

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 11, 2011 – 3:00 pm – 2002 SHELBY**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Clark Midkiff, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Jeanette VanderMeer, DoVeanna Minor, Marcia Barrett, John Vincent, Rona Donahoe, Lowell Baker, Wesley Church, Robert McLeod, Carolyn Cassady, Brad Hodges, Margaret Garner, Ian Stancu, Ed Stephenson, Seth Panitch.

ABSENT: Karen Steckol, Katrina Ramonell, Melondie Carter.

GUESTS: Suzanne Dowling, UA Relations.

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes of September 13, 2011 were approved with corrections.

President's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) President Midkiff will be speaking at the Faculty/Staff Meeting on Wednesday, October 12 detailing the accomplishments of the Faculty Senate this past year including the nine-month maternity leave policy revision, the Environmental Health and Safety relocation, and criteria/procedures for the “Southeastern Conference for Appointments to University Research Professorships and University Teaching Professorships” awards.

The **Reception for Deans** hosted by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee will be held Tuesday, November 8th at Gorgas House from 5:00 to 6:30 P.M. following the regular Steering Committee meeting.

Vice President's Report – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn*) The newly revised maternity leave policy has not been posted online. This issue will be monitored.

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

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) The draft policy for “The University of Alabama Criteria and Procedures for Appointments to University Research Professorships and University Teaching Professorships” and “Procedures for Selection of Candidates for University Research Professorships and University Teaching Professorships” was presented. The Academic Affairs Committee recommends that the policy become an appendix in the Faculty Handbook, which will require approval by the deans, and the administration, and then a vote for approval by the entire faculty.

Faculty Life – (*Lowell Baker & Wesley Church*) The Faculty Life Committee continues to look at a campus-wide **no smoking policy**. Several SEC schools are already smoke-free. Enforcement, implementation, specific health and safety issues and the thirty-foot smoking ban around building entrances was discussed.

C&BA Professor John Mason, past member of the Faculty Senate, Faculty Senate Steering Committee and recent Southeastern Conference representative to the Coalition on Intercollegiate

Athletics (**COIA**), presented the history and purpose of this organization. COIA was formed by Indiana University professors in 2001 and Professor Mason became the Faculty Senate representative in 2003 serving until this year. COIA has addressed issues such as integrity in sports, academic requirements and the needs of athletes. The SEC has two representatives on COIA's Steering Committee. Dr. Virginia Shepherd of Vanderbilt and Dr. David Cicci of Auburn have been nominated to serve as the SEC representatives. Committee composition, reports from COIA, representative election/appointment process and funding were among other issues discussed.

Financial Affairs – (*Robert McLeod & Katrina Ramonell*) The Financial Affairs Committee will have a **budget presentation** meeting with Lynda Gilbert, Vice President for Financial Affairs, on November 1 which will be open to everyone with the location to be determined.

Information Technology – (*Carolyn Cassady & Brad Hodges*) The Information Technology Committee met with John McGowan, Vice Provost of Information Technology, and discussed issues/problems including **help-desk support**. The University contracts with an outside company to provide **after-hours computer support**. The problems with after-hours computer support should be reported directed to John McGowan or someone in his department.

All proposals should have **data management and long term data storage plans** complying with NSF guidelines by January 15th of 2011. The lack of such information would affect University research funding. John McGowan stated these plans are specific to certain departments and will research options to determine the best arrangement for everyone. Some institutions have data management plans on their research office websites. This vital issue will be monitored.

Other issues discussed were office computer data back-up methods, network outages, faculty/staff priority status for computer help support, high-speed internet/large bandwidth (must be requested), fiber optic system capabilities and connections, spam filters and problems with faculty-to-student emails.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Ian Stancu*) The Research & Service Committee continues to monitor the status and progress of the **Environmental Health & Safety** relocation. Air handling problems are being addressed. Access has been improved and the move should be completed by October 21.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Rona Donahoe & ___*) **Mediation Committee** candidates Elizabeth Aversa, School of Library & Information Studies, and Elaine Martin, Arts & Sciences (Modern Languages & Classics) were elected by the Senate membership.

Karen Steckol has resigned as co-chair of the Faculty & Senate Governance Committee.

The Faculty Senate by-law revisions will be placed on the agenda for voting at the October Senate meeting.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Seth Panitch*) Student Organizational Seating at Bryant-Denny Stadium had two organizations outside the Greek system apply for and granted seating even though they submitted incomplete applications. This issue was discussed in the Intercollegiate Athletic Committee meeting with Mark Nelson, Vice President for Student

Affairs, and Darrell Hargreaves, Coordinator of Intramural Sports. It was reported that the process was transparent and went very well even though complaints were expressed concerning some aspects of the procedure.

Graduate research assistants often work and do not have to register for classes in the summer, therefore, they do not have access as students to the Recreation Center. Their medical insurance has been extended to twelve month coverage. The question was asked if GRA's have access to the Student Health Center. This issue will be clarified and reported to the Steering Committee.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) Bill Jones, UA Director of Government Relations, will speak to a Steering Committee meeting in December or January. The possibility of Mr. Jones speaking at a meeting of the Steering Committee with the Provost was also discussed and it was agreed that this would be acceptable.

There will not be Legislative Breakfasts held in the near future.

Higher Education Partnership membership forms were handed out to the Steering Committee.

Reports from Other Committees

Campus Master Plan – The Campus Master Plan Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 12th with the consultant hired by the University to review institutional plans for the future.

Announcement – The Kentucky Art Festival will be held Saturday, October 15th and Sunday, October 16th.

Meeting adjourned – 5:00 P.M.