

FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 14, 2008 – 3:00 PM – 206F SHELBY HALL

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Karen Steckol, Clark Midkiff, Jeanette Vandermeer, Marcia Barrett, Melondie Carter, Carolyn Cassady, Margaret Garner, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Ed Stephenson, John Mason, Michael Martone, Rona Donahoe, John Vincent

GUEST: Cassandra Smothers, Dialog

Roll call and quorum check by Faculty Senate Secretary Jeanette Vandermeer.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of September 9, 2008 were approved with corrections.

President's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) An email will be sent to the Steering Committee with a synopsis of issues covered in the meeting with the Provost on Wednesday, October 15th. The **speeches** to be given by President Karen Steckol at the Board of Trustees meeting in November and to the University Faculty Staff meeting were discussed.

The Athletics Department is facing a soaring demand for **football tickets**. Coach Mal Moore addressed the Intercollegiate Athletic Committee concerning the sale of football tickets on web sites and other methods by Athletic Department and faculty/staff members of the University. Some purchase season ticket packages for the sole purpose of selling them for profit. Should the faculty/staff ticket policy be similar to the student football ticket policy is the question posed to the Faculty Senate. The system could include the use of identification to be admitted to football games and tickets distributed game by game. Several methods to determine those scalping tickets were discussed. It was suggested to include an insert in the ticket package when mailed that football tickets are monitored and anyone found selling tickets for a profit will lose their right to buy tickets. This ticket issue will be brought forward to the full Faculty Senate.

President Karen Steckol attended the **Higher Education Partnership** meeting in Montgomery. The meeting was attended by all Faculty Senate representatives with the exception of two institutions. The HEP encourages faculty members to become more active in the Higher Education Partnership organization and to advocate for more informed faculty members using information coming from HEP. Gordon Stone will address the Faculty Senate meeting on November 18th. The status of the Higher Education Partnership and the UA system PAC was discussed. It was suggested to list and make available the votes of Alabama senators and representatives on education issues. Any information and direction should come from Gordon Stone's office.

Some concern has been expressed by a faculty member about the leniency of the **academic honesty statement**. This issue was referred to the Student Affairs Committee.

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

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

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

Faculty Life – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn & Lowell Baker*) The Faculty Life Committee has discussed the methods of **recognizing faculty members** with a certain number of years of service. The first suggestion was a dinner giving the recognized employees an opportunity to spend time with the president and provost of the University. The second idea was to have faculty wear something at graduation to set them apart in recognition of their years of service. Lapel pins with faculty's name, the "A" for Alabama and years of service along with the dinner was a suggestion. Their names would also be listed in the graduation program and in Dialog. These suggestions will be presented to the Provost. The methods to recognize faculty for outstanding accomplishments will be researched.

The **maternity/sick leave policy** is an issue also addressed by this committee. Several situations with totally different applications of this policy were discussed. The tenure clock extension was a section of a two-part resolution voted on by the Faculty Senate in February, 2007. The second part was a maternity/sick leave policy. The current policy is interpreted and administered very differently across and inside departments and colleges. The point was made that policy flexibility and uniformity would be difficult to achieve. A guaranteed minimum of time off, with the flexibility of negotiation was suggested. Faculty Life Committee member Deidre Leaver-Dunn and Faculty Senate President Karen Steckol will meet with the Provost concerning this issue on Wednesday, October 14th.

The chairman of the **Evaluation of Deans and Chairs Committee**, Lowell Baker, is on sabbatical. President Steckol gave a report stating that the deans have approved receipt of anonymous faculty responses to the survey. President Steckol will meet with Dean Olin to discuss errors in the review document. A report will be given following the Faculty Senate meeting.

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

Research and Service – (*Ed Stephenson &*) This committee does not have a co-chair at this time. A meeting with Joe Benson to discuss some issues was held last week. The **Conflict of Interest Policy** has gone through several re-writes and is now with the Council of Deans for approval. The **Research and Creative Activity Misconduct Policy**, formerly the Academic Misconduct Policy, has been delayed. A policy is in the Faculty Handbook but it does not meet federal guidelines. **Grants accounting** has problems such as principal investigators having real-time access to their grant activities, budget allocations and inability to interpret Banner. A "Contract and Grant Budget Balance Report" was handed out. A similar report will be available weekly in the very near future. Sometime in the spring the report will be available on a daily basis. Some

adjustments will be made to include more distinctive information in the report. Overhead from the department goes to the college, to the department and to the P.I. for their use. There was some question concerning the possibility for the **Office of Research** to return at least the P.I.'s portion of overhead directly to the P.I. under an account number. This is not possible under Banner. The Office of Research can distribute funds only in a limited number of ways. There are only a limited number of ports (storage locations) for Banner accounts. There would be a need to create an unlimited number of accounts to accommodate every faculty member's overhead from each grant from each year which would be a great number of small accounts. Discussion included the point that every faculty member has an overhead account number and an account can be created. There seems to be a varied administration of overhead distribution. This committee will pursue an answer to the particulars of this issue and give a report at the next meeting.

There was a complaint about the way **UA Centers** are dispersing their funding. The centers are receiving 10% in terms of grant overheads. The centers have different reporting responsibilities. Work is being done on a policy requiring all centers to submit an annual report to the Provost and be subject to annual review by the Provost.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Michael Martone/Marci Daugherty*) There will be an election of two members of the **Mediation Committee** and one member for the **Review of Deans and Chairs Committee** in December. There is one nominee for the Mediation Committee. John Mason, co-chair of the committee will send President Karen Steckol information regarding nominations and she will email a request to the entire faculty asking for nominees. The qualifications will be included in the email.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Carolyn Cassady*) – This committee met with Cason Kirby, President of SGA. They were assured that the SGA representative to the Faculty Senate would attend the next Senate meeting. The primary SGA/student issue is **text books**. They are looking at a book rental system and a two-year commitment by faculty to use the same textbook. Kirby suggested that faculty **donate books** to the library for use by students unable to purchase textbooks. Faculty consideration for those students participating in **Higher Ed Day** was requested. Kirby also would like for Deans to review the **“C” rule** as a prerequisite because there are many courses with prerequisites they felt didn't have a strong connection to the course. The Student Affairs Committee will meet with Dr. Mark Nelson on November 7th look at any issues where he might need the committee's assistance. Bundling textbooks was also discussed. Students will have a more difficult time paying expenses during this economic downturn. Melondie Carter volunteered to be a member of the Textbook Committee when it is constituted.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) No date has been set for beginning the Legislative Breakfasts. The Steering Committee voted that a Friday would be the best day for those breakfasts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS---

Deans have responded to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee's invitation to the **Deans Reception** next week with the exception of Deans Dahl, Mason and Bonner. The reception will be in the AIME Building Lobby beginning at 5:00-6:30 PM.

Everyone was encouraged to participate in the **Mentalhealth.edu**. There will be a coordinator and liaison in each college. The Counseling Center will train those appointed.

Wednesday, October 22, 7:30 AM begins the **University Health Fair** with several screenings and free flu shots.

The ground-breaking for the new Nursing Building was held at 2:00 p.m. on October 10, 2008, with many compliments about the event.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 PM.