

FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 8, 2005 – 3:00 PM – 206F SHELBY HALL

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Mathew Winston, John Vincent, Marcia Barrett, Steve Shepard, Natalie Adams, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Jenice "Dee" Goldston, Clark Midkiff, John Mason, Priscilla Davis, Karen Burgess, Margaret Garner, Jeanette Vandermeer

GUESTS: Adam Jones, Tuscaloosa News; Cresandra Smothers, Dialog

The minutes from the Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting of October 11, 2005 were approved.

Announcements: The November and December meetings for the entire Faculty Senate will be in the Ferguson Forum. The January, February, March, and April Faculty Senate meetings will be in 150 Shelby Hall. The Steering Committee will continue to meet in 206F Shelby Hall.

President's Report – (*Mathew Winston*) The Faculty Leadership Review Committee has been led by Norm Baldwin, past president of the Faculty Senate. The continuing committee members are Martin Bakker, Chemistry; Scott Bridges, Music; Norm Baldwin, Political Science; Pat Bauch, Education; Clyde Scott, Management; and Judy Stock, Education Research. The nominees for new members are Faythe Frieze, Music; Sandy Laing, Communicative Disorders; Kenneth McGuire, Music Education; and James Leeper, CCHS. Volunteers as Senate Representative to this committee will be requested at the next Faculty Senate meeting. If there are none, Norm Baldwin has requested the appointment of Virginia Wimberley of Clothing, Textile and Interior Design to fill this position.

Vice President's Report – (*John Vincent*) No report.

Secretary's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) No report.

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) The committee met with the Provost concerning changes in the **Faculty Handbook**. The Provost has requested an update of the handbook. The administrative structure of the university as stated in sections of the handbook will be given to each appropriate department for corrections. The committee will continue to work on the corrections.

Faculty Life – (*Steve Shepard (Natalie Adams) & Nick Stinnet (Deidre Leaver-Dunn)*) This committee is addressing the grievance procedure of the university.

Financial Affairs – (*Jim Hall & Jeanette Vandermeer*) **PEEHIP** continues to be a subject of inquiry. It was proposed to charge 2% extra for PEEHIP for those people retiring with less than 25 years of service. The counter proposal was a reduction of 2% for those people retiring with more than 25 years of service. Both these proposals passed in the Alabama Legislature. The suggestion was made to offer additional compensation to

those faculty members hired with fewer than 25 years remaining in their careers, for example, a faculty member of 50 years of age with approximately 10-15 years of work remaining in their teaching careers. This would be a decision made by the university administration. It has been argued to grandfather in those hired under one set of terms and now those terms have been changed. This issue would be critical in hiring new faculty members. Any new faculty member should be fully informed concerning this issue.

The **Coalition for Diversity and Inclusiveness Committee** met with Roger Thompson, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and University Registrar, to discuss new enrollment and University diversity goals. There are record numbers of African American freshmen. Many of the African American freshmen qualify as Honors students but do not apply. The application process to be followed should be fully explained to qualified incoming students. Retention of students and diversity in the new residential communities recently constructed on campus is of some concern. Dean Bob Halli of the Honors College and David Jones of Residential Life will be invited to speak to the CDI Committee. The hope of CDI is to host conversations regarding guidelines and principles to move the university ahead in this area. Everyone was encouraged to visit the new Crossroads Community Center.

Research & Service – (*Jenice "Dee" Goldston & Clark Midkiff*) No report.

Faculty and Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Kim Andrus*) An election will be held at the November 15 full Senate meeting to elect two faculty members to the **Mediation Committee** and one faculty member to the **Merger or Discontinuance of Academic Units Committee**. The two members the Senate elects to the Mediation Committee can be from Arts & Sciences, Communications, Education, and Law, but no more than one member can be elected from any one of these colleges. One or two members can be elected from other colleges. The faculty members interested in serving on the Merger or Discontinuance of Academic Units are James Cover (C&BA), Mary Alice Field (Library), James D. Leeper (CCHS), Carol Prickett (A&S), Clyde Scott (C&BA), and Shane C. Street (A&S). Nominations can be made from the floor.

