

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 2011 - #2002 SHELBY HALL – 3:00 P.M.**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Clark Midkiff, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, DoVeanna Minor, Marcia Barrett, John Vincent, Lowell Baker, Robert, McLeod, Carolyn Cassady, Brad Hodges, Margaret Garner, Ed Stephenson.

ABSENT: Jeanette VanderMeer, Wesley Church, Katrina Ramonell, Ian Stancu, Melondie Carter, Seth Panitch.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

Roll call and quorum check by Vice President Deidre Leaver-Dunn.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes of November 8, 2011 were approved with one correction.

President's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) A memorial service will be held for Dr. Karen Steckol on Friday, January 13, 2012 at the Jewish Synagogue.

Vice President's Report – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn*) The University should actively and consistently pursue methods to address improvement of race relations on campus.

Secretary – (*Jeanette VanderMeer*) No report.

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) President Clark Midkiff was requested to check with the Provost concerning **grade calculations** and he will do so in their next meeting. It was indicated that “F’s” were dropped in departmental major grade calculations. The reasoning behind this change is to have a common method to calculate major GPA’s. If an “F” is made in a major course, that grade is not used to calculate the major GPA although it is used to calculate the overall GPA. If the course is taken a second time and passed, that would be the grade used in the calculation. It was suggested that the Provost contact the Registrar to confirm this change. If this report is true and the change has been made, it should have been presented to the faculty as a whole for a vote. Further discussion of this issue included the lack of notification, grades and methods used in different colleges/schools.

The committee also discussed requirements for **classrooms** on campus. Requirements include good lighting, general environment, size of work space, multimedia in the classroom and structural issues. Possibly a faculty survey will be taken concerning the adequacies and inadequacies of specific classrooms.

Faculty Life – (*Lowell Baker & Wesley Church*) The Faculty Life Committee continues to address the **smoking/no smoking policy** on campus by speaking with their constituents and student groups. There will be a meeting with a student group in the next few weeks concerning this issue.

Child care costs, availability, extended child care hours, waiting lists and locations of child care for faculty/staff were discussed. It was suggested to canvas other SUG institutions and local child care providers to have more information about this issue.

The **graduation robes** gathered by Dr. Karen Steckol to be loaned to faculty during graduation ceremonies were stored in Dr. Steckol's office. The robes will have to be stored in another location and several storage options were discussed.

Financial Affairs – (*Robert McLeod & Katrina Ramonell*) The Financial Affairs Committee had an inquiry concerning **the matching contribution to TIAA-CREF**. The question was would the matching contribution be raised to 7 ½% since the employee required contribution will increase to that percentage next year. Different institutions will be surveyed to compare the University's retirement plan to other benefits offered elsewhere.

Information Technology – (*Carolyn Cassady & Brad Hodges*) The Associate Dean for Library Technology, Tom Wilson, is working on a **data management plan** and has offered cooperation with the Faculty Senate Information Technology Committee. This committee has been invited to meet with Dean Wilson, Vice President of Information Technology John McGowan, and Vice President for Research Joe Benson to discuss this issue. Carolyn Cassady suggested the Faculty Senate Research & Service Committee attend this meeting. The entire Faculty Senate will be invited so anyone interested in the development of a data storage management plan would have an opportunity to give suggestions and input.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Ian Stancu*) The Research & Service Committee will pursue a meeting with a representative from the Purchasing Department concerning bids and vendors.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) No report.

Reports from Other Committees –

The distribution of tickets to the BCS game, Alabama vs. L.S.U., was discussed.

Traffic & Parking – The Director of Transportation Services, Ronnie Robertson, gave a presentation concerning the construction of parking decks and other information concerning **campus transportation**. Parking fees will increase next year – faculty & staff increase \$20 per year for the next six years; reserve parking increase \$30 per year for the next six years. It was suggested to have Ronnie Robertson make the transportation presentation to the Faculty Senate at next week's meeting.

The Master Plan Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 14th in Room 102 Graves Hall at 4:00 P.M.

New Business – Bill Jones, Director of Government Relations for The University of Alabama System, will be invited to attend the next Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting with the Provost.

There was discussion about consulting fees paid to faculty. The Faculty Handbook states the consulting request must be approved in advance.

Meeting adjourned 4:25 P.M.