

# FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

## FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

November 12, 2002 - 3:00 pm – 307 Ferguson

### Minutes

**Attending:** Steve Miller, John Mason, Norm Baldwin, Subhabrata Chakraborti, Catherine Davies, Margaret Garner, Wythe Holt, Frannie James, Clark Midkiff, Harry Price, Bob Sigler, Nick Stinnett, Garry Warren, Mathew Winston,. Guest: Joanna Hutt, *Dialog*

The October 8, 2002, Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes were approved.

**President's Report** – (*Steve Miller*) Steve met with fraternity and sorority members (no representation of African American groups present) with the intention of listening to their exchanges and determine the issues this group considers important. Instead, he was placed on their agenda and spoke about responsibilities to others and what the University mission and criteria is for the community, faculty and students. They questioned what issues are on the agenda for the Faculty Senate and asked about mandatory class attendance. They were told the Faculty Senate will be monitoring progress made by the Greeks toward diversity. They were told that the honoraries and selection of winners are being looked at. The fraternities and sororities feel that they are undeservedly taking the brunt of blame for the “party image” of the University. Statistics show that Greeks are 20% of the population. Steve will follow up on the fire bombing investigation and will write a “thank you” letter to the sorority that offered housing and assistance.

In Steve's address to the Board of Trustees, he commended Dr. Mason for the fine job as Interim President, and thanked the Board for making faculty salaries one of their top priorities.

John Schmitt, Associate Dean for the Graduate School, is organizing Reaffirmation (re-accreditation) for the University. There will be a spring site visit in 2005. Two senior faculty members with knowledge of the University workings are needed for the Leadership Implementation team. These faculty members will coordinate the activity of these teams. The recommendations should be made by January. Amy Ward was suggested. It was suggested to recommend the winners of the Burnham and the Black-Moody awards. The names of the winners for the past three or four years will be emailed to the Steering Committee members for their information and suggestions.

Steve met with other Strip Committee members at a breakfast meeting with representatives from the City Council, the Mayor, Police Chief, Historical District representatives, and others addressing the problem of hours the bars are open. There are illegal and dangerous activities in the early morning hours and the bars are open 24 hours a day with a brief closing for Sundays. This issue will come before the City Council and Steering Committee members may want to attend that meeting to support the University's position of limiting bar hours.

Progress is being made in the faculty-student numerical identifier transition. This is a very complicated process, however, early results should be seen in January.

In a meeting called by the Chancellor with all three campus Presidents and Faculty Senate

Presidents, the combined voice of all within the system was stressed.

The Presidential Search Committee has determined many qualified applicants for the position of President of The University of Alabama. Ann Hayes Die is the headhunter and has favorably impressed members of the committee. Sifting and reading resumes will continue.

A group including Dr. Mason, Tom Strong, Sybil Todd, Steve Miller and four University students flew to Oxford, Mississippi for a visit to the Ole Miss campus. Vice Chancellor Tom Wallace, along with representatives of many facets of the university met to discuss issues we have in common, including a process used by Ole Miss to create a healthy campus. The implementation of a delayed rush, social "norming" activities which encourage students to identify with the institution, strong oversight, required freshmen housing, an alcohol-free campus, a strong and active SGA which also takes an active role in freshmen orientation, a code of expectations and behavior presented to freshmen, police presence on a personal level (getting to know the students by name), and creative ways used by faculty to encourage class attendance are all tools used by Ole Miss to create a compelling and desirable experience for their students and faculty. It was suggested that the Faculty Senate compose a statement about delayed rush. This topic will be referred to the Student Affairs committee.

A report on the Reallocation Committee was given which stated that it is an on-going process with possible recommendations being made at their next meeting. It will be the first recommendations they have received. The point was made that the committee is being sorely pressed to provide recommendations and a report with an almost unreasonable time limit of January. It was suggested that the committee ask for more time. The Board of Trustees has September 30, 2003, as the date for implementation. The Board is asking for a 15% increase in state funding. An overall decrease in enrollment at the University has caused a budget shortfall. Yearly income is \$350,000 per 100 students, with \$1 million dollars projected over four years.

The Steering Committee Reception for the Deans will be November 26<sup>th</sup> at Indian Hills Country Club from 5:00 until 6:30 pm.

