

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2007 – 3:00 PM – 206F SHELBY HALL**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: John Vincent, Clark Midkiff, Lowell Baker, Marcia Barrett, Melondie Carter, Carolyn Cassady, Margaret Garner, Rona Donahoe, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Dee Goldston, Roy Maize, John Mason, and Ed Stephenson

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Clark Midkiff.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes of October 9, 2007 were approved.

President's Report – (*John Vincent*) Representation from the Recycling Department was scheduled to appear at the meeting but failed to attend. The SGA President sent John Vincent a letter of thanks for the Steering Committee attending the joint meeting with executive members of the SGA. Men's basketball head coach Mark Gottfried sent John a thank you letter and seemed truly thankful to receive the Senate's letter commending Coach Gottfried for the greatly improved graduation rate of his players. Suggested names were sent to Provost Bonner to consider for appointment to the Graduate School study task force. Graduate School Dean David Francko has studied the issue of making PhD students back register and pay for 699 dissertation hours about which members of the Steering Committee had complained to the Provost. Dean Francko said that the Graduate School interpretation of the rule was not correct and the policy on 699 charges was inappropriate. Dean Francko welcomed the formation of a task force to study Graduate School issues. There were no surprises at the BOT meeting. Rona Donahoe asked about the status of the Wallace Wade property on the strip. Vincent responded that there were no concrete proposals yet, but UA is seeking ideas—probably commercial retail, hotel, etc. UA is planning to develop the space. Concern was expressed about the failure of UA to include the property as part of the campus master planning process. John announced that the UA System Diversity Conference would be held in the Rast Room of Bryant Conference Center beginning at 4 pm Wednesday November 14. John was concerned about the lack of publicity for the conference. It was agreed that Carolyn Cassady would attend to represent the Faculty Senate.

Secretary's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) There was a discussion about the fact that Senate web postings were way behind. It was decided that it would be better if a current Steering Committee member were the Webmaster. Ed Stephenson agreed to serve as Webmaster for the Senate website.

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & Rona Donahoe*) The Provost will visit the Academic Affairs meeting next month to discuss allocation of new positions, distribution of new positions among colleges, etc. It was agreed to discuss this at the upcoming meeting of the Steering Committee with the Provost. John Vincent mentioned that the Provost was eagerly looking for items to discuss in our meetings, and encouraged us to come up with discussion items. There was a discussion of the Staff Mediation Committee's status. Margaret Garner recalled a previous

effective review of the University's committee structure and wondered if we should conduct another review soon.

Faculty Life (*Lowell Baker & Deidre Leaver-Dunn*) – Deidre Leaver-Dunn raised the issue of whether we should adopt Mental Health EDU for faculty, staff and RAs. Mental Health EDU is an on-line training program intended to develop better identification of distressed and troubled students. Margaret Garner said her office has received 20 evaluations and the majority said adoption of Mental Health EDU should be considered. Mental Health EDU takes about 25 min to complete. Margaret suggested it might be voluntary, but John Vincent noted that experts say these programs do not work unless they are mandatory. It was suggested that this activity should be focused on those who deal with students most frequently but may not receive the mail-outs that faculty are receiving. Margaret said that it has been very challenging to develop the current online programs required for students. Margaret emphasized that we need to take a multifaceted approach to address student mental health problem recognition. Early intervention can save much more dramatic later problems. The consensus was that Mental Health EDU should not be made mandatory. UA has already sponsored “webinars” on mental health issues such as those related to the Virginia Tech tragedy.

Research & Service – (*Shane Street & Ed Stephenson*) Ed Stephenson solicited opinions on what the Research and Service Committee should be doing. John Vincent stated that Joe Benson has announced that he will examine the University's academic misconduct policy. The Office of Research currently handles this. John Vincent suggested that all members send Research and Service Committee ideas for their work. Vincent also noted that the legal representation of the University actually works for the System, not UA itself, which has caused some problems in the past.

