

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 2006 – 3:00 PM – 206f SHELBY HALL**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: John Vincent, Karen Steckol, Clark Midkiff, David Arnold, Lowell Baker, Marcia Barrett, Karen Burgess, Carolyn Cassady, Margaret Garner, Martin Evans, Jenice “Dee” Goldston, Douglas Lightfoot, John Mason, Steve Shepard, Shane Street, Jeanette Vandermeer

GUEST: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog

The minutes of the September 12, 2006 Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting were approved.

President’s Report – (*John Vincent*) Rooms 150 and 206F Shelby Hall have been reserved for the spring Faculty Senate Steering Committee and Faculty Senate meetings. The Teacher Education Council will not meet this year. Martin Evans was the Senate representative for this committee. He has been switched to the **President’s Commission on Teacher Education Committee**. John Vincent is also on this committee. David Johnson, Director of Enrollment Services, has a committee looking at students filling out online **faculty evaluations**. This will be implemented for online extension courses only. The annual **Dean’s Reception** will be held October 24 from 5:00 until 6:30 PM in the Hall of Fame area of Bidgood Hall. The UAB procedure for the evaluation of chairs and deans was forwarded to the Steering Committee. UAB has this process as part of their Faculty Senate bylaws. The **UA Faculty Feedback of Chairs and Deans survey** is behind schedule. A meeting is scheduled for John Vincent, President of the Faculty Senate, the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee Co-chairs and the Executive Vice President of the **Student Government Association** to discuss ways to overlap on issues concerning students and faculty. The **UA Fall Faculty/Staff Meeting** will be held at Bryant Conference Center on October 25th at 1:30 PM. There was discussion of points to be included in the presentation given by John Vincent as President of the Faculty Senate. The letters for the non-CUC committee assignments have been received.

Vice President’s Report – (*Karen Steckol*) No report.

Secretary’s Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) No report.

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & Martin Evans*) A review of the **evaluation of chairs and deans** process is being conducted by this committee. The evaluation process used by SUG institutions will be examined and compared to the University of Alabama’s policy. This committee met with Mark Nelson, Vice President for Undergraduates, to discuss issues including the vision for academic integrity, development of a web site for academic misconduct, and student membership in the Center for Integrity. A meeting was held with the **University Supply Store** representative concerning the lack of textbook availability. The reason given was increased student enrollment and the increase of titles from 3,500 to 5,000. One person is responsible for ordering textbooks. A final multi-media list has been composed for shared classroom and equipment use. **Appendix “A”** of the Faculty Handbook continues to be reviewed.

Faculty Life – (*Steve Shepard & Lowell Baker*) The proposed **Family Friendly Campus** issues including maternity/automatic tenure extension are being examined by this committee. Almost all no-cost policies have been implemented. The point was made that some female faculty

members feel pressure to abstain from applying for tenure extension. There is a portion of the Faculty Handbook that applies to applying for tenure extension under extenuating circumstances. The committee considered time limits, paternity issues, personal issues, family member illnesses and abuses of the policy. Further information will be obtained before the **PEEHIP** report will be given by this committee.

Financial Affairs – (*David Arnold & Jeanette Vandermeer*) A request for specific detailed information has been forwarded to Lynda Gilbert concerning the budget presentation on November 7 at 3:00 in 34 Bidgood.

Research & Service – (*Shane Street & Clark Midkiff*) This committee recommended compiling a document listing concerns with the Office of Research. Following a review by the Steering Committee, the Research and Service Committee will meet with Marianne Woods and Keith McDowell.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Douglas Lightfoot*) A box lunch meeting of this committee was held to discuss upcoming Faculty Senate elections. A resolution commending Bob Sigler for his service as Parliamentarian of the Faculty Senate was presented and approved unanimously. This will be presented at the next Faculty Senate meeting for approval. The committee was encouraged to pursue the review of the Faculty Senate bylaws.

Student Affairs – (*Carolyn Cassady & Karen Burgess*) The Student Affairs Committee will meet with Margaret King on Thursday, October 12.

Old Business – A student recruiting event was scheduled on a Jewish holiday, Yom Kippur, for the second year in a row. There is a need for awareness and increased sensitivity regarding participation by students on all religious holidays.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) Continuing to have the Legislative Breakfasts is still under review. The Faculty Senate has been asked to consider a recommendation from the Student Health Tobacco Team to ban smoking 30 feet outside buildings on campus. Following a discussion of air pollution, this was referred to the Faculty Life Committee to follow up.

Clark Midkiff, the Faculty Senate representative on the Faculty/Staff Benefits Committee, handed out two sheets titled The University of Alabama's BC/BS Coverage Changes for 2007 and the Employee Premiums for Health Insurance Plans 2007. The BamaFlex Health contribution has been increased to \$7500 from \$5000. There are extra health benefits with a marginal increase in premiums.

The Steering Committee was reminded of a television broadcast on PBS on Thursday night, October 12 at 9:00 PM. **“Remaking American Medicine”** is the title with the subject of the rapidly increasing health costs for Americans. Everyone was encouraged to watch this program being aired through October.

President John Vincent thanked the members of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee for their work and diligence involving the Faculty Senate.

Meeting adjourned 4:20 PM

