

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2010 – 2010 SHELBY HALL – 3:00 PM**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Clark Midkiff, Jeanette VanderMeer, DoVeanna Minor, Marcia Barrett, John Vincent, Rona Donahoe, Steve Emens, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Lowell Baker, Steven Hobbs, Katrina Ramonell, Osiris Molina, Ed Stephenson, Melondie Carter, Seth Panitch

ABSENT: Karen Steckol, Jim Hall, Margaret Garner, Brian Gordon

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Jason Battles, Research & Service Committee; Joe Benson, Vice President for Research

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes of October 12, 2010 were approved with corrections.

Dr. Joe Benson began the meeting with a presentation titled “**The University of Alabama Research Status**”. This presentation will be given next week to the Research Advisory Committee with a request for action on parts of the report. The presentation is an overall view of The University of Alabama in terms of research. Each college/department research reputation has a ranking methodology based in many cases on a variety of issues such as publication, presentations, number and quality of graduate students, research dollars and other factors. As important as these issues are the research reputation of an institution is usually based on external funding. The NSF web site is the primary source of information concerning the research productivity ranking of an institution. In a recent report concerning the impact of the newly constructed Science and Engineering Complex the NSF ranking was mentioned in the first three sentences of the report.

The currency is **research and development** expenditures. The total expenditures for The University of Alabama in 2009 were about \$36 ½ million dollars. UA ranked fourth out of the five state institutions in Alabama. UAB’s expenditures are partially derived from the use of UA’s hospital, Auburn is a land grant institution, UAH has the advantage of a Redstone Arsenal/Marshall Space Center location and USA has a medical center constituting a marked difference in each institution. Federally financed research and development expenditures were a little under \$24 million dollars for UA in 2009. About half of the external funds expenditures of \$62 million dollars in 2009 were spent on research. Of that amount about \$9 million dollars was spent on instruction and approximately \$24 million dollars was spent on service. The portion of service dollars spent include Brewer-Porch Children’s Center, public television, public radio, Moundville and other high quality service programs for the county, region and state.

In fiscal year 2010 UA received a little over \$46 million dollars in **external funding** for research only with a total of \$79 million external funding received setting a record for UA. Bringing expenditures and awards parallel to each other is a priority. Arts and Sciences and Engineering are two of the most research intensive colleges on campus but almost every college at UA is involved in external funding. Over the last two years Political Science and the Art Department received external funding from NSF.

In 2007 UA had 519 submissions from 300 individuals and in 2010 there were 687 submissions from 397 individuals marking an increase of thirty percent in four years. In terms of awards UA has gone from 389 in 2007 to 479 last year and the number of people receiving awards has increased from 223 to 272 indicating steady progress in submissions and awards. Four hundred submitters is about forty percent of our faculty.

President Witt's remarks at the Board of Trustees's meeting noted he stated four goals when he came to The University of Alabama. Notably the enrollment goal and being the choice institution for the best and brightest students has been accomplished. The goal of becoming a **tier one research institution** has not been met. This will be the focus area over the next ten years. To reach this goal set by Dr. Witt would be for UA to reach the top twenty percent nationally in federal research and development expenditures. There are 687 institutions in 2009 that received external funding for research. Of that 687 UA ranks 184th placing UA in about the 73 percentile. UA had a little under \$24 million dollars in federal research and development expenditures. If rankings remained at the present level UA would need an increase of \$30 million dollars in external federal funding expenditures or about 125% of UA's present level. In 2008 federal expenditures by agency for the five state schools beginning with UAB at \$303 million dollars with \$272 million dollars of that amount from NIH (2% of NIH funds) with other funding from NASA, DOD and NIF. Auburn's greatest source of funding is the Department of Agriculture. UAH funding primarily comes from DOD and NASA. USA major source of funding is NIH. UA leads the state in funds received from NSF. Other funding comes from the Departments of Education, Transportation and Commerce. With increases in funding allotments from DOD, HHS and NASA the 80th percentile goal could be reached. Increasing the number of faculty, meeting increased student needs and research goals, additional faculty support, continuing to increase faculty with funding research and targeting large center of awards are methods to pursue to reach the 80th percentile. It is projected that by the end of this year there will be nine post-doctorates on campus. Hopefully by the end of next year there will be sixteen to eighteen post-doctorates on campus bringing additional research funding.

Another Grant Specialist has been added to the **Office of Sponsored Programs** to target areas of prospective funding. Methods to assist faculty become more efficient and increase support will be the primary focus of this office. Internal coordination sheets will be online by the end of this year and a system for faculty to access their contract and grant budget will be in place in the very near future. A UA liaison for the Huntsville area will be put in place to pursue increased funding from that region.

