

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2011 – ROOM 2002 – 3:00 P.M.**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Karen Steckol, Clark Midkiff, Jeanette VanderMeer, John Vincent, Jim Hall, Ed Stephenson, Brian Gordon, Rona Donahoe, Steve Emens, Melondie Carter, Margaret Garner, Doveanna Minor.

ABSENT: Marcia Barrett, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Lowell Baker, Katrina Ramonell, Steven Hobbs, Osiris Molina, Seth Panitch.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes of December 7, 2010 were approved.

President's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) President Steckol is in the process of editing the **Faculty Handbook**. Certain sections of the Handbook will be sent to specific schools/colleges to update current policies with current practices; for example, the research section will be sent to Joe Benson, Vice President for Research, the grievance section sent to the appropriate people, etc. The Steering Committee was asked to forward any suggestions or additions to President Steckol.

A senator has expressed concern with the administration deciding against a positive tenure evaluation in their college. This issue will be discussed in the next Steering Committee meeting with the Provost.

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

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

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) The electronic off-campus office hour issue will be discussed by this committee at their February meeting. This refers to faculty members holding office hours online and not face-to-face meetings with students. The impact of several technologies has not been adequately reviewed or clarified. There is a question concerning office hours for faculty members teaching online only.

Faculty Life – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn & Lowell Baker*) No report.

Financial Affairs – (*Katrina Ramonell & Steven Hobbs*) No report.

Information Technology – (*Jim Hall & Osiris Molina*) No report.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Brian Gordon*) No report.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Rona Donahoe & Steve Emens*) The slate of nominated Faculty Senate officers will be presented at the February meeting. According to Faculty Senate bylaws any person wanting to run for a Faculty Senate office must submit a written statement of intention to the

Faculty Senate Secretary (Jeanette VanderMeer) by February 10th. Nominations for the offices of President, Vice President and Secretary will be accepted from the floor. Voting for those offices will take place at the March meeting of the Faculty Senate. March is also the month for senator elections from the colleges/schools.

Ombudsperson candidates from colleges/schools other than Arts & Sciences and Engineering/Business will be included on the Faculty Senate representative election ballot in March. The Provost has requested the Deans hold the Ombudsperson election for the vacant position (Engineering/Business). Tatiana Anastasia Summers and Ken Wright are the current Ombudspersons. Ombudspersons must come from three divisions; Arts & Sciences, Engineering/Business, and all other colleges. President Steckol will contact the Provost, Tom Wolfe of Arts & Sciences and CCHS regarding completing the special Ombudsperson election.

Student Affairs – (*Melonie Carter & Seth Panitch*) No report.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) The State Legislature is in a three-day session to choose the leaders of the House and Senate with the regular session beginning March 1, 2011. The Ethics Law is the focus of the Legislature at this time with interpretation and clarification of the law being sought. Discussion included the issues of payroll deductions and union dues.

Announcements – President Steckol will be unable to attend the next Faculty Senate meeting and requested Vice President Clark Midkiff read her UA Board of Trustees speech to the full Faculty Senate meeting. The University of Alabama President, Dr. Robert Witt, will attend.

President Steckol expressed appreciation to those donating blood for her during her illness.

Meeting adjourned 3:50 P.M.