

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2008 – 3:30 PM – 150 SHELBY HALL**

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

**ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE:** Martin Evans, Ed Stephenson, Shane Street, John Vincent, John Mason, Lonnie Strickland, Janis Edwards, Steve Thoma, Marci Daugherty, Srinath Viswanathan, Jeanette Vandermeer

**ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE:** Karen Burgess/Pam Foster

**GUESTS:** Adam Jones, Tuscaloosa News; Suzanne Dowling, University Relations; John McGowan, Vice Provost and Chief Information Officer

Roll call and quorum check by Vice President Clark Midkiff.

The minutes of the August 26, 2008 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

Vice Provost and Chief Information Officer John McGowan began the meeting stating his **vision and direction for technology** for the University. The academic component has not received the technology emphasis needed to move forward. Dr. McGowan gave a review of his experience and background. According to Dr. McGowan the Faculty Resource Center is in need of upgrades to elevate the center to the level of other institutions. Dr. McGowan began organizational changes immediately to make the IT focus customer centric. Support of technology enabling faculty flexibility and performance levels required in today's digital and information environment will be a priority. Dr. McGowan emphasized the close working relationship needed for faculty, students and the technology organization. Putting technology in place to enhance problem solving, communication and research in any discipline will be done as rapidly as possible. UA must have more planning in the development of technology initiatives. The goal of a wireless campus has the support of the administration with a committee specifically created to address this issue. The involvement of IT and Dr. McGowan in campus building project specifications and designs to assure technical proficiency and productivity is a priority. Knowledge of how to use technology that is available and will become available is crucial. Assistance is available through one-on-one meetings with Dr. McGowan or training and consultation through his office. Further discussion included acquiring grants and classroom technology specifics. The CIO's role in a connected community diagram was included in the printed handout given to the senators. According to Dr. McGowan the CIO should be connected to the areas of project management, customer service, business operations, outreach, academics, enterprise services (computer ops, network, telephone, Unix, Windows), customer relations, research, security and software licensing. Design specifications for both the network and multi-media components should be a part of the Campus Master Plan. Questions included specific instances of problems transferring data, data storage and backup and having two multi-media screens in classrooms. Dr. McGowan stressed his availability to

assist with any technology situation and requested faculty input concerning advancing the University's technology for the future.

**President's Report** – (*Karen Steckol*) President Steckol received Dr. Witt's response to the Faculty Senate's letter of commendation for his excellent preparation for state allocation reductions this year. Dr. Witt expressed his respect and admiration of The University of Alabama faculty and reiterated his pledge to serve UA's faculty.

Ray White has been appointed to the **Assessment Council**.

The following names were submitted to the Provost for membership on the **Evaluation of Deans and Chairs Committee**: Tom Zeiler of Engineering, Roy Maize of HES, Melondie Carter of Nursing and Elizabeth Aversa of Libraries.

The **United Way** goal for this year is \$250,000. This is an increase of \$25,000 over last year's goal.

The SGA is requesting Faculty Senate support of their resolution requesting a suspension of classes for students to attend **Higher Education Day** in Montgomery, Alabama on March 5, 2009. The Faculty Senate supports the spirit of students attending the rally and will encourage faculty to allow time for the students to participate without penalizing them. The Faculty Senate does not have the authority to cancel classes.

The **Mediation Committee** has a member retiring creating a vacancy. The committee can fill the vacancy on a temporary basis by a vote of the majority of faculty representatives remaining on the committee until the Faculty Senate elects a faculty member to fill the remainder of the unexpired term. This election is normally in November or December with the elected faculty member taking office in January. Due to the short time before Faculty Senate elections, the Steering Committee agreed to allow the committee members to vote on someone to fill the short-term vacancy.

The **Board of Trustees** will meet on campus on Thursday, September 18 and Friday, September 19 in Sellers Auditorium in the Bryant Conference Center. President Steckol will be attending as a non-voting member of the Board of Trustees. Thursday will begin with committee meetings and Friday's meetings begin at 8:30 A.M. Dr. Witt and President Steckol will address the Board of Trustees this fall.

Senator Priscilla Davis was introduced as the President of the **Black Faculty and Staff Association**. The Faculty Senate will support and be working closely with this organization.

**Vice President's Report** – (*Clark Midkiff*) Extensive paperwork has to be completed and filed to have a **GTA or GRA** appointed. Following a meeting and discussion with the Provost, Clark Midkiff has been appointed to serve on an ad hoc committee to streamline the appointment process. Input and suggestions were requested from the senators.

**Academic Affairs** – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) This committee determined that one of the topics they will be considering is pay for **part-time temporary instructors and adjuncts**. The student enrollment increase has the university using part-time temporary instructors and adjuncts to teach in the absence of funding to hire full-time professors. The stipends vary from division to division. An increase of \$220 for three-hour courses has been announced by the Dean of Arts & Sciences beginning in January. The Core Curriculum Oversight Committee is looking at revising the actual content of the **core curriculum** with progress being monitored by the Academic Affairs Committee. The Academic Affairs Committee will meet on the first Tuesday in October.

**Faculty Life** – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn & Lowell Baker*) The Faculty Life Committee will meet next week to discuss the inconsistent administration of **maternity leave** across campus. Knowledge of any specific situations should be emailed to this committee. This committee will also be considering ways to acknowledge **faculty accomplishments** and length of service.

**Financial Affairs** – (*Katrina Ramonell & Steven Hobbs*) This committee met on September 2. Associate Vice President for Human Resources Charlotte Harris and George Tutt of the Payroll Office will meet with this committee on October 7 in the Bruno Library to discuss how **summer salaries** are calculated. Any questions and/or suggestions concerning this issue should be emailed to the co-chairs.

**Research & Service** – (*Ed Stephenson & Laurie Bonnici*) A search for a replacement is underway following Laurie Bonnici's resignation.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – (*John Mason & Michael Martone/Marci Daugherty*) Faculty Senate elections will be held in December for membership on the **Merger and Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee and the Mediation Committee**. Nominations will be taken at the October and November Faculty Senate meetings. A nominee's permission must be obtained before submitting their name. These are very important committees and special consideration should be given to nominations.

**Student Affairs** – (*Melondie Carter & Carolyn Cassady*) A meeting is scheduled in October with the **SGA** President to discuss student issues to be addressed by the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee. This committee will meet with the Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Mark Nelson, in November. The absence of SGA representatives at Faculty Senate meetings was noted.

**Legislative Agenda** – (*Margaret Garner*) The **Legislative Breakfasts** will begin next semester. Discussion included a preferable time and day of the week.

#### **Reports from Other Committees –**

The **University Undergraduate Program and Services Committee** met Monday, September 15. The lack of a central location, correct advising and information for

freshmen students is a concern. A new system, “Degree Works”, is being implemented to replace “Tide Navigator”.

The **University Benefits Committee** will meet Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 P.M. A report on this meeting will be given at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

The **Student Health Advisory Committee** has instituted a collaborative effort with Enrollment Management to promote the importance of immunizations. Last year there was 35-40% compliance. This year there is 87% compliance. Personalized letters are being sent to those that complied. If students continue to delay getting immunizations, a hold will be placed on their registration.

The **Graduate Council** has not met but will be considering residency requirements for Ph.D.s at their next meeting. There will be some alternate residencies allowed in the future. A program can propose an off-campus residency requirement. Another issue being discussed is electronic theses and dissertations. The guidelines for this process will be implemented in the next few months.

Information from the **Human Relations Council** meeting will be brought forward to the Faculty Senate.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 P.M.