

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2009 – 3:30 PM – THE FORUM – FERGUSON CENTER

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE – Seth Appiah-Opoku, Sheila Black, Rasma Lazda, Chapman Greer, Lew Silver, Karen Burgess, Brent Hardin, David Arnold, Jill Grogg

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE – Jim Hall/Rona Donahoe; Michael Martone/Brian Evans; Thad Ulzen/Jim Leeper; Steve Thoma/Wayne Urban

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Patty Vaughn, Crimson White; Joe Sedita, SGA Representative

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

The minutes of the August 25, 2009 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

President's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) Dr. Robert Witt was unable to speak to the Faculty Senate this month due to a scheduling conflict. He will address the Senate next month.

The **syllabi** mechanism installed in Banner should be up and running within the next few weeks. It is very user friendly and there are good reports concerning the implementation of this system.

The **Board of Trustees** is meeting on campus this week. Committee meetings will begin on Thursday, September 17 at 9:00 AM with the actual board meeting beginning on Friday about 11:00 AM. President Witt and President Karen Steckol will be addressing the board. Other institutions have closed programs and departments and furloughed employees in attempts to deal with decreased funding and the recession. The University of Alabama has not done any of those things due to the vision of the University's administration led by Dr. Witt. Increased enrollment and good financial management has sheltered the University from many of the cost-cutting measures installed by other institutions. The projected budget cuts will be handled centrally giving the University the opportunity to operate at a higher level than most higher education institutions. A request for raises will be made in President Steckol's address to the board in view of the lack of raises for the last two years. The reasons for that are understood. According to an article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, the average faculty raise was about 3%.

Insurance costs will increase, however, the administration has deposited money in the fund and this will decrease the amount to be paid by faculty and staff for benefits.

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

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

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) The Academic Affairs Committee followed up on a request to review faculty best practices in teaching. The information and statement in the Faculty Handbook is sufficient.

The **Honors College** has not been in existence the proper length of time for a review.

Some of the committee members were able to access the UAOPS syllabi program early and found no difficulties with the system.

This committee has discussed the potential review of the **core curriculum** and will draft a statement of learning goals for students of The University of Alabama. The statement will be forwarded for review by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee and the Provost.

Faculty Life – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn & Lowell Baker*) The Faculty Climate Survey has been forwarded to the Provost for review.

Financial Affairs – (*Katrina Ramonell & Steven Hobbs*) Dr. Lynda Gilbert will be meeting with the Financial Affairs Committee to present **budget** information on December 1 at 3:30 PM. This meeting will be in Room 2436 in the Science and Engineering Complex. Everyone is invited to attend. Susan Petty and Kevin Stephens of the Purchasing Department will address the Faculty Senate meeting on November 17th. Questions about special issues are to be forwarded to them prior to the meeting.

Information Technology – (*Ray White & Jim Hall*) Ray White gave a report on search by majors through Banner, assessments, large classes and core enrollment, attendance filter, off line services, engagement data and evaluation software.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Harold Stowell*) The committee has been reviewing the **Research Misconduct Policy** as stated in Appendix L in the Faculty Handbook. This policy is not in agreement with Federal guidelines. The Faculty Senate is involved because any changes in the Faculty Handbook calls for a faculty-wide vote. Two drafts have been made and the committee is close to a final form. The 25 page long document will be electronically forwarded to the Faculty Senate for review in October and voted on in November.

A senator posed a question concerning the **selection process for grant proposals**. The Research & Service Committee brought the issue to Joe Benson's attention last semester. The University can submit a limited number of proposals for some competitions. A survey was taken of comparable universities revealing the same method we use was predominantly used by those contacted. Discussion continued with policy implementation, criteria used and individual situations in varied departments. President Steckol recommended the Research and Service Committee meet with the Vice President for Research to establish some mechanisms to improve the issues brought forward in today's Senate meeting.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Michael Martone & Marci Daugherty*) Nominations are still needed for the two vacant slots on the **Mediation Committee**. No more than two members can be from the same college with a three year term. Marci Daugherty will compose a statement with information and duties of the position. President Steckol will email the statement to the entire faculty.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Carolyn Cassady*) The Student Affairs Committee was charged with developing methods to increase faculty participation as **advisors** for student organizations. Positive steps have been taken with four advisors placed with student organizations. A meeting will be held with Dr. Kathleen Cramer and with the SGA to discuss other student issues. Clark Midkiff suggested moving forward the deadline to file the application establishing a student organization after “Get On Board” Day. The application must be filed yearly.

Student attendance at football games was discussed.

The Student Health Committee has recommended every entering student submit a **medical history** form. The SGA is in the process of recommending this requirement in 2010.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) The Legislative Breakfasts will be held sometime in the future. **Higher Education Day** in Montgomery will be held March 4, 2010. It is a very important time considering the state of the economy. Gordon Stone, Higher Education Partnership, will address the Senate at the November meeting. There has been a lack of faculty participation in Higher Education Day in the last few years. An alumni meeting was held the night prior to Higher Education Day last March to encourage higher education advocacy. Everyone was encouraged to join the Higher Education Partnership. A suggestion was made to distribute talking points earlier and establish a relationship with your legislator prior to Higher Education Day. Caution must be taken to refrain from using University stationery, phones or computers for political efforts.

Reports from Other Committees –

The Campus Master Plan Committee was given a presentation of current and future building projects on campus.

The lack of sidewalks and bicycle traffic safety is a great concern. A sidewalk master plan is posted on the facility website under campus master plan.

Alabama Public Health is coming from Montgomery on Monday, September 28 to set up a **disaster preparedness** display behind Gorgas Library. Tents will be set up with a water purification system, a refrigerated morgue and a radio communications center.

Everyone is invited to attend the disaster preparedness display from 10:00 PM until 4:30 PM.

The “**Strive for Five**” program is underway to create a culture of wellness for the University. The five steps are to drink five glasses of water per day, lose five pounds, walk 5,000 steps, think five positive thoughts and eat five fruits and vegetables per day.

New Business –

Pedestrian and bicycle safety on campus is a great concern. Lowell Baker is the Faculty Senate liaison on the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee. This committee has not met. A grant has been received by the University to put a bicycle path along University Boulevard.

Information concerning online courses, distance learning, limiting course repeats and Tegrity was discussed. Some problems are department specific.

A senator expressed concern about the preservation of the historical significance of **Foster Auditorium**. The Board of Trustees will be discussing this issue in their meeting this week. Rona Donahoe reported there will be a plaza in front of the building with an appropriate memorial plaque or marker. Further reports will be given at the next Senate meeting.

Meeting adjourned 4:50 PM