

FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 20, 2005 – 3:30 PM – FERGUSON FORUM

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Noel Engebretson, Martin Evans, Kari Frederickson, Shane Street, Art Allaway, Nick Stinnet

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Lee Pike/ Lisa Yuro

GUESTS: Wesley Hallman, Crimson White; Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Susan Lucas, Professional Staff Assembly; Adam Jones, Tuscaloosa News

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Karen Steckol.

The September 6, 2005 Faculty Senate meeting minutes were approved as amended.

President's Report – (*Mathew Winston*) Harold Elder has agreed to serve as the Faculty Senate representative on the Media Planning Board. The School of Social Work will hold an election on September 21 to elect the replacement for Wesley Church. The Tuscaloosa News reported the meeting facility situation of the Faculty Senate. Ferguson Center now charges the Faculty Senate a fee for the use of the Forum. There is also a charge for the use of meeting space for the Faculty Senate Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will meet next month in the Shelby Building. The Steering Committee will consider the meeting space in the Shelby Building as an alternative meeting space for the Senate and the Steering Committee. The Provost is paying the fee charged to the Faculty Senate by the Ferguson Center. This cost will not come from the Faculty Senate budget. There was an announcement in Dialog stating that Thomas A. Martz has been named The University of Alabama's new vice president for university advancement. Dialog also printed an article that Dr. Joshua Rothman, a former member of the Faculty Senate, will hold a fellowship at the American Antiquarian Society for the spring 2006 semester. The Faculty Senate web page will be corrected to list the meeting dates for March of 2006. The Steering Committee will meet March 14 and the Faculty Senate will meet March 28, 2006. The regular date of the Faculty Senate meeting falls during the week of spring break. President Mathew Winston welcomed everyone attending the Senate meeting.

Action/Discussion Items on the agenda included the need for two faculty representatives for the "Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans and Department Chairpersons and in the Evaluation of Academic Programs Committee". The current system rules that if one-third of the faculty votes to have a review, it is held. Otherwise a review of the Dean is not held. Some faculty members feel that it should be an automatic review of the Deans every five years unless the faculty members vote otherwise. If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact Mathew Winston. If no one volunteers, Mathew will email the faculty at large for volunteers for these positions. The Faculty Senate does not have a formal representative to the Professional Staff Assembly. Susan Lucas is the PSA representative to the Faculty Senate. Mathew requested a volunteer to serve in that position.

Vice President's Report – (*John Vincent*) A letter notifying committee members about their appointment to University Standing Committees has not been sent as of this date. The chair of the committee should contact each member with information about time and place of meetings. If that information is not relayed, committee members should take upon themselves to contact the chair for that information.

Secretary's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) No report.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Marcia Barrett*) No report.

Faculty Life – (*Steve Shepard & Nick Stinnet*) No report.

Financial Affairs – (*Jeanette Vandermeer & Jim Hall*) A meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, September 27 in Room 11 of Bruno Library with Dr. Lynda Gilbert, Vice President for Financial Affairs, and Reba Essary, Associate Vice President for Finance. There will be a presentation concerning The University of Alabama budget. A request was made for this committee to address the issue of the University receiving increased revenue of \$36 million dollars. Faculty and staff salary increases totaled \$13 million dollars leaving \$23 million dollars. The senator would like to know where the \$23 million dollars were spent.

Research & Service – (*Clark Midkiff & Dee Goldston*) This committee has a meeting scheduled with Marianne Woods, Assistant Vice President for Research, on Tuesday, October 4 at 3:00 PM in Rose Administration Building. Any issues that the senators would like discussed in that meeting should be forwarded to this committee.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Kim Andrus*) Two elections should be held by December for the Merger and Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee. The term of Scott Bridges will expire on December 31, 2005. The continuing members of this committee are Carol Drolen and Dennis Sunal. The replacement for Scott Bridges cannot come from the same college as Carol and Dennis. The composition of the committee states that no two of the three serving members elected by a group shall be faculty members from the same college or school (other than the Graduate School). The Mediation Committee will have two vacancies due to the expiration of terms (December 31, 2005) of Ken Wright and Scott Hestevold. No more than two members of this committee may be from the same academic division. Those nominated should be contacted prior to the nomination to make certain they are willing to serve.

Student Affairs – (*Priscilla Davis & Karen Burgess*) This committee has met twice. The President of the SGA was invited to both meetings but did not attend. The committee also met with Dr. Margaret King, Vice President for Student Affairs, concerning the residents of the Honors Student Dorm. The racial composition of the dorm was also discussed. The University of Alabama is strongly committed to recruiting minority honor students. Three percent of the residents are African American. Minority students are highly sought after by many institutions. Discussion about Foster Auditorium revealed that there is no money to refurbish the building.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) Mathew Winston encouraged everyone not presently a member of HEP and the UA System PAC to join. On the Faculty Senate web page is a link to an application form for these organizations. The completed, signed form should be brought to the UA Payroll Office.

New Business – John Mason brought forth the following:

"In May, the Treasury Department said employers can extend the time workers have to

spend money in the accounts by 2 ½ months. Some are expected to wait a year to make the change to give time to educate workers about the extension, while others have acted already. The federal government, for example, revised its account, giving workers until March 15 to spend dollars set aside for 2005 medical expenses. But some employers may decide it's not worth the potential confusion and administrative complications, benefits consultants said. In a small number of cases, companies may be reluctant to give workers more time because that means fewer forfeited dollars. Companies typically use that money for benefits or administrative expenses, experts said. Still, the majority of employers are likely to extend the deadline. It's a way to give another perk to workers, and may even encourage more employees to participate in these tax-friendly accounts, which never have quite caught on. And companies can save money because they don't have to pay payroll taxes on employee contributions to the accounts."

It is the University's option as to whether to extend the deadline by 2 ½ months. John requested the Finance Committee determine the University's intentions.

Old Business – As committees begin meeting, issues will be brought back to the Faculty Senate and the Steering Committee. The next Faculty Senate will meet on October 18. Agendas will be forwarded to the alternates beginning next month.

Meeting adjourned 4:15 PM