

# FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

## FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

DECEMBER 6, 2005 – 3:00 PM – 206F SHELBY HALL

### UNAPPROVED MINUTES

**ATTENDING:** Marcia Barrett, Karen Burgess, Priscilla Davis, Margaret Garner, Jenice "Dee" Goldston, John Mason, Steve Shepard, Karen Steckol, Jeanette Vandermeer, John Vincent, Mathew Winston, Bob Sigler

**GUESTS:** Adam Jones, Tuscaloosa News; Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Wesley Hall, Crimson White

The minutes of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting of November 8, 2005 were approved.

John Mason gave a report concerning his attendance at the **Coalition for Intercollegiate Athletics National Conference** held at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington on December 2 and 3, 2005. Copies of the itinerary, the NCAA Presidential Subcommittee list and the draft of "The Need for Transparency" were handed out. The Provost funded the expenses of this trip. COIA is composed of fifty-two faculty senates of 1-A schools. This group addressed the four reports composed by the Presidential Subcommittees. The final recommendations should be ready next week and will be emailed to anyone wishing this information. The final reports will be emailed to the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee and the Academic and Athletics Committee.

Stephen Foster Black, **Initiative for Ethic and Social Responsibility Director**, addressed the Steering Committee. A center for ethic and social responsibility has been created with office space located in Temple-Tutwiler Hall. This organization is focused on support for professors wanting to incorporate service projects and community research into the curriculum. Software will be in place in January to unify community projects campus wide. Every initiative and community effort with any relation to the University will be on this web site. Examples of service-learning projects include following engineering students developing rural sewage and drainage systems, vision screening for below school-age children in poor areas, spoken word poetry after-school clubs, and bi-racial drama productions at the University of West Alabama. These projects are part of academic courses and a grade is given. A Moral Forum program is being developed with lectures and debates with the possibility of winning scholarship money. The Steering Committee expressed concern with the focus of this program being on the most privileged students in private schools.

**President's Report** – (*Mathew Winston*) Gordon Stone has cancelled speaking to the Faculty Senate at the December meeting. He is scheduled to speak at the Faculty Senate meeting in February. The Graduate Student Government Association headed by President Dennis Bubrig has a task force addressing the issue of medical insurance for graduate students. The discussion included the benefits of clinics on campus, the VIVA insurance plan, and affordability and funding of insurance plans for graduate students. Karen Steckol will serve as parliamentarian for the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate in the absence of Bob Sigler. An article and the quality of The Crimson White were

discussed.

**Vice President's Report** – (*John Vincent*) No report.

**Secretary's Report** – (*Karen Steckol*) No report. Karen asked if the Steering Committee would be interested in adopting a Hurricane Katrina family for Christmas. It was suggested to bring it up at next week's full Faculty Senate meeting. The University has an account set up for donations for those victimized by the hurricane.

**Academic Affairs** - (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) Work is continuing on the Faculty Handbook by this committee.

**Faculty Life** – (*Steve Shepard & Nick Stinnet (Deidre Leaver-Dunn)*) This committee is continuing work on the grievance process.

**Financial Affairs** – (*Jim Hall & Jeanette Vandermeer*) The figure of 207 faculty/staff being affected by the recent legislation concerning PEEHIP is considered incorrect. Last year the Financial Affairs Committee recommended that those presently on staff be grandfathered in, however, the process to determine those affected has not been determined. President Mathew Winston charged this committee to address the \$5,000 cap imposed by Bamaflex. This amount is determined by the University. It is not an imposed federal cap.

**Research & Service** – (*Jenice "Dee" Goldston & Clark Midkiff*) No report. Karen Steckol requested that this committee look into the methods used to make CUC committee appointments, particularly the IRB committee.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – (*John Mason & Kim Andrus*) No report. Comment: The North Carolina Legislature passed a law to the effect that all out-of-state students at the University of North Carolina on full academic or athletic scholarship will have their tuition paid for by the state.

**Student Affairs** – (*Priscilla Davis & Karen Burgess*) The Steering Committee requested that the Student Affairs Committee draft a memo concerning the participation of students in Higher Education Day held in Montgomery, Alabama. The memo requests that faculty members excuse students to travel to this event. This does not request exemption from any exam, paper or project. It was suggested to add information about the event. The method used to verify that the student attends the event was discussed.

**Legislative Agenda Committee** – (*Margaret Garner*) Information will be forthcoming concerning the PAC and HEP membership campaign.

**New Business** – The Student Affairs Committee will address the process of recording grades for students that do not attend class at all.

The Steering Committee moved into Executive Session.

Meeting adjourned 5:15 PM