

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
MARCH 10, 2009 – 206F SHELBY HALL – 3:00 PM**

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

**ATTENDING:** Karen Steckol, Clark Midkiff, Jeanette VanderMeer, Lowell Baker, Marcia Barrett, Carolyn Cassady, Rona Donahoe, Steven Hobbs, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Katrina Ramonell, Ed Stephenson, John Vincent, Shane Street

**ABSENT:** Melondie Carter, Marci Daugherty, Margaret Garner, Michael Martone, John Mason

**GUESTS:** Cresandra Smothers, Dialog

Roll call and quorum check by Faculty Senate Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of February 10, 2009 were approved.

**President's Report** – (*Karen Steckol*) Congratulations was expressed to Cresandra Smothers of Dialog for being the recipient of the **Crimson Spirit Award**.

The Faculty Senate Secretary, Jeanette VanderMeer, will review **senator attendance** records to determine excessive absences. The Faculty Senate Governance Committee will then review corrective steps to be taken on this issue.

The medical benefits issue listed on the agenda for today's meeting has been resolved. Jeanette VanderMeer suggested inviting David Bertanzetti, Director of Benefits in Human Resources, to address the Faculty Senate concerning proposed major changes in **health insurance coverage** going into effect for January 1, 2010.

Mark Nelson, Assistant to the Provost for Academic Affairs, has requested three names for a selection pool for the **SGA Academic Misconduct Committee**. The President of the Faculty Senate will make the appointment of the three individuals for this pool. The guidelines for this position are very restrictive and will be emailed to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee for discussion at the next Senate Steering Committee meeting.

Two faculty members have requested the Faculty Senate review the **grant proposal selection process** for NSF-PIRE and NSF-IGERT. These emails were forwarded to the Research and Service Committee prior to today's meeting and they in turn brought the question to Joe Benson, Vice President for Research. In the current grant proposal selection process, Joe Benson and the Associate Deans for Research for the appropriate college review the proposals and make the selections. This process is primarily used in most institutions. Discussion by the Steering Committee included potential problems with communication, information, feedback and education components of the current process, especially in lieu of the faculty concerns about the process. The Research and

Service Committee will review the process, make recommendations and write a final resolution letter to the faculty members registering the complaint. Joe Benson will be asked to address the March 24th Faculty Senate meeting.

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

**Secretary's Report** – (*Jeanette VanderMeer*) Report in President's Report.

**Academic Affairs** – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) Several statements were in the student newspaper, *Crimson White*, saying faculty members should not be on **Facebook**. Facebook began as a socializing network for college students and has grown to 175 million users. The recommendation of the Steering Committee is that faculty members should not be on a student's current Facebook as a friend.

The Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to retain the **first year review** of new faculty members. It was determined the potential value of the process could be very useful for the faculty member.

**Faculty Life** – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn & Lowell Baker*) Bob Smallwood, Assistant to the Provost for Assessment, is drafting a **climate survey** instrument. Following a review of the document the Faculty Life Committee will meet with him in April.

The **maternity/paternity** issue will be discussed at the next Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting.

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

**Research & Service** – (*Ed Stephenson & Shane Street*) The Research & Service Committee met last week and elected Shane Street as co-chair. The committee discussed the **internal review process of grant proposals**. They reviewed the first draft of the **Scholarship Misconduct Policy** forwarded from the Office of Research and saw no major changes at this point. It was suggested to highlight the Federal mandated portions of the policy document when the document is presented to the Faculty Senate for a vote. It will be a Faculty Handbook change.

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – (*John Mason & Michael Martone/Marci Daugherty*) The IT committee amendment will be proposed. Two CUC members and Faculty Senate officers will be elected at the March 24<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate meeting.

**Student Affairs** – (*Melondie Carter & Carolyn Cassady*) No report. There was discussion about student football ticket distribution, NCAA accreditation and textbook sales.

**Legislative Agenda** – Lowell Baker and Karen Steckol accompanied students attending **Higher Education Day** held in Montgomery. There were approximately 3,500 total attending the rally. According to the legislators who spoke to the UA group, no decisions

are being made due to waiting on the dispensation of the stimulus package funds. The level of attendance and effectiveness of attending the rally was discussed. Getting to know our senators and legislators on a personal level and becoming involved in the Higher Education Partnership and political campaigns seem to be a more effective method of developing advocacy for higher education funding. Lowell Baker suggested inviting Gordon Stone of HEP and Bill Jones, UA Government Relations, to a Steering Committee meeting for discussion of better ways to approach and develop support for higher education funding.

Meeting adjourned 4:15 P.M.