

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2009 – 3:30 PM – 206F SHELBY HALL**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Karen Steckol, Clark Midkiff, Jeanette VanderMeer, Lowell Baker, Marcia Barrett, Melondie Carter, Carolyn Cassady, Marci Daugherty, Rona Donahoe, Margaret Garner, Steven Hobbs, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Michael Martone, Katrina Ramonell, Ed Stephenson John Vincent

ABSENT: Harold Stowell, Ray White, Jim Hall

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of October 13, 2009 were approved with one correction.

President's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) President Steckol gave a reminder concerning the confidentiality of **email** correspondence.

The Intercollegiate Athletics Committee has requested input from the Steering Committee regarding faculty **football ticket allocations**. There will be additional tickets available for faculty, students and Tide Pride members. Topics discussed included seat locations, criteria used to assign seating, upper level seating problems, ticket discounts, family use of tickets and elevator access. The pros and cons of a swipe card system like the one used by students were discussed. The two main issues requiring a recommendation from the committee are the criteria used for allocation and location of faculty football tickets and the swipe card system for faculty. The criteria options for the first issue are years of service plus the number of years a faculty member has purchased tickets or years of service only. The Steering Committee voted in favor of recommending “years of service” and “weighted years having purchased football tickets” as criteria. Everyone agreed that anyone selling tickets must be sold within the UA system with the process to be determined with swipe cards and ticket conversion as possibilities. Giving out swipe cards to use faculty tickets would present a problem concerning security access to buildings on campus.

Legislative Action – (*Margaret Garner*) **Informal sessions** with about 20-30 people conversing with political candidates have been proposed. A Thursday at 4:30 PM was recommended by the Steering Committee for the sessions and to extend an invitation to the entire Senate.

March 4, 2010 is **Higher Education Day** to be held in Montgomery, Alabama.

H1N1 Flu vaccines are available now at the University Medical Center for people 49 years old or younger.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Carolyn Cassady*) SGA Representative James Fowler and Margaret Garner addressed the Student Affairs Committee. Brandon Clark, VP of SGA Academic Affairs, was successful in securing a \$300,000 grant for a textbook rental program. The SGA is involved in expanding library hours, establishing a central campus lost and found location and establishing a “First Ticket Forgiveness” parking program. There are 2,500 students taking advantage of the 348-RIDE which provides safe transportation for students. The SGA Governmental Affairs team is pursuing the possibility of hosting a 2010 General Gubernatorial Debate at UA and Auburn campuses. The Crimson Watch is undergoing a renovation with the same mission and purpose of providing a relationship between UAPD and those students living in fringe areas. The SGA representative has been attending the Faculty Senate meetings. Students may upload and view previous tests through the development of an online Test Bank established by the SGA. John Vincent expressed concern about tests being online for anyone to access. Food service and use of Ferguson Center space was discussed.

Faculty Senate Governance – (*Michael Martone & Marci Daugherty*) Marci Daugherty sent out a questionnaire to the Mediation Committee nominees asking percentages of teaching and administrative duties, whether they had served on this committee previously and their faculty status. Three nominees are not on tenure track and only one had served on this committee previously. The nominees are Elaine Martin, A&S; Dee Goldston, Pat Bauch, and Craig Shwery, Education; John Lusth and Bruce Kim, Engineering; Will Hodge, HES; Meredith Render, Law; and Allen Bloom, CHS. The definition of faculty is different in the Faculty Handbook and the Faculty Senate Bylaws. The election will be held at the November 17 Faculty Senate meeting with nominations taken from the floor. Steven Hobbs asked if the Mediation Committee handles only tenure tenure-track faculty issues. This distinction could be reviewed by the Faculty Life Committee.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Harold Stowell*) The **Misconduct Policy** remains in the Office of Research and is close to a final revision. The final version will be presented to the Faculty Senate. Procedures to **evaluate internal proposals** are also being reviewed by this committee. The main concerns are transparency in advertising by the Office of Research, doing a better job of advertising the criteria of grant selections and providing feedback for everyone involved. The committee feels the Vice President for Research and Deans for Research of the appropriate colleges should be the group setting criteria to review proposals for quality and likelihood of receiving funding along with the direction the University wishes to pursue.

Financial Affairs – (*Katrina Ramonell & Steven Hobbs*) Susan Petty and Jennifer Clark of the **Purchasing Department** will be addressing the Senate at the November 17th meeting. Kevin Stephens, Head of Procurement, will also attend. Questions were solicited from the faculty to forward to the Purchasing Department representatives to prepare their response. Some questions pertained to outstanding contracts, new vendors not posted, quotes from other than current vendor, reconciling P-card purchases, grant budgeting and very late posting. Vice President Gilbert will present budget information in a meeting on December 1 in Room 2436 Shelby Hall. Reminder emails will be sent out.

Faculty Life – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn & Lowell Baker*) Copies of the **Faculty Climate Survey** were handed out. The administration wants the survey to be general in nature since it

will go to all faculty members. Survey questions on or eliminated from the survey discussed were specificity, leadership, faculty/administration relationships, resource availability, faculty opinions, shared governance, setting policy, usable data, research and teaching standards and adequate facilities. The survey will be discussed with the Provost.

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) John Vincent reported the **final exam** times for the spring semester are not posted. The web site is in the Registrar's Office

Marcia Barrett and John Vincent met with Beth Bennett, Chairperson of the **Core Curriculum Oversight Committee**, and presented a draft of the resolution addressing the learning goals for the Core Curriculum. This draft has been sent to the Core Curriculum Committee for comments. This document will go forward through several steps before being presented for a faculty wide vote.

Gordon Stone will be speaking at the Faculty Senate meeting on November 17th.

Rona Donahoe reported the **Campus Master Plan** Committee had a meeting. Dan Wolfe presented the renovation plans for Foster Auditorium. The focus of the Civil Rights monument is the concern. Stage three of the renovation will be presented to the Board of Trustees in February. It was suggested to have a Foster Auditorium renovation presentation to the Steering Committee before February.

The widening of sidewalks, streets and placing medians on University Boulevard were discussed.

Meeting adjourned 5:45 PM.