

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2007 – 3:30 PM – 150 SHELBY HALL**

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Chase Wrenn/Brian Bishop; John Mason/Mike Dugan; Kagendo Mutua/Cicile Komara/ Anware Haque/Mike Freeman; Norm Stein/Steve Emens; Melondie Carter/Marsha Adams

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Priscilla Davis, Giles D’Sousa, Doug Cook, Margaret Garner, David Arnold, Viola Acoff, Srinath Viswanathan, Roy Maize, Wesley Church

GUESTS: Matt Wisda, SGA representative (SGA Vice President of Academic Affairs); Jarrett Cocharo, Crimson White; Adam Jones, Tuscaloosa News

Roll call and quorum check by Faculty Senate Secretary Clark Midkiff.

The minutes from the August 21, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

President’s Report – *(John Vincent)* The Faculty Senate Steering Committee recommended to President Witt the names of Karen Steckol (Communicative Disorders), Martin Evans (Mathematics), and Brian Bishop (Art) for the “**Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans and Department Chairpersons and in the Evaluation of Academic Programs Committee**”. Karen Steckol and Martin Evans will serve as members of this committee. President Witt invited the Faculty Senate Steering Committee to an **appreciation dinner** at the Mansion for their support of changes made on campus. Gordon Stone, **Higher Education Partnership**, will speak to the Faculty Senate meeting this fall. The University of Alabama **Board of Trustees** met on campus September 13 and 14. Construction items discussed at this meeting included Phase II dormitory expansion. The trustees approved UA’s 2007-2008 budget; it is basically the same budget that was presented last spring. The UA Fall **Faculty/Staff meeting** will be held October 10 at 1:30 PM in the Rast Room at the Bryant Conference Center. A reception hosted by the **SGA** will be September 24 from 5:00 to 6:00 PM in the Anderson Room at the Ferguson Center. Textbook costs and tax breaks for textbook purchases is one of the issues concerning the SGA. The Faculty Senate supports efforts to reduce the cost of textbooks. The Faculty Senate sponsors a **review of deans and chairs**. The review of deans is conducted one year and the chair review is conducted the following year. The chair review went out to the faculty last year after some delay. The data has been collected for the review. The committee will meet in the near future to process the data and forward the results to the deans and chairs. It was pointed out that this process should be through the administration. With volunteers manning the reviews, consistency is difficult. The **reception for deans** hosted by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee will be October 23, 2007 from 5:00 until 6:30 P.M. in the Hall of Fame Room in Bidgood Hall. Copies of the **SGA** sponsored “**Comprehensive Recycling Proposal**” were made available. The proposal would expand the recycling program on campus to include

aluminum cans, all types of paper and cardboard, plastics, newspapers, magazines and phone books. The Faculty Senate supports the proposal in spirit with concerns about the feasibility of recycling plastics. The Faculty Senate made the suggestion to have a Physical Plant Manager of the recycling program, and to have a recycling education program for UA housekeepers. The funding for the cost of recycling and spending of the proceeds was questioned. The SGA will add these issues to their proposal and forward the final copy to the Provost. The new Interim Vice President for **Student Affairs**, Mark Nelson, spoke to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee. A new organizational chart was provided. A search committee has not been formed to fill this position or to fill the Vice President for Research position. The **First Annual UA System Diversity Conference** will be held on Wednesday, November 14th at the Bryant Conference Center. The first conference will be devoted to the best practices for identifying, recruiting and retaining underrepresented faculty and staff. The second conference to be held in 2008 will be devoted to best practices for identifying, recruiting and retaining underrepresented students.

Vice President's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) Members of the Jewish faith were extended best wishes for the Jewish New Year. Faculty members were encouraged to be considerate of student absences in view of this religious holiday.

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

Senate Committee Reports –

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & Rona Donahue*) – Ronnie Robertson and Ralph Clayton of **Transportation Services** addressed the Academic Affairs committee meeting on September 4. Modifications and improvements have been made since the bus system was introduced. The number of riders of the transit system is higher than anticipated. Faculty input concerning the impact of the transit system on the academic system was requested by Transportation Services. More buses are needed. Restructuring class times would greatly enhance the ability to transport students and faculty to their destinations. Bus transportation from the outer campus locations continues to be problematic. Any complaints should be forward to the Transportation Services. Prompt action has been taken in the past to solve any problems. Game Day parking has improved since the first football game. One hundred extra employees assist in Game Day parking. The Academic Affairs committee was given an update on **eLearning**. Usage is above expectations. The system has been taken down on Thursday mornings for retooling. Several new positions have been added to implement the new system. **Campus emergency preparedness** will be presented to the October meeting of this committee by Stephen Tucker, Campus Police Chief.

Faculty Life – (*Lowell Baker & Deidre Leaver-Dunn*) The Faculty Life committee will be working with the Financial Affairs committee on the **Peehip** issue.

Financial Affairs – (*David Arnold & Jeanette Vandermeer*) Dr. Lynda Gilbert and Provost Judy Bonner will present the budget on Tuesday, November 6, 3:30-5:00 P.M.

The location will be announced. There will be a presentation and question and answer period.

Research & Service – (*Shane Street & Ed Stephenson*) No report.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Roy Maize*) This committee will be reviewing any elections needed in the next few months.

Student Affairs – (*Carolyn Cassady & Melondie Carter*) - A committee meeting will be held the first Tuesday in October.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) No report.

Meeting adjourned 4:00 P.M.