

FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

12-07-04 – 3:00 PM – 307 FERGUSON CENTER

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: John Mason, Mathew Winston, John Vincent, Marcia Barrett, Wolfgang Bertsch, Clark Midkiff, Wythe Holt, Karen Steckol, Bob Sigler, Jerry Weaver, Margaret Garner

GUESTS: Joanna Hutt, Dialog; Joan Garrett, Crimson White

The minutes of the November 9, 2004 Faculty Senate Steering Committee were approved.

The first item of discussion was the **budget meeting** of the Faculty Senate Financial Affairs Committee (Wolfgang Bertsch and Karen Steckol) with Lynda Gilbert, Vice Chancellor and Interim Vice President for Financial Affairs. Reba Essary, Associate Vice President for Finance, made the presentation at the meeting. Questions were asked about the presentation and will be presented to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee when the information is forwarded to the Faculty Senate Financial Affairs Committee. The goal of instate vs. out-of-state students will be 70/30. It is 80/20 at the present time. This is 70% instate and 30% out-of-state undergraduate students. Questions and requests included how many employees the University has and the breakdown of faculty, staff and administration; the amount of money in the pool to pay those employees and that the data be over a three-year period to determine progression; requested faculty salary data broken down by assistant, associate and full; and requested a definition of the seventy-fifth percentile. All the information from the SUG will not be available until January. Intercollegiate athletic budgets and deferred maintenance were also discussed at the meeting. Athletic Department contributions to University overhead have been reduced from over one million dollars to \$49,000. A women's crew team will be added as an intercollegiate sport.

Vice President Mathew Winston received an email detailing the meeting of the **Parking and Traffic Committee** meeting held on December 7, 2004. The meeting was poorly attended by the Parking and Traffic Committee members. The committee voted to raise faculty and staff parking fees from the current \$60 annually to an eventual \$100 annually with the increases to come ten dollars at a time for the next four years. The justification for these hikes was to pay for extant parking decks and parking decks yet to be constructed, decks necessitated by President Witt's growth plan. Tables were passed around, showing that UA charges for parking are middle-of-the-road compared to those for other SEC schools. The definite tenor of the presentation was that this growth was necessary, inevitable, and desired by UA administration. The implication was that the committee was expected to give their endorsement to the proposed hikes. Committee member, Ralph Voss, spoke against the increase on the grounds that the hikes would amount to raising parking by 2/3 of present cost in four years when it is known that anything remotely like a 2/3 hike in salaries cannot be expected over the same time frame. He pointed out that annual raises cannot be expected, and that supporting this hike is like supporting a pay cut. Ralph complained that President Witt's growth plan doesn't seem well thought out –e.g., Who will teach the influx? In what buildings? What if a freshman gives legal challenge to being forced to live in a dorm? Did anyone consider cutting down on parking demand by

forbidding freshmen to have cars on campus? And so forth. He also stated the committee was not sure what they were supposed to be doing. Were they supposed to vote for the increase? Did it have to be unanimous? Finally, a motion was made to resolve that the increases be put into effect, starting next year. After it was seconded, a vote of those present was taken, and the committee chair broke a 2-2 deadlock and voted in favor. As it stands now, the fee hike was endorsed by the committee. Ralph further stated that he does not know to what extent the committee is bound by procedural rules (actually, I don't know if the committee has any power at all), but guesses the membership of the committee is 14 people. If a quorum is needed, than a quorum was not present. This is frustrating and he communicated this information to Mathew Winston to present to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee. He feels that the committee is expected to be a rubber-stamp operation and that a member of the Faculty Senate is supposed to be on this committee. He feels this deck-building is being financed on the backs of student, faculty and staff – the people that can least afford it. A Steering Committee member suggested a protest of the increase in parking fees. Parking facilities and the burdens of increasing student enrollment (dining and parking facilities) were discussed. The need of parking facilities, if the discussed pedestrian campus is accomplished, was questioned. Mathew Winston made a motion and Karen Steckol seconded that President John Mason write a letter to Dr. Robert Witt and Provost Judy Bonner protesting the increase in parking fees. The motion passed.

Wythe Holt of the Faculty Life Committee is proposing the formation of a Senate committee on (multicultural)(community)(diversity) affairs, to more effectively deal with issues of **diversity and community relations** on campus. The Faculty Senate had a committee that corresponded with each UA Vice President at one point but with the restructuring of Faculty Senate committees, and the addition of Vice Presidents, that is no longer the case. A new UA Vice President of Community Affairs has been appointed. It was expressed that it would be wise to have a committee corresponding with that Vice President. Multicultural and diversity issues are important and Wythe stated that the Faculty Senate should take the lead in these areas. The Faculty Senate should represent everyone. The charge of the committees was discussed. Karen Steckol voiced the opinion that the formation of such a committee would have a positive impact and message to students and faculty. The development of a center for multicultural and diversity affairs has been proposed but no progress has been made. It was stated that this is under consideration and that funding is a problem. The Faculty Senate committee on diversity and community relations, if established, would deal with these and other issues and seek solutions. Margaret Garner suggested adding these issues to an already established Faculty Senate committee as a specific line item. The pros and cons of the establishment of another Senate committee with space, duties and the impact of such a committee as points in the discussion. In the past, the Senate went from six to seven committees. Planning and Operations Committee was deleted. Senate Operations was renamed Faculty and Senate Governance Committee and the number of Senate committees now stands at six. Attendance of the CDI committee has been poor recently but the attendance was improved at the last meeting. The suggestion for the formation of a new Senate committee came from these meetings. Dr. Witt asked this committee to draft a set of charges for the new Vice President of Community Affairs. Fifteen recommendations in the draft were presented to Dr. Witt and others recommending increasing faculty diversity, changing fraternity organization structure, creating an advisory committee for the Office of Community Affairs on multicultural issues, following through on the commitment for a Multicultural Center, naming or renaming streets and/or buildings on campus for African Americans, and other recommendations. Only one school/college two years ago conducted exit interviews regarding African Americans leaving the University. The reasons and situations surrounding the loss of African American students and faculty were discussed. The Faculty and Governance Committee will review the proposal.

Meeting adjourned 4:57 PM