Financial Affairs Committee – (*David Arnold & Jeanette Vandermeer*) Deidre Leaver-Dunn announced that the Steering Committee is invited to the Financial Affairs Committee meeting to discuss PEEHIP issues

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Roy Maize*) John Mason announced that nominations for the Merger and Discontinuance Committee members are being solicited.

Student Affairs – (*Carolyn Cassady & Melondie Carter*) On October 22, the committee met with Darrell Hargreaves, who is Coordinator of Intramural Sports at the Student Recreation Center, and Porter Reeves, a member of the Student Government Association, to discuss student football ticket distributions. Porter had extensive information on student tickets; 14,985 of 92,000 stadium seats were student seats, and 16,472 students got tickets (some split tickets good for only half of the games). SGA has passed a resolution requesting that only one ticket be allowed per student for away games. The “away” university determines the number of tickets UA receives, and parity is maintained, e.g., LSU gives us 7000 tickets and we give them 7000. The subject of students going to ticketless entry was discussed (not applicable to any other ticket holders). The ticket will be credited electronically to a student's ACT Card the Sunday before the game. A website will allow students to give the ticket away to another student or to someone else on campus with an ACT Card. This ticketless entry undertaking is a joint venture between the Ticket Office and the Athletic Department. SGA will be on the lookout for people using someone else's ACT card (as a means of

selling to off campus buyers). There will be strict observation of ACT cards to detect misuse and a program to educate students not to abuse their ACT cards. There will also be a ticket bank so that a student can give up his/her ticket one time and get another ticket for a later game for which they do not have a ticket. The Marching Band has been a big loophole (members received extra tickets) that will be closed. The issue of block seating was also discussed. Five organizations lost seats because of ice throwing at the Georgia game and behavior has been much better at later games. It was also learned that UA made a film with Wesley Britt (*Crimson Pride*) selling the idea of respectful fan behavior. A new plan is being discussed for block seating. Darrell Hargreaves is working on new guidelines scheduled to be ready by the end of November and promises to allow the Senate to review the plan. The new administration in Student Affairs actually seems to be confronting this issue. There was a big response up and down the Athletic Department and Student Affairs. Some from SGA want the Senate to meet with Mal Moore to discuss more tickets for students. John Vincent says that it is highly unlikely that the student allocation will increase and likely that there will be more split tickets. There will also be reduced demand for student tickets because they will not readily be able to sell their tickets to off-campus buyers under the ticketless entry plan.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) No report.

Other Business – Margaret Garner described a new Health Promotion and Wellness for Students program at the Student Health Center. Margaret brought sample posters, brochures and cards that UA is distributing to influence student behavior in terms of alcohol abuse and education, locking doors, personal protection, etc. Melondie Carter said that her students would mention the availability of the new materials in their radio show. Margaret said that her group is also putting together material on the interaction effects of alcohol with other drugs, prescription and illegal.

Lowell Baker reported on the Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans and Departmental Chairpersons and in the Evaluation of Academic Programs Committee meeting yesterday where it was agreed that an instrument would be prepared and circulated every other year for evaluation of deans and department chairs (chairs and deans in alternate years). In the fifth year a question will be added asking whether the dean/chair should be retained. Sometime after the fifth year review the Dean or Provost will present to the faculty in the department or college their rationale for continuance or discontinuance of the appointment of the respective chair or dean. John Vincent says the deans are taking this to the Dean's Council to get everyone on board. Concern was expressed that the survey should not be burdensome and have too many questions. Results would only go to the person evaluated and their supervisor. The issue was discussed of written comments being cleaned up to prevent identification of individual's comments causing the real meaning of the message to be lost. The issue of how reviews will be used was discussed. John Vincent said there is nothing we can do if the administration chooses to ignore negative results. An effort will be made to examine best practices elsewhere. Lowell Baker pointed out that he would rather spend an hour each year with a survey than have to go through the current five-year review process. There will be no distribution of results of reviews to the faculty. Once the Provost accepts the evaluation proposal, it will be sent to Dean's Council and Faculty Senate for approval.