

# FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

## FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

December 3, 2002 – 3:00 PM – 307 Ferguson

### Minutes

**ATTENDING:** Steve Miller, John Mason, Keith Woodbury, Bob Sigler, Nick Stinnett, Wythe Holt, Norm Baldwin, Catherine Davies, Subhabrata Chakraborti, Jim Eddy, Harry Price, Frannie James, Beth Macauley, Garry Warren, Mathew Winston, Margaret Garner, Clark Midkiff

The November 12<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes were approved with one correction.

Those faculty members selected to serve on the **ad hoc committee** studying the review of salary inequities with Marvin Johnson serving as chair are complete with the exception of one faculty member.

The three faculty members that have been proposed for membership on the **Reaffirmation (Re-accreditation) Committee** are Howard Jones, Bill Dressler and Phil Beidler.

The **reception** held for the Deans at Indian Hills Country Club on November 26<sup>th</sup> was discussed. All comments were complimentary and the consensus was that it was a success. A follow-up plan is to have a working meeting with the Deans in the spring and a reception for the Deans in the fall in the future.

Dr. Mason's letter to the Steering Committee concerning **reallocation** outlined the process of Dean Olin presenting the reallocation proposal to a joint meeting of the Steering Committee and the Resources and Priorities Committee for feedback. It was suggested to set a second meeting with the deans after the Steering Committee has met. This decision will be made after the report is received concerning what action should be taken. The report will not be ready from the Reallocation Committee until January 7.

Karen Plackey from UAB sent an email to Steve stating that a task force is developing to attempt to add sexual orientation to UAB's **non-discriminatory policy**. Interest is growing at UAB to talk about this issue. It was suggested to investigate the possibility of all three campuses issuing a joint statement or resolution concerning this. The issue was given to the Faculty Life Committee to pursue. Steve will contact the presidents of the other Faculty Senates, also.

The plaques on the wall of Ferguson honoring the recipients of the **Atherine Lucy Foster Award** for service, leadership and support for minority programming is not up-to-date. The last plaque was 1997. John Mason will contact the Provost concerning this. It was suggested to rename Foster Auditorium in honor of Atherine Lucy Foster.

### Senate Committee Reports:

**Academic Affairs** – (*Beth Macauley & Garry Warren*) This committee presented a draft of a statement titled, "**Faculty Senate Position Statement on Enhancing Student**

**Attendance**". The second sentence of number seven should read, "*At present collecting attendance data can be burdensome to faculty or even impossible in large classes, we, therefore, encourage the administration to support faculty's use of innovative approaches for facilitating attendance.*" The focus would be on the administration to support the faculty concerning attendance. Overall the committee supported a statement rather than a resolution. A follow-up could be made in a year to see if there is improvement in attendance. Methods of taking attendance were discussed. It was suggested to add a new #1 statement "faculty may require attendance" and stress that the faculty should have academic freedom in their classrooms. The statement is a list of things faculty could possibly do to increase attendance. There seems to be a current of thinking among some Alabama high school students that UA class attendance is not required or important. There are also some faculty members that do not set a good example or believe in the idea of attending class. The motion was made to insert a new number one sentence, "*Faculty have the right to require attendance in their classes*" and renumber the remaining statements. Number two would read, "*Faculty should stress the importance of attendance in all classes especially in lower level classes where beginning students may establish a pattern of attendance that carries over to subsequent years, and in large lecture sections where preliminary data has suggested that attendance problems may be particularly acute.*" The motion passed. A suggestion was made to change #6.a to read, "*adjusting class content and standards such that habitual attendance will result in commensurately higher grades*". This motion also passed. "*And*" a belief was added to the third sentence of the opening statement. The motion was made and passed to add to the new number six, "*We further recommend that Deans and Department Heads collect and maintain a catalogue of useful attendance techniques*". The chair of this committee should check with their committee members concerning these changes. This will be done and a revised copy will be sent to the Faculty Senate President and secretary. This document will be distributed to all faculty members and others following approval.

**Faculty Life** – (*Wythe Holt & Nick Stinnett*) No report.

**Financial Affairs** - (*Catherine Davies & Keith Woodbury*) This committee felt that a **statement** was needed concerning **reallocation** following the appointment of a Reallocation Committee by Interim President Mason without faculty representation. Three faculty members, John Mason, Bob Sigler and Harry Price, were appointed to the committee providing limited faculty input. A primitive draft was sent to the committee members. This document is in three parts. The introduction sets the tone, the middle section addresses distribution of future reallocation funds with three alternatives listed and the third part is a collection of ideas of how reallocation could be dealt with including enhancing revenues. This committee recommends that this document be sent to Interim President Mason following possible Senate approval.