There are continuing members on the **Mediation Committee** from Education, Law, Communication, and Arts and Sciences. It was suggested not to have more than one member from the Law School on this committee in the event someone from the Law School was needed to serve on the Tribunal. It was suggested to have the Mediation Committee election first. The faculty members interested in serving on the Mediation Committee are James Cover (C&BA), Mary Alice Fields (Library), Ken McGuire (A&S), Clyde Scott (C&BA), Norm Stein (Law), and Shane C. Street (A&S). These names will be presented as the slate of nominations from the Steering Committee, and nominations will be taken from the floor during the meeting. The names will be written on the board with blank sheets of paper serving as ballots. Names will be written on those sheets of paper and turned in to John Mason and Kim Andrus. John and Kim will tally the votes and determine if a run off is necessary.

Student Affairs – (*Priscilla Davis & Karen Burgess*) No report.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) Margaret Garner explained the process to become a member of HEP and the UA System PAC in detail. The benefits available to members include discounts on prescription drugs, legal referral network, travel benefits, liability insurance, vision care, representation in Montgomery and higher education advocacy. An original signature is needed on the form for payroll deduction of the membership fee. The membership forms should be returned to Bill Jones, Box 870100, Rose Administration Building. Margaret will contact Keith Woodbury, Faculty Senate

web page master, to place a link to the form needed to join HEP and UA System Pact on the Faculty Senate web page. There will also be a link placed on the University web page.

Higher Education Day will be March 2, 2006. The Student Affairs Committee was given the charge to draft a document to be sent to the faculty at large to request sensitivity to the needs of students attending Higher Education Day in Montgomery. This will be presented at the next Steering Committee meeting.

Old Business – The University made the decision to allow an extra 2 ½ months on BamaFlex.

It was suggested to continue to hold the Dean’s reception in the Dean’s Parlor in Alston Hall. It is a convenient and well appointed area to hold this social gathering.

New Business - Mathew Winston, Faculty Senate President, coordinated the meeting of the **Alabama Council of University Faculty Presidents** on the University campus last week. There was a reception at the Gorgas House on Friday evening. The reports regarding other institutions in the state included **UAH and UAB** building new dorms and dining halls as The University of Alabama is also doing. UAH has begun the *Research Experience for Undergraduates*, allotting grants of two or three thousand dollars not only in science and engineering, but the humanities as well. UAB is attempting to cut back their undergraduate enrollment from 11,400 to 10,500. To accomplish this they will attempt to increase the retention rate and recruit better students. UAB uses a three-part survey – one of Presidents and Vice Presidents, one of Deans and one of Chairs. It is called IDEA and comes out of Kansas State. There is a fee survey initiation fee of \$150, and a \$1.00 fee for each participating faculty member. This information has been given to Norm Baldwin. This could possibly be a simpler method than the one in place at the University. The leadership at the UAB Faculty Senate rotates yearly from medical and non-medical representatives. The **University of North Alabama** issued a shared governance document resulting from a no confidence vote for their president. Troy State is now **Troy University**. In addition to attempt to unify their four campuses, they are in the process of installing a doctoral program of public administration. **Montevallo** has the highest tuition and the lowest pay for assistant professors in the state. They have eliminated 43 programs. A possible criminal check for new staff is showing up at several universities. The length of time needed to conduct such a check is a problem. It often takes up to a month to complete. In the meantime, potential employees take other positions. **Alabama A&M’s** president was fired by their Board of Trustees. Parking for faculty on A&M’s campus is \$100 annually for a non-designated space and \$125 for a specific parking space. A shuttle bus is available on this campus. **Auburn’s** Senate is composed of 65 units plus eleven senior administrators. The Senate has representatives from the Professional Staff Assembly, Student Government Association, Graduate Students, Provost and other organizations. They have a Steering Committee and a Rules Committee. The President of the Auburn Faculty Senate receives a 30% bonus at the end of their term. They have a President, President Elect and a Past President. The President of Auburn’s Faculty Senate goes on to their Board of Trustees for a year.

The ongoing development of the University’s Wellness Program was discussed. Teams are being formed to deal with wellness development of students and faculty.

4:45 PM Meeting adjourned