

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 2007 – 3:00 PM – 206F SHELBY HALL**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: John Vincent, Karen Steckol, Clark Midkiff, Melondie Carter, Carolyn Cassidy, Margaret Garner, Rona Donahoe, Roy Maize, John Mason, Ed Stephenson, Shane Street, Jeanette Vandermeer

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Clark Midkiff.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes of September 11, 2007 were approved as revised.

The meeting began with remarks by Joe Benson, Interim Vice President for Research. The goal of enhancing the research profile of the University will include increasing the number of publications, the quality of publication outlets and the amount of external funding. More emphasis will be placed on publishing information about faculty publications. More faculty members are needed to maintain a level of competition with other institutions. Hiring faculty in the area of research productivity and providing adequate faculty for the increased student enrollment is a challenge. In the Office of Research efforts are underway to be more service oriented and facilitate contract and grant activity. Dr. Benson stated that a better job could be done assisting faculty in submitting proposals, identifying funding sources, faculty training and other areas. Increasing productivity is to increase collaboration. A meeting will be held Wednesday, October 10 to discuss methods to increase collaboration between UA and the University of South Alabama. There will be intensified focus on undergraduate research activity. If students at the undergraduate level are actively participating in research activity, it will benefit the entire research enterprise and increase the marketability of the student. This will also be a great student recruiting tool for the University. Diversifying the undergraduate research module is being considered. Most participating students are juniors and seniors. The University of Michigan has a model that brings freshmen and sophomores into the program. There are 1200 (20-25%) freshmen and sophomore students involved at this time receiving payment for their services. Some of the funding for this program is through work study funds. More collaboration concerning shared interests between departments on campus is needed. The question was asked if there had been any discussion to combine the undergraduate research emphasis with the five year BS-MS program. The program is in place in several areas but there has been no discussion regarding this particular combination. This would be a point of interest and worth pursuing. The Faculty Senate Research and Service Committee's concern is PI bringing forward accurate and timely information about their accounting. There is now an IP committee with three faculty members on it. Academic misconduct and conflict of interest issues were discussed and remain under review. It was suggested that the Office of Research document the institution's continued support of instrumentation so others could use this in their proposals. A question was asked concerning indirect cost money distribution and portion usage by the Office of Research. A portion of that is part of the base University budget. This is taken off the top and the remainder is split between Academic Affairs and the Office of Research. Some areas these funds were used for included research support, instrumentation and faculty travel.

Discussion included definition, structuring and administering research centers, research center proposals, cluster hires, funding for pivoting research projects and technology. Dr. Benson encouraged Steering Committee members to forward any issues or problems to him.

President's Report – (*John Vincent*) A 2008 spring meeting of the Southeastern Conference faculty senate leaders hosted by the University of South Carolina has been proposed. Advertising for the **Vice President** position vacated by Priscilla Hancock should be announced momentarily. The position of Vice President of Student Affairs and the position of Vice President for Research will not be advertised until spring of 2008. Gordon Stone of **HEP** will speak to the Faculty Senate at the October 16 meeting. The University of Alabama's fall **faculty/staff meeting** will be held October 10. President of the Faculty Senate John Vincent will speak. The SGA reception was discussed. The reception for the Deans will be held Tuesday, October 23, 2007 in the Hall of Fame room in Bidgood from 5:00 until 6:30 PM. When numerous faculty members in a small department take **sabbaticals**, a hardship is created for those remaining faculty members. This is an issue in Arts & Sciences where limitations on sabbaticals are possible. An outline of the 2008 UA budget the Minority Participation Report, Salary Analysis and the Data Summary for 2007 were passed around for review. Efforts have been made to acquire **parking** for faculty members working on game days. This will be evaluated by the Transportation Department on a case-by-case basis. One hundred extra parking monitors have been hired for game day weekends. Access for emergency vehicles has been addressed and improved. The academic accountability policy for athletes has been toughened. This year the men's basketball team has an eighty percent graduation rate which is a major improvement compared to the poor program history in this area. Sending a letter of commendation for this accomplishment was put before the Steering Committee. A letter will be drafted following verification of this statistic. The NCAA Academic Accreditation team will be on campus October 17-19 for the ten year accreditation review. There will be policy changes involving ticketless entry for students at football games next year. Stadium block seating for football games was discussed. Off campus incidents have caused some concerns about security issues. Students have been instructed by videos, posters and ads to take safety precautions even though the incidents have occurred off campus. The "Collegiate Learning Assessment" article from the Center for Aid to Education has been forwarded to the Steering Committee from the Provost. The CLA is a method to assess contributions of the institution to student learning outcomes. This will be administered by OIRA next year as a pilot program. Any comments or suggestions should be forwarded to John Vincent. The advantages and disadvantages of maintaining portfolios were discussed. The University is going to have an assessment committee led by Bob Smallwood. One or two members of the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee have been requested for this committee.

Vice President's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) It was reported that bar owners lose \$150,000 a year for every hour they are not allowed to be open.

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

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & Rona Donahoe*) The University of Alabama Director of Public Safety Steve Tucker and Director of Auxiliary and Support Services Gina Johnson met with the Academic Affairs Committee to address emergency preparedness for the UA campus. Upgrading emergency preparedness will include the installation of PA systems in buildings on campus. A document outlining and establishing firm emergency procedures to follow is being

developed. When classes are suspended for an emergency, students can be instructed but not forced to remain in a safe place.

Research & Service – (*Shane Street & Ed Stephenson*) No report.

Financial Affairs Committee – (*David Arnold & Jeanette Vandermeer*) – A meeting with Dr. Lynda Gilbert has been arranged by this committee on November 6 from 3:30 to 5:00 PM for presentation and questions concerning the UA budget. The location will be announced at a later date.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Roy Maize*) Nominations and elections will be held in November and December to elect one member to the Merger and Discontinuance Committee and two members to the Mediation Committee. An Ombudsperson will be elected in the next few months.

Student Affairs – (*Carolyn Cassady & Melodie Carter*) The Student Affairs Committee is in the process of arranging a meeting with University and SGA representatives to address the student ticketless entry issue.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) No report.

Steering Committee moved into Executive Session.