**Suggested and accepted changes:** It was suggested to have some reference to the resolution already passed by the Faculty Senate concerning additional funding and that revenue for all education in the state be reemphasized, "Financial Affairs Committee" be replaced with "Faculty Senate," omit all but one percentage number in C.2.a, remove references to distribution of reallocated funds, B.2.a (re: retirement of staff) was removed with wording changes in B.2.b, fourth paragraph on page one italicized, remove references to the distribution of future reallocated funds,

omit percentage numbers, and C.2.c & d were changed to "Faculty Senate recommends that if divisional level reallocations become necessary, etc." It is important this document be approved in the Faculty Senate meeting next week due to the deadline set for the reallocation report due in January. This document will assist the Faculty Senate's preparation when the Reallocation Committee report is released. The definition and

application of “user’s fees” was discussed. The concern was that this would preclude the poor using University facilities or the fees could possibly be prorated based on ability to pay. The point was made that increasing faculty salaries to the SUG average has not been defined. The stated goal “should” be interpreted as the statement implies. The final decision of the Steering Committee was to leave the proposal as is applying all the changes suggested, however, not applying “we recommend” to the document. It was moved and seconded to pass this along to the Faculty Senate after changes are made and committee members consulted.

Bob Sigler cannot attend the meeting next week as Parliamentarian. Pat Bauch will be contacted first to substitute, if she cannot, Jim Walters will be contacted to attend.

**Senate Operations** – (*Frannie James & Harry Price*) There has been a proposal to offer a Senate non-voting seat and floor privileges to the **Black Faculty and Staff Association**. Following discussion, a motion was made to present an official document at the next Faculty Senate meeting with a vote in January.

The Senate Operations Committee proposes the following on an experimental basis:

**Senate Committee on Financial Affairs.** The Financial Affairs Committee reviews financial issues that are pertinent to the University community, advances proposals consistent with Faculty Senate initiatives and priorities, and makes recommendations to the Faculty Senate pertaining to resource policies and allocations.

**Senate Committee on Planning and Operations.** The Planning and Operations Committee, henceforth referred to as Senate Committee on Resources and Priorities for an experimental period of two academic years (2003 – 2005), studies the allocation of resources within the University in order to give input to the administration, for planning and setting priorities for budget allocations, to review long- and short-range fiscal planning and priorities reflected in the University budget and, specifically, to review the equity of existing budget allocations and priorities, and of the proposed budget allocations and priorities. The Co-chairs, one of whom is the Senate Vice President, and Senate President will formulate and direct the work of the committee and ensure its continuous involvement in University planning and priority setting.

### **Composition**

The Senate Committee on Resources and Priorities shall consist of Senate representatives from a variety of academic divisions; faculty will comprise the majority of the membership of this committee. Additionally, ex officio members shall consist of one representative from the Offices for Student Affairs, Financial Affairs, Academic Affairs; and University Advancement, and two undergraduate students, and one graduate student, including the President of the CCSO and the President of the SGA. Serving as liaison members will be the Dean of the Graduate School and the Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Financial Affairs, and the Assistant to the President.

### **Reporting Channel**

The President through the Senate and Provost/Academic Vice President

### **Membership**

Senate Faculty (minimum 10, including co-chairs)

Ex officio Members

Office for Student Affairs Representative (1)

Office for Financial Affairs Representatives (1)

Office for Academic Affairs Representative (1)

Office of University Advancement Representative (1)

Student Members (3)

President of the Faculty Senate

Liaison Members

Dean of the Graduate School

Vice President for Academic Affairs

Vice President Student Affairs

Vice President Financial Affairs

Assistant to the President

The Senate Operations Committee will be meeting with the Provost and Carol Prickett, chair of University Committee on Committees, to determine the level of support for this proposal. The faculty membership will be from the Senate and the number was increased. The current Resources and Priorities Committee has an Executive Committee. Paralleling that would be the co-chairs and president of the Faculty Senate. The number of the ex-officio members has been reduced to one. Liaison members do not vote. The duties of Resources and Priorities were then integrated into the current Planning and Operations committee duties. The Financial Affairs would be a generating/advancing group and Resources and Priorities would be where the administration brings financial and priority issues. Points made were that sometimes leadership on committees varies, overlapping powers provides checks and balances, and that the Vice President of the Faculty Senate should be added to provide continuity.

Any comments concerning the 2003-04 and 2004-05 **Academic Calendar** handed out today should be sent to John Mason and Mathew Winston. The point was made that the Senate bylaws state that before any calendar is done or changes made the Senate's Planning and Operations Committee should be consulted.

A report concerning the **SGA Recycling Project** included: contract on bins should be filled as early as next week, in the process of purchasing reusable cups for the food courts, an environmental management council was created under the President's Cabinet and recycling plastic cups in Bryant Denny Stadium - lack of bins prevented success.

A report will be given at the next meeting concerning the two to five reserved **parking spaces** for postal service in Ferguson.

**Legislative Agenda** – *(Margaret Garner)* **Governor-elect Bob Riley** requested a **meeting** with all University Presidents of four-year institutions. Riley attended a forum in North Carolina conducted to address education reform. Riley stated that economic development in any state is directly linked to higher education. He asked each to let him know what the state can do to drive the economic engine in the area of their expertise. He mentioned un-

earmarking funds. A statistic that Artur Davis gave was that 40% of ninth graders would not graduate from high school. The next budget year will have some serious problems. Riley did not address the use of the "rainy day fund". The goal should be the 1/3/ 2/3 split in educational funding. The two billion dollars that has been put into K-12 has not had a great impact on the classroom. Those funds were primarily salary increases.

The ad hoc **Faculty Leadership Review Committee** has sent out 400 surveys to faculty members asking for a response. Norm Baldwin will ask this committee for input concerning sending this survey to the Faculty Senate members. As of this date, 65 responses have been received.

Meeting adjourned 5:10 pm