received a unanimous vote to do so. Questions regarded the persons that would attend their meetings and which person would provide feedback from those meetings. The advantages of membership would be to have influence on coming changes and decisions. Miles Brand of the NCAA looks to this group for their input. The Faculty Senate voted unanimously to become a member of the "Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics".

The update on **Faculty Feedback on Deans and Department Chairs** included the points that the survey would be implemented the middle of January giving approximately 80 new faculty members a semester of experience with their chairs. The chairs will be evaluated first and the deans will be evaluated the second year alternating each following year. Only the chair being evaluated will receive the results of the first survey. There are two potential problems: a faculty member can vote only once even if they have two department chairs and the other problem is possibly a faculty member might choose to evaluate a dean or chair outside their department. Software cannot eliminate these problems at this time. Testing service will do the tabulation of the survey. The evaluations of the faculty members will be anonymous.

Vice President Mathew Winston gave an update of **Greek Integration** at The University of Alabama. President John Mason, Vice President Mathew Winston and Secretary Roy Ann Sherrod met with Pat Hermann concerning this issue. Hermann had some excellent ideas. These were further discussed with President Witt. President Witt spoke with the sororities and fraternities. Gamma Phi Beta sorority accepted an African American student as a potential member. The hope is that this is the beginning of a continuing process.

Three sheets containing the **UAB Scorecard of Performance Measures** drafted in May of 2003 were handed out. The Systems Office wants all three campuses to have a set of

performance measures to be basically the same in these areas; Undergraduate Education, Graduate and Professional Education, Community/Financial Support, Work Environment, Research and Scholarship and Service to Community and State. This information seems to indicate a road map for the future of UAB. Under "Graduate and Professional Education" between 2002 and 2010 a 40% increase in graduate enrollment is expected. They are expecting to double the value of their fellowships from six million to thirteen million. The amount of grants and contracts is expected to increase from 3 ¼ million to ¾ billion dollars between 2002 and 2010. The number of donors giving \$100 to \$10,000 is expected to double. There is a concern about the impact this will have on The University of Alabama. The amount UAB expected from state appropriations was questioned.

The Board of Trustees approved a 16 ¼% **tuition increase** for undergraduate resident students and 17.35% increase for non-residents based on 30 semester hours and excluding \$200 per semester food buy-in fee. A student pays \$4,134.00 to attend the University of Alabama for nine months and \$4,500.00 with the food buy-in. Enrollment at the University has increased this year with 780 freshmen attending bringing in approximately three million dollars revenue. Dr. Witt has a goal of 22,000 students attending The University of Alabama. This would mean additional human resources to service those students.

Semester hours have been reduced to seventeen meaning that a student would pay an additional fee to take eighteen hours.

John Mason reviewed the Faculty Senate meeting dates of every third Tuesday of the month except August when it is the fourth Tuesday and the second Tuesday of December. The Faculty Senate does not meet in May, June or July. The Faculty Senate web page has a link to meeting dates, agendas and minutes from each meeting. Senators were encouraged to attend each meeting.

Scott Bridges of the Legislative Agenda Committee gave information concerning meetings in **support** of the **Tax Reform vote** on September 9. He gave a review of the funding difficulties of the University in the past and the formation of the Legislative Agenda Committee. There will be a support rally held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 27, on the Quad with Governor Riley and other officials attending. An informal "chat" session will be held at the Food Court at Ferguson hosted by John Mason and Scott Bridges. This will be for anyone to join them for a chat concerning the tax reform package.

Holden McAllister, a member of the Libertarian Party, gave information about **non-supportive Tax Reform** meetings and opposition to the University's involvement in supporting the plan. There will be a meeting opposing the tax reform package on Wednesday, August 27 in the courtyard on the west side of Ferguson Center at 5:00 p.m. This group has yard signs available for anyone wishing to have them for their personal use. These are not to be displayed on campus.

Catherine Davies of **Financial Affairs** gave a report that this committee will be meeting to determine the direction to be taken after the September 9th vote.

It was suggested to develop a plan to have in place in the event the tax reform package does not pass.

The **Faculty Life** committee survey concerning the issue the faculty considered most important to improve faculty life. The responses numbered 144 with 142 being anonymous. Salaries were considered the most important with other issues of importance being social acceptance, faculty networking and opportunities, research and research

support, teaching and teaching effectiveness, administration leadership, faculty morale, benefits, physical environment, student concerns and community issues. The information about any of these issues would be forwarded to the committee requesting the information to formulate their goals and agenda for this coming senate year.

The Senate was asked for an indication of their interest in a **fall break**. The city and county schools have a fall break the second week of October but school begins earlier to allow for the break. Last year the Planning and Operations committee looked at changing the summer school semesters into two four-week semesters and looked at other scenarios. This topic was turned over to the Planning and Operations committee. Last year spring break was set to coincide with public school testing making it late in the semester. It has been moved up for the coming year.

Harry Price urged everyone and members of University committees and others to report anything that would affect the faculty. This would give the Senate an opportunity to take action rather than being reactive. The Senate has the right to nominate members of the University Committee on Committees and next year the Senate will have five faculty voting members on this committee.

Frannie James reported that an upcoming issue of concern is **faculty health benefits**. There will be a plan presented that will be an option to Blue Cross Blue Shield. Everyone was encouraged to follow the information that will be in Dialog.

Scott Bridges urged everyone to vote on September 9th.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 PM