

# FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

## FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 14, 2006 – 3:00 PM – 206F SHELBY HALL

### UNAPPROVED MINUTES

**ATTENDING:** Mathew Winston, John Vincent, Karen Steckol, Priscilla Davis, Jenice "Dee" Goldston, Jim Hall, Clark Midkiff, Steve Shepard, Bob Sigler, Jeanette Vandermeer, Bob Sigler, Marcia Barrett

**GUESTS:** Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Wesley Hallman, Crimson White

Roll call and quorum check by Karen Steckol.

The minutes of February 14, 2006 were approved.

**President's Report** – The **Crimson White** mistakenly reported that the Faculty Senate voted to have a new grade category option for students who never attend a class but fail to withdraw. The issue was discussed but no action was taken. **Higher Education Day** was held with approximately 3,000 attending. The names of the participating students have not been posted on the Faculty Senate web site. Mathew will check with Margaret Garner to determine where the list is and have it posted on the Faculty Senate web site by Webmaster, Keith Woodbury. There will be a follow-up to determine the status of the **Evaluation and Review of Deans and Chairs**. The annual survey of chairs should have been conducted this spring. Norm Baldwin has been the chair of the committee until this year. The nominations at this point for **Faculty Senate officers** are John Vincent, President; Karen Steckol, Vice President; and Clark Midkiff, Secretary. Nominations will be taken from the floor and the election conducted at the Senate meeting in March. Mathew Winston as President of the Faculty Senate gave several speeches and attended many meetings and functions. He encouraged the new president to attend the meeting of the **Alabama Council of University Faculty Presidents**. This is an excellent way to observe what other institutions in Alabama consider main issues and problems. The group meets twice a year. The issue of PEEHIP was discussed at the meeting held in conjunction with Higher Education Day. It is important to keep this major issue at the forefront due to the projected dramatic increase in health care costs. There was further discussion of this issue.

**Vice President's Report** – (*John Vincent*) A training session for **new Senate members** will be in 206F Shelby Hall thirty minutes before the April Faculty Senate meeting. A request has been made for six small conference rooms for committees to use during their meeting time to name co-chairs and determine meeting dates and times.

**Secretary's Report** – (*Karen Steckol*) Modern Language Department holds an annual "Latin Day" event. They have been informed that there will be a \$2,000 rental fee for space in **Ferguson Center**. This is a recruiting tool and is held for high school students. With emphasis on increasing enrollment, there is a need for space to hold events in connection with recruiting students and other institutional entertainment. Karen will send an email to the group suggesting that they speak with Dr. Margaret King about the rental fee. The next meeting with the Provost will be April 20. There was discussion of those

committees that should be vigilant in monitoring the University budget. In the past it has been argued that the Faculty Senate president should be on the Executive Committee of the Resources and Priorities Committee; that has not happened. The Faculty Senate passed a resolution calling for an Ecological Committee which was rejected. Discussion of the Steering Committee included processes used to name committee members, availability of information for committees in various situations, and usage of and good leadership in committees.

**Academic Affairs** – (*John Vincent & Marcia Barrett*) The Academic Affairs Committee for 2006-07 will inherit the review and proofreading of the **Faculty Handbook**. The task of this committee was to update the Handbook, not to change policies. Email addresses, phone numbers, etc. are examples of minor changes to be made.

**Faculty Life** – (*Steve Shepard & Nick Stinnet*) Following the last Steering Committee meeting, an attempt was made to reach Sunee Lavender, President of the Professional Staff Assembly, by phone and email. The issue was whether the Professional Staff Assembly should form a grievance process for that particular group. No reply has been received of this date. The Faculty Handbook is very clear on the definition of a "faculty member". The problem comes with the use of the phrase that is not within that definition.

**Financial Affairs** – (*Jim Hall & Jeanette Vandermeer*) No report.

**Research & Service** – (*Jenice "Dee" Goldston & Clark Midkiff*) This committee met with Marianne Woods, Associate Vice President for Research. The accreditation process of the IRB will take one more year. The Office of Research is in need of a standing committee to serve as an overview of decisions and policies of this office. A motion will be brought up in the next CUC meeting to create such a committee. The Faculty Senate could also act on this issue.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – (*John Mason & Kim Andrus*) No report.

**Student Affairs** – (*Priscilla Davis & Karen Burgess*) The issue of a grade category for a student who does not attend a class continues to be addressed.

**Legislative Committee** – Higher Education Day had the second highest attendance of three thousand people. The budget is in the Governor's hands and seems to be very good for higher education. PEEHIP and retirement benefits will continue to increase. Some of the dollars are non-recurring and must be used for one time expenses. It was stated that everyone on the Faculty Senate should be participating in HEP and the UA System PAC both as givers and supporters.

Everyone was reminded to attend the presentations of the candidates for the Director of the Wellness Center. A reception for the candidates sponsored by the Child Development Center will be held at Bryant Museum from 4:30 until 6:30 PM. The resumes of each candidate will be emailed to the Steering Committee.

A reception for faculty members sponsored by the Supply Store is being held at Ferguson Center in the Anderson Room from 4:00 until 6:00 PM.

The Faculty Life Committee should be consulted about the University academic calendar. They have not been consulted in violation of the Faculty Handbook. The Steering Committee has been consulted concerning fall break.

Meeting adjourned 4:20 PM

