

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 8, 2011 – 3:00 PM – ROOM 2002 SHELBY HALL**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Karen Steckol, Clark Midkiff, Jeanette VanderMeer, Marcia Barrett, John Vincent, Rona Donahoe, Steve Emens, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Osiris Molina, Margaret Garner, Brian Gordon, Ed Stephenson, Melondie Carter, DoVeanna Minor

ABSENT: Lowell Baker, Steven Hobbs, Katrina Ramonell, Jim Hall, Seth Panitch

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes of February 8, 2011 were approved.

President's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) No report.

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

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

Reports from Senate Committees –

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) The Academic Affairs Committee discussed the software usage by the University of Florida to track student's advancement toward graduation. Marcia Barrett made a presentation to the committee concerning software being used by the Library.

Faculty Life – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn & Lowell Baker*) The Faculty Life Committee sent a letter and document concerning the **maternity leave** issue to the Provost. This will be forwarded to the Deans for their input.

The Steering Committee directed the Faculty Life Committee to research whether or not faculty should be on accrued **sick and annual leave**.

The **healthcare reform** issue continues on the Faculty Life Committee agenda. A healthcare reform timeline is listed on the Blue Cross/Blue Shield web site. This link will be emailed to the entire faculty.

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

Information Technology – (*Jim Hall & Osiris Molina*) Complaints have been registered concerning technology assistance response. The emailed message from OIT is very cryptic and the response has been slow in some instances. Some colleges/schools have their own computer support systems. G-mail for faculty was discussed.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Brian Gordon*) No report.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Rona Donahoe & Steve Emens*) The candidates for **Faculty Senate officers** are Clark Midkiff, President; Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Vice President; Jeanette VanderMeer, Secretary. Each nominee will have an opportunity to make a statement prior to the election at the March 22 Faculty Senate meeting. Nominations will be taken from the floor prior to the election.

There are three nominees for **Ombudsperson** – Alan Blum, CCHS; Dee Goldston, College of Education; and Cassie Simon, School of Social Work. According to Faculty Senate bylaws the ombudsperson election will be held at the same time as Senate elections.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Seth Panitch*) The Student Affairs Committee met last week and discussed the letter received from Jeffrey Elrod expressing concern about the living-learning communities being replaced by **sorority house construction**. Renovation of Parker-Adams Hall would have cost four million dollars making demolition the University's choice. Sorority houses will be built on this space. A primary concern of Jeffrey Elrod was the choice central-campus parking these houses will provide for their members. There will be an extra charge for those spaces. The Student Affairs Committee will respond to Jeffrey with a letter and will be reviewing his suggestions. There is an overall general reduction in campus parking.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) Higher Education Day will be held April 7th in Montgomery, Alabama. Buses will be at the Moody Music Building at 7:15 A.M. and will return approximately 3:30 P.M. An equitable and fair budget for higher education is the consistent theme to be presented to the Legislators.

The impact of the possible elimination of the DROP program by the State of Alabama was discussed.

Reports from Other Committees –

Jeanette VanderMeer reported on the **Faculty Staff Benefits Committee**. There seems to be a lack of attendance eliminating a quorum to conduct business and a lack of long range planning. The Faculty Staff Benefits sub-committee has been meeting every two weeks. Issues being considered are case management for chronic illness to save money, being proactive rather than reactive, less cost burden for employees, health coverage options, rewards and incentives and changing behavior to be a healthier person. With the flux situation of healthcare nationally it is difficult to know the most advantageous position. Discussion continued concerning wellness, participation, tracking wellness results, substance abuse coverage, stress and depression and medications.

Meeting adjourned 4:15 P.M.