

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2010 – 2002 SHELBY HALL – 3:30 PM**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Karen Steckol, Clark Midkiff, Jeanette VanderMeer, Lowell Baker, Marcia Barrett, Melondie Carter, Carolyn Cassady Marci Daugherty, Rona Donahoe, Margaret Garner, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Harold Stowell, John Vincent, Ray White

ABSENT: Jim Hall, Steven Hobbs, Michael Martone, Katrina Ramonell, Ed Stephenson

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of January 12, 2010 were approved with one correction.

President's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) The **Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics** plans to submit an application for tax exempt status as a non-profit organization requiring legal assistance. The organization is requesting a one-time contribution to COIA to offset the expense of filing. COIA has no operating budget and The University of Alabama Faculty Senate is a member of this organization. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee approved this request for funds.

President Steckol suggested COIA consider the late date of the **BCS Football Championship game** which will be on an even later date in 2010 impacting and disrupting class attendance of the participating institutions.

Vice President's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) No report.

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

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Marcia Barrett*) The **UA Core Curriculum Committee** continues to discuss the proposed core learning goals and prologue. The Core Curriculum Committee has requested the chairs of the sub-committees (Natural Science sub-committee, Writing sub-committee, etc.) write learning goals for each of the sub-committees.

The Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics at the **University of California-Berkley** has a \$160 million dollar deficit. The COIA is asking financial assistance from the academic side of the institution. The UC-Berkley Faculty Senate passed a resolution condemning this action and included a request for all institutions to join in passing similar resolutions. The University of Alabama Athletics Department is self-sustaining. The Academic Affairs Committee did not see an issue correlation and will take no action. Discussion included the number of members in COIA, the plus/minus grading system, and athletic budgets. The plus/minus system is at the discretion of the professor and is not required by the University.

Faculty Life – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn & Lowell Baker*) The Provost’s office planned to poll/examine **maternity leave policies** of the Southeastern Conference/SUG institutions. The Faculty Life Committee has not received this data.

Deans and higher personnel are allowed to use non-state funds to purchase **alcoholic beverages** for entertainment purposes. Departments and faculty members do not have access to such monies for this purpose. Discussion included funding for serving such beverages at receptions and dinners and department funding access. The Faculty Life Committee will explore options for this issue.

Financial Affairs – (*Katrina Ramonell & Steven Hobbs*) No report.

Information Technology – (*Ray White & Jim Hall*) This committee met with John McGowan, Vice Provost of **Information Technology**. The University has entered into campus licensing agreements for desktop products. Selected software can be installed on University-owned machines at a reduced cost. Discussion included software details, versions, packages and costs, SAS, SPSS, CS4 and wireless and technology updates. A committee is being formed for those on the cutting edge of computer resource needs and academic research.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Harold Stowell*) No report.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Michael Martone & Marci Daugherty*) Faculty Senate bylaws state that President, Vice President and Secretary *may* (not required) submit a written statement stating their intentions concerning seeking re-election. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the February 16th Faculty Senate meeting.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Carolyn Cassady*) The Student Affairs Committee met with Jeff Smith, Academic Publishing Specialist. There was some question about the cost of printed media packages developed for a particular class by the bookstore. The cost per page per packet is 6 to 7 cents comparing favorably to other cost sources. Copyright materials drive up the **cost of printing** (15 to 20 cents per page) due to obtaining clearance through a copyright clearance house. If the cost is over 20 cents per page, the faculty member is contacted to confirm printing. A copy of “Questions and Answers on Copyright for the Campus Community” 7th edition will be sent to all faculty members.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) Questions have been drafted for the Legislators at the March 3rd evening meeting in Montgomery prior to **Higher Education Day on March 4**. The first question refers to the PACT college tuition fund. The second question asks for equity and fairness in reduced and level funding, and requesting a statement to end the debate between K-12 and Higher Education in Legislative circles. They will also request communication recommendations for alumni leaders in conversing with the Legislators for equitable funding and advocating for higher education. Attending this meeting will be alumni from all 13 institutions across the state.

Reports from Other Committees

Foster Plaza plans are progressing according to a report given by Lowell Baker. Efforts are underway to develop an advisory committee to address campus aesthetics.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 PM.