A strong point was made that those senators serving as liaisons to University committees or any other committees communicate to the Faculty Senate officers or the Steering Committee issues being considered and progress being made in those meetings.

**Academic Affairs** – (*Garry Warren & Beth Macauley*) This committee is looking at data concerning grade inflation and will give a report after the data is analyzed. The issue of class attendance is also being studied. The committee withdrew the proposed academic excellence resolution.

**Faculty Life** – (*Wythe Holt & Nick Stinnett*) A poll will be conducted by this committee with one question being emailed to the faculty every two weeks. The first question the faculty will be asked will be to state what would enhance their life as a faculty member at the University.

**Financial Affairs** – (*Catherine Davies & Keith Woodbury*) No report.

**Planning & Operations** – (*John Mason & Mathew Winston*) Forming an ad hoc committee to consider Marvin Johnson's Salary Inversion Proposal was suggested. This committee would work on refining the proposal to make it more appealing and then report back to the Steering committee. It was also suggested that the proposal go to a standing

committee. Only one committee member voted to move this issue forward. Although some individuals were sympathetic, the Steering Committee members must represent their constituent's opinions. The opinions were expressed that the timing is poor for a proposal of this type and that it would be divisive. It was decided and voted upon at the special October 22 Steering Committee meeting to present a synopsis of the proposal at the next Senate meeting, with a fifteen-minute time limit for questions. A letter will be written to Marvin thanking him for his time and effort spent on this proposal.

**Research & Service** – (*Subhabrata Chakraborti & Jim Eddy*) A new library book policy proposed by this committee recommending fines for faculty declaring lost books has been accepted and will come back to the committee.

**Senate Operations** – (Frannie James & Harry Price) The Provost suggested considering moving some UA standing committee responsibilities to Senate committees. Some duplication exists, along with workload disparities in the committees that are being considered. The Senate Operations committee suggests the following:

*Resources and Priorities* responsibilities go to Financial Affairs and Planning and Operations committee.

*Undergraduate Programs and Services Committee* responsibilities be handled by Academic Affairs committee, including undergraduate teaching and learning, admissions and core designations. Student Affairs would handle academic advising, retention, scholarships and financial aid.

*Academics and Athletics* would go to Academic Affairs committee.

*ROTC Programs Review Committee* would go to Academic Affairs committee.

*Graduate Scholarship* responsibilities (faculty awards) would be handled by Academic Affairs committee and student awards would be handled by the Student Affairs committee.

**University Committee issues** to be addressed include the Mediation Committee with a need to elect two members to replace Paul Stuart and Jeff Richetto. The representation should be no more than two members from any one division (currently the other four are A&S, HES, ED and NUR).

Intercollegiate Athletics Committee – the process of appointment of the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) should be reviewed. The current FAR term was extended after three years without the consent of the Senate.

The Merger and Discontinuance committee should have two more members in addition to Carol Drolen. Three-year terms with rotation should be reviewed. Committee terms expire December 31. These should be elected at December Faculty Senate meeting.

**Senate issues** to be considered regarding UA and Senate committees are clarification of oversight and Senate responsibilities for UA committees' formation, election procedures and a unified timeline, oversight of the constitution of Senate committees, further specification of which Senate Chairs and committee member should be representatives to which UA committees and possible merger of Financial Affairs and Planning and

Operations Committees.

Comments concerning these suggestions included that some committee responsibilities are not clear in the by-laws and some committee names should be changed. The opinion was expressed that the existence of some duplication of committees serves as a “check and balance” and that the Senate would lack the number of people needed to fill these positions. A motion was made, seconded and approved for Harry Price and Frannie James to discuss changes with Carol Prickett and Provost Barrett and determine the Faculty Handbook and Faculty Senate Bylaw legalities of any committee changes and the suggestion was made to make one change as an experiment: the Planning and Operations Committee will assume the role of the Resources and Priorities Committee. A report will be given to the Steering Committee on their findings. The senator election problems of Arts & Sciences has been addressed and a letter will go out from the Faculty Senate President in January to avoid these delays next year. It was suggested that Senate Operations make the committee assignments in April of next year and that the faculty interest should be more of a priority.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 pm