

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
AUGUST 24, 2010 – 3:30 PM – Room 1026 CAPSTONE NURSING BUILDING

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE – Lowell Baker, Priscilla Davis (Sabbatical), Jim Hall, James Hamilton, Osiris Molina, Katrina Ramonell, John Hill, Lew Silver, Janis Edwards, Liza Wilson, Steve Emens

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Ed Back/Keith Woodbury

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Jill Beville, Professional Staff Assembly

The minutes of the April 20, 2010 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

President's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) The Faculty Senate Steering Committee did not meet during the summer but did meet with the Provost. Campus activities during the summer include the stadium expansion, Foster Auditorium renovation, new Crimson Ride routes, Lloyd Hall completed renovation, raises and new restaurant locations on campus. After considering every alternative and considering the safety of the football players fall break dates have been changed to accommodate the UA-Georgia State football game on Thursday, November 18, 2010. Keith Woodbury asked if special consideration would be given to University employees on the day of the game. No official statement has been made at this time. Some departments have encouraged their employees to work from home on that date.

In answering a question concerning **faculty football tickets** Dr. Steckol stated that the location of faculty seats was not the agreement reached with the Athletic Ticket Office. Some of the tickets are located on the highest row making it difficult to reach for some faculty members. This issue will be revisited at the earliest meeting date with Athletic Ticket Office personnel.

Disappointment was expressed in the resolution of **parking** and football ticket location issues. More parking spaces are being pushed to the outer edges of campus along with an increased number of reserved parking spaces for state vehicles, paid spaces and specific departments. Parking fees have dramatically increased and have been discussed with no apparent reduction in those fees.

The progress of providing **domestic partner benefits** has been suspended by the State Legislature due to establishing the legality of providing such benefits. The University of Alabama Faculty Senate has passed a resolution supporting the provision of these benefits. There will be a follow up on the status of this issue.

The University's **assessment outcome** with students has not completely met SACS standards. The University has addressed this by having a designated representative in each department to deal directly on a regular basis with Bob Smallwood, Assistant to the

Provost for Assessment. It is important for the representative to communicate faculty concerns to Bob Smallwood's office. UA will have to make whatever changes necessary to meet SACS standards to maintain accreditation. This issue will be discussed further with the Provost.

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

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

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Marcia Barrett*) The Student Philosophy Statement voted on by the Faculty Senate last spring has been forwarded to the Deans. Discussion is underway with two of the Deans signifying their approval at this time.

Faculty Life – (*Lowell Baker & Deidre Leaver-Dunn*) This committee will continue to address the maternity leave policy and health insurance items.

Financial Affairs – (*Katrina Ramonell & Steve Hobbs*) This committee will meet on September 7th.

Information Technology – (*Ray White & Jim Hall*) No report.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Brian Gordon*) The Research and Service Committee will meet with Joe Benson, Vice President for Research, on September 7th. Topics of discussion will include patent policies, contracts and grants staff turnovers and other issues.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Rona Donahoe & Steve Emens*) Three faculty members as **Ombudspersons** are an impartial and confidential resource for faculty complaints or conflicts. The two present Ombudspersons are Anastasia Summers from Arts and Sciences and Ken Wright from HES. According to qualifications for an Ombudsperson the nominee for the third position must come from Business or Engineering. Last year's outgoing Ombudsperson was from Business which would favor a nominee from Engineering but not preclude a nominee from Business. The Faculty Senate will compose a list of nominees with a campus wide election to be held. Email nominees after assuring they are willing to serve to Rona Donahoe rdonahoe@geo.ua.edu or Steve Emens semens@law.ua.edu.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Seth Panitch*) The Student Affairs Committee plans to meet in the next few weeks.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) A very successful Stars Retreat and Alumni Advocacy meeting was held in Sandestin August 8 through 11. The purpose of this meeting is leadership training for students from all public institutions across Alabama. The emphasis this year was to increase **Higher Education Partnership** membership. Following struggles in the past the Higher Education Partnership was formed as an advocacy group for higher education. The organizer of the Higher Education Partnership

believed higher education is an economic engine and asset for Alabama. It brought together the presidents of the thirteen four year state institutions to speak with one voice on issues that affect all Alabama higher education institutions. The formula used by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education in 2009 to measure the State's level of support indicates the level of funding for Alabama's higher education institutions at a level \$600 million behind the standard. The Southern Regional Education Board of Atlanta, Georgia calculates Alabama's effectiveness as a competitive institution as eleventh out of sixteen states. Funding per student is more than \$1200 below average. The State of Alabama ranks eleventh out of sixteen states with adults with college degrees. Each faculty member should be a partner in advocacy for higher education. Part of that effort should be as a member of the Higher Education Partnership. Two million dollars of professional liability insurance coverage is included in the highest level of HEP membership. Everyone was encouraged to join and several senators will be called on to present membership information to their departments/divisions.

The appointed faculty members of the **University Committee on Committees** should have received their letters.

A volunteer is needed for the **Equal Opportunity Committee** at the University level.

Deveanna Minor was voted by the Faculty Senate as the new Parliamentarian.

The lack of Faculty Senate input and communication concerning parking regulations and building planning was raised. Susan Burkett is the Faculty Senate representative to the Parking and Traffic Regulations and will be attending the meetings of this committee. The University police should be notified when unauthorized vehicles are parked illegally.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 PM.