

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 8, 2011 – 3:00 pm – ROOM 2002 SHELBY HALL**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Clark Midkiff, Jeanette VanderMeer, DoVeanna Minor, Marcia Barrett, John Vincent, Rona Donahoe, Charlotte Herin, Wesley Church, Robert McLeod, Katrina Ramonell, Carolyn Cassady Brad Hodges, Ian Stancu, Ed Stephenson, Melondie Carter.

ABSENT: Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Lowell Baker, Margaret Garner, Seth Panitch.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes of October 11, 2011 were approved.

President's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) A moment of silence was observed by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee in memory of Dr. Karen Steckol. Dr. Steckol was Faculty Senate President for three years and served as a senator and committee co-chair prior to her term as President. Dr. Steckol's family suggested donations to The Steckol Student Award at the Kentucky Speech-Language Hearing Association in Lexington, Kentucky, Juvenile Diabetes or St. Jude's Children's Hospital. President Midkiff suggested requesting a special observance by Denny Chimes.

The Board of Trustees named Dr. Robert Altenkirch as President of The University of Alabama-Huntsville.

Following the demolition of the Kilgore House, a Victorian house on campus, a dining facility will be constructed which will include the relocation of a road. This will increase danger for pedestrians and will increase traffic.

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

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) The Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee met with the Financial Affairs Committee.

The draft policies for "The University of Alabama Criteria and Procedures for Appointments to University Research Professorships and University Teaching Professorships" and "Procedures for Selection of Candidates for University Research Professorships and University Teaching Professorships" have been forwarded by the Provost to the Council of Deans.

Faculty Life – (*Lowell Baker & Wesley Church*) The Faculty Life Committee continues to review **maternity leave policy** issues such as adoption and nine and twelve month faculty member maternity benefit discrepancies. Twelve month faculty must use their accrued sick leave and nine month faculty receives eight weeks leave. Twelve month faculty must accrue sick leave and nine month faculty has leave available immediately. The revised maternity leave policy has not been posted on the Provost's website. The Family Medical Leave policy was discussed.

The comparison of UA Student Recreation Center fees to institutions within the vicinity of The University of Alabama revealed UA was near the top of fees family and faculty members are paying. The outdoor pool is a separate entity from the Recreation Center. You must be a member of the Recreation Center and pay fees to use the pool. The new Recreation Center policy allows membership for the number of months and the time of year desired but does not include use of the outdoor pool. The Student Recreation Center was built with student fees. Children under sixteen are not allowed in the SRC during the week. A more family friendly rate would be welcomed.

Financial Affairs – (*Robert McLeod & Katrina Ramonell*) The Financial Affairs Committee met with Lynda Gilbert, Vice President for Financial Affairs and Provost Judy Bonner on November 1 for a **budget** presentation. The State appropriation for 2012 is almost exactly the same as the 2006 appropriation. In 1978 tuition accounted for 20% of UA's budget and 80% was State appropriation. In 2011 tuition accounts for 80% of UA's budget and State appropriation is 20% - exactly reversed over 33 years. The Federal monies that were made available were not placed in UA's permanent operating budget but were used as one time funding. Other issues discussed were student enrollment growth, bond rating, indebtedness and campus construction projects.

Information Technology – (*Carolyn Cassady & Brad Hodges*) The Information Technology met with John McGowan, Vice Provost of Information Technology. A new campaign on Internet Two will begin on internet capabilities in different fields on campus. Internet Two could be used in holographic images in theater. Internet Two could produce a person's image next to a person on stage without being detected as unreal. Another example of Internet Two's capabilities was orchestras located and performing in two different cities with the conductor located in another country could be synchronized without any lag time.

A data management plan website has been emailed to the Provost. Data management plans from Georgia Tech, University of Virginia and Idaho State seem to be good ones.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Ian Stancu*) The Research & Service Committee continues to follow the relocation of the Environmental Health and Safety department. Chemicals of interest are being monitored.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Rona Donahoe & ___*) The election to fill two vacancies on the Mediation Committee will be held at the Faculty Senate meeting on November 15, 2011. Nominations can be made during the meeting from the floor prior to the election.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Seth Panitch*) Stephen Vincent, SGA President, attended the meeting of this committee last Tuesday. The SGA plans to raise a million dollars for an endowed student scholarship based on merit and financial need with a nine-year completion goal. The amount of \$46,200 has been raised in six months. The SGA is working on student organization group seating for Bryant-Denny Stadium. Empty student seats in the upper deck are a concern. Assigned seating is being discussed. The SGA co-sponsored an event for a campus Military Veteran's organization and their families.

Halloween decorations were reported stolen from three neighborhoods. Due to video tapes those responsible were identified and arrested with some of the articles recovered. Discussion included inclusive and exclusive organizations on campus and consistent accountability.

Shared information, pedestrian friendly campus, Bryce property green space and funding sources were among the topics discussed.

Some bicyclists do not travel in the specified bike lanes raising concern for pedestrian safety.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) President Clark Midkiff read the Legislative Agenda report from Margaret Garner. There has been talk among some legislators about moving from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution benefit plan. There is a lack of leadership support for this plan. At this point it looks like revenue from sales taxes and personal income taxes are up and the budget will be met. This would avoid further proration although sometimes October data is not reliable. This is the assessment based on current knowledge.

Report from Other Committees –

Carolyn Cassady is a CUC committee member and reported the questionnaires have just been sent. The questionnaire has first, second and third choices for committee membership. Committee membership preferences should definitely be indicated on the questionnaire giving those making committee assignments more information regarding a faculty member's interests and willingness to serve on a particular committee.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 PM.

The reception for the Deans was hosted by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee at Gorgas House from 5:00-6:30 P.M.