Questions asked of Dr. Benson pertained to higher education state funding allocations, research and funding from the Huntsville area and increased support for new faculty.

Vice President's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) There is land owned by the University and other property holders in St. Clair County northeast of Birmingham on the Warrior River with coal beneath the surface. A company has been established to purchase the **coal and mining rights** on this property. Mallory Flowers, President of the Alabama Environmental Council on campus, expressed concern about this development. The Provost reported there is no activity on this issue at this time but she will research and bring any additional information to the Steering Committee.

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

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) Increased graduation rates and use of **degree planning** were addressed by this committee. The issues of degree planning included knowing the number of sections of faculty needed for future courses, syllabi requirements, multiple registration difficulties, declaration of a major, advisors, drop/add, purchase of books and other unintentional consequences.

Faculty Life – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn & Lowell Baker*) In 2006 the Tobacco Education Team brought the Faculty Senate the idea of the thirty foot **smoke-free** perimeter around campus building entrances. The Faculty Senate adopted the idea and passed a resolution stating their endorsement of this no smoking policy. The Provost approved and ordered signs posted on the entrances chosen to be a smoke free area. There is no official smoke free policy on the University web site other than the posting of the Faculty Senate resolution and the 1990 policy of no smoking inside campus buildings. There has been a lack of communication and enforcement of the thirty foot perimeter. This issue will be discussed with the Provost.

The Faculty Life Committee requested an amendment to the Dean's **maternity leave proposal** nine and twelve month faculty and inclusion of eight weeks with a slight modification for twelve month faculty where they have four weeks of maternity leave separate from sick leave. The Faculty Life members conducted a comparison survey of SUG institution maternity leave benefits. This was information concerning unpaid and paid leave for eligible faculty for the birth of a child and/or placement of a child for adoption or foster care. Other institutions have labeled maternity leave as parental leave. It was suggested to discuss this again with the Provost.

Financial Affairs – (*Katrina Ramonell & Steve Hobbs*) Dr. Lynda Gilbert, Vice President of Financial Affairs, was unable to attend so Reba Essary, Associate Vice President for Finance, gave a budget presentation to the Financial Affairs Committee. The presentation did not include any additional information about bond issues or the University's current credit rating.

Information Technology – (*Jim Hall & Osiris Molina*) A meeting with John McGowan, Vice Provost of Information Technology, was to be held today.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Brian Gordon*) No report.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Rona Donahoe & Steve Emens*) The Provost has given approval to cover the expense of the Ombudsperson election. The philosophy statement will be included on the ballot.

In the past the Honors College has not had any faculty members serving just in the college, so it was not qualified to elect a senator. Next spring the Honors College will have a seat if the information from OIR report indicates there are now faculty members belonging only to the college.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Seth Pannitch*) This committee met last week with Kathleen Cramer, Senior Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, to discuss issues the SGA brought forward to the committee. Some of those issues are **benefits for students** with children, students without a permanent home address and a coat drive. Trinity Methodist Church would house the donated coats for student's access.

The University is working on a **sophomore experience** encompassing UA Away (internship away from campus), UA Serve (service away from campus) and UA Study (studying abroad).

The form to request monies for faculty entertainment is burdensome and the allotment has not changed from \$65.00. A report has to be filled out following the use of the funds to state the advantages of the event. The Steering Committee was requested to give feedback on the simplification of the process.

The suggestion was made to invite Lowell Davis, Office of Student Affairs, to meet with the Faculty Senate Steering Committee during their meeting with the Provost.

Reports from Other Committees -

The **Textbook Committee** meets next week.

Old Business – Written invitations to the **Reception for the Deans** will be mailed next week. The reception will be December 7th from 5:00 to 6:30 PM in the Lobby of the AIME Building. An email reminder was sent to the Steering Committee.

The dedication of the Malone-Hood Plaza and the Autherine Lucy Clock Tower on November 3 at Foster Auditorium went well. Concern was expressed about the absence of the interactive display. The hardware is in place but other problems have prevented the installation completion. A follow up will be pursued at the meeting with the Provost.

Aaron Zucker, SGA Vice President for Academic Affairs, has invited various faculty members to meet concerning a **test bank**. The fraternities and sororities already have a test bank. The proposal is to make this available to all students. Discussion included monitoring student possession of test materials.

Announcement –

Establishment of a **blood bank** for Dr. Karen Steckol was discussed. More information will be forwarded along with an announcement to the entire Senate.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 P.M.