

FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
April 11, 2006 – 206F Shelby Hall – 3:00 PM

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: John Vincent, Karen Steckol, Clark Midkiff, Marcia Barrett, Jenice “Dee” Goldston, John Mason, Bob Sigler, Mathew Winston, Jeanette Vandermeer

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

Roll call and quorum check by Clark Midkiff.

Action Item: An election must be held to replace Marvin Johnson on the CUC. To have the rotation in the correct sequence, it was suggested that the replacement be elected for a two year term. Ann Edwards from Libraries has been nominated by Marcia Barrett. Jeanette Vandermeer has been nominated by Karen Steckol. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the full Senate meeting next week.

President’s Report – (*John Vincent*) A report was given regarding the **Board of Trustees** meeting. The matter of a private firm constructing dorms on campus was addressed by the Board. The firm would operate the dorms for thirty years returning the property to the University at the end of the thirty years. Senate committees should report any action items for next year to the President of the Senate. Each committee will be charged with tasks for next year at the full Senate meeting next week. Dee Goldston will be rotating off the Senate and her name will be put forward for **Parliamentarian** for 2006-07.

Vice President’s Report – (*Karen Steckol*) The death of Logan Young of Memphis, Tennessee was reported.

Secretary’s Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) Everyone was encouraged to check financial transactions due to the conversion to Banner.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Marcia Barrett*) The last review of the Faculty Handbook bylaws will be forwarded to the Provost. Accreditation requires that SACHS address and phone number be listed in the Faculty Handbook. All other addresses and phone numbers which change periodically were eliminated. The Banner conversion has changed some campus addresses. The Academic Affairs committee should keep the review of deans and chairs as an ongoing issue for next year. The issues of the recipients of the review information, the method of conducting the survey of chairs and the membership composition of the Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans and Department Chairpersons and in the Evaluation of Academic Programs Committee were discussed.

Faculty Life – (*Steve Shepard & Nick Stinnet*) The two percent PEEHIP retirement issue should be pursued by this committee next year.

Financial Affairs – (*Jeanette Vandermeer & Jim Hall*) This committee has requested a meeting with the Executive Committee of the