

# FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

## FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

JANUARY 10, 2006 – 3:00 PM – 206F SHELBY HALL

### APPROVED MINUTES

**ATTENDING:** Mathew Winston, John Vincent, Marcia Barrett, Priscilla Davis, Margaret Garner, Jenice "Dee" Goldston, Jim Hall, John Mason, Clark Midkiff, Steve Shepard, Bob Sigler

**GUESTS:** Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Wesley Hallman, Crimson White

The minutes of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting of December 6, 2005 were approved with corrections.

**President's Report** – (*Mathew Winston*) The Faculty Senate remains short one senator from Social Sciences in A&S. With **senator elections** being held in March, it was proposed to ask those senators that have ended their term from Arts and Sciences to serve as Faculty Senate alternates. Mathew will be meeting with the senators from A&S on January 24th to determine the best method to accomplish this proposal. The Deans will be notified of the senators with one more year remaining in their term, and the number to be elected from their college or school. Notification of **Higher Education Day** will be sent to faculty members at the end of February. There was discussion concerning changing Faculty Senate officer titles from President and Vice President to **President and President Elect**. Topics included first year senators being denied the opportunity to elect their own Senate president, and the beginning and ending dates of the president's term. It was suggested that the Vice President attend meetings, particularly the board of trustees meetings, with the President of the Senate. The full Senate meets next week, January 17, 2006 in 150 Shelby Hall. A spokesperson will address the Senate concerning the University's Capital Campaign.

**Academic Affairs** – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) The committee has not met since the last Steering Committee meeting.

**Faculty Life** – (*Steve Shepard & Nick Stinnet/Deidre Leaver-Dunn*) There has not been a meeting of this committee since the last Steering Committee meeting.

**Financial Affairs** – (*Jim Hall & Jeanette Vandermeer*) No report.

**Research & Service** – (*Jenice "Dee" Goldston & Clark Midkiff*) This committee is continuing to look into the methods used to select members of the **Research Advisory Committee**. The Faculty Senate does have an appointed representative to this committee. It was suggested that this committee meet with Dr. Marianne Woods, Associate Vice President for Research, with an open invitation for Dr. Keith McDowell, Vice President for Research, to address the committee if he so chooses.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – (*John Mason & Kim Andrus*) John Mason sent an email to current senators with a call for nominations for the upcoming **Faculty Senate elections** in March. The election of two CUC representatives will be held at the February meeting

of the Faculty Senate. These will be sent to President Witt for approval. Rona Barrett will end her term as chair of the CUC at the end of this cycle. The election of an ombudsperson is due.

**Student Affairs** – (*Priscilla Davis & Karen Burgess*) No report.

Denny Brubrig, President of the Graduate Student Association, has compiled a booklet regarding **health issues for graduate teaching and research assistants**. Meetings have been scheduled before the end of January with Dr. Robert Witt, Dr. Judy Bonner, Dr. Lynda Gilbert, Dr. Keith Woodbury, Dr. Ron Rogers, and Melissa Medlin. The GSA is currently seeking re-endorsements from the Faculty Senate, Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee, and the Student Government Association. There is support for this proposal, however, funding seems to be the main problem. There was further discussion concerning maternity coverage and other benefits.

**Legislative Agenda** – (*Margaret Garner*) A budget from Governor Riley's office is expected in the next few weeks. Margaret has been interviewed by Pam Doyle of Communications. The interview was aired on WUAL radio station.

A question was asked concerning the change of companies providing **dental coverage** for the University. This is the third change in three years.

The announcement was made that the staff of the **Student Health Center** is moving into their new facility. It adjoins the University Medical Center. An open house will be announced. The Counseling Center will remain in the Russell Student Health space. There was further discussion of the benefits of using the new health center. A Strategic Planning Session was held in July to identify eight working teams to evaluate and identify means of reducing barriers to academic success and reaching students. It was suggested that a report concerning this project be given to the full Senate before the end of the year.

The issue of the \$5,000 Bamaflex maximum is being addressed by Dr. Keith Woodbury, Chairman of the Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee.

Meeting adjourned 4:00 PM