

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 12, 2010 – 3:30 PM – 2002 SHELBY HALL**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Clark Midkiff, Jeanette VanderMeer, John Vincent, Rona Donahoe, Steve Emens, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Steven Hobbs, Margaret Garner, Ed Stephenson, Melondie Carter, DoVeanna Minor

ABSENT: Karen Steckol, Marcia Barrett, Lowell Baker, Katrina Ramonell, Jim Hall, Osiris Molina, Brian Gordon, Seth Panitch

GUESTS: Suzanne Dowling, University Relations

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes of September 14, 2010 were approved.

Vice President's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) A link to the updated Faculty Handbook has been posted on the Provost's web site following difficulties locating the document with the UA web page search engine. There are also difficulties locating University committees. Christina Frantom, Office of Information Technology, will address the Faculty Senate concerning technology security.

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

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) This committee met and discussed the **AAUP document** recommending tenure for all teaching faculty positions.

The **baccalaureate degree philosophy statement** is on the Provost's web site, the Freshman Forum web site and the Core Curriculum Committee web site. The philosophy document is the Faculty Senate's statement not the University's official statement. It should be brought to the attention of the Provost that the statement has not been adopted by a campus wide faculty vote.

Frustration has been expressed over the **assessment process**. Extra time is required and no compensation given for the additional hours. It was suggested the Provost address the faculty expressing appreciation for the extra effort being put forth by the faculty.

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

Financial Affairs – (*Katrina Ramonell & Steven Hobbs*) The Financial Affairs Committee will meet with Dr. Lynda Gilbert on November 2 at 3:30 P.M. in SEC 2438.

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

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Brian Gordon*) Joe Benson visited the Research and Service Committee at its meeting on October 5. Discussion included the patent policy, intellectual property information and posting links to current and updated materials. Weekly Grant and Contract reports in real time would require software not currently in place. Access to account information by individuals was discussed. The Office of Research and the Contracts and Grants office has had personnel turnovers. The amount of research dollars and comparing UA's research to other state and national institutions was discussed. It was suggested that Joe Benson, Vice President for Research, be invited to the November 9 meeting of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Rona Donahoe & Steve Emens*) The addition of the baccalaureate philosophy statement issue to the campus-wide Ombudsperson election survey will be discussed at the Steering Committee meeting with the Provost.

The policy for Faculty Senate **delegates** for The University of Alabama Retirees Association and other organizations are stated in the Faculty Senate bylaws.

The bylaws state: “The privilege of the floor, including the right to address the Senate on any pending question subject to applicable rules or parliamentary procedure are extended to one delegate representing the Retired Faculty Association of The University of Alabama, one delegate representing the Black Faculty and Staff Association, one delegate representing the Professional Staff Committee, one delegate representing the Office/Clerical/Technical Staff Committee, one delegate representing the Maintenance Personnel Committee, one delegate representing the Student Government, one delegate representing the Graduate Student Association and one delegate representing the Office of Alumni Affairs.”

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Seth Panitch*) Steven Swenson, SGA Vice President of Student Affairs, gave an update of SGA activities. Activities have been organized for **students with children**. Block seating changes for football games have been successful. The SGA organized the gubernatorial debate held on campus. Homeless students (alternately staying with friends) are a serious concern and sources for those students were named. There are facility **accessibility** issues for the disabled.

The Student Affairs of the University has addressed the issue of **alcohol consumption** at football games by the presence of University representatives in particular areas in the stadium. The University has a policy in place to follow in the event students are disruptive. Topics discussed included increased presence of police, counterfeit tickets, enforcement of present policies, more efficient checks by gatekeepers, overcrowding student section seats and safety of students and others.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) Bill Jones, Government Relations Director, will attend the Steering Committee with the Provost on Thursday, October 14, 2010. Budgeting and the Educational Trust Fund will be among the subjects discussed.

A course is being taught every Wednesday in 301 Ferguson Center for students with financial difficulties. Instructions to avoid credit card debt and manage finances are included. It was suggested to have a video link for those students unable to attend.

Website. Ed Stephenson reported on changes to the website. The description of the Ombudsperson has been updated and reorganized. There is no easy solution to the problem that searches of the website sometimes turn up out of date information, since the Faculty Senate website serves as an archive and needs to be accessible. This issue was sent to the Information Technology Committee for further research.

Reports From Other Committees –

Intercollegiate Athletic Committee – Linking faculty ACT cards to the use of football tickets was discussed.

Faculty & Staff Benefits Committee – Charges for medical procedures differ when conducted at various facilities in Tuscaloosa. Faculty and staff members should be aware of additional and variable charges and be a better consumer. A simplified method of educating faculty and staff concerning their benefits should be sought.

University Textbook Committee – The Textbook Committee will meet on Thursday, October 14, 2010 in the Capstone Nursing Building. A representative from Disability Services will attend to address accommodations for disabled students. The textbook rental program is going extremely well.

Academic Affairs – Complaints have been registered concerning the pace of the IRB process. It was suggested to invite Tanta Myles, Director and Research Compliance Officer, to meet with the Research and Service Committee. Approval for projects does not come in a timely fashion.

New Business – The Mental Health Strategic Team will publish a newsletter with information concerning awareness and early identification of students in distress. This will be an ongoing electronic newsletter and will go to faculty and staff.

Gordon Stone will address the Faculty Senate meeting on November 16, 2010.

It was suggested to move the starting time for the Steering Committee meeting back to 3:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned 4:55 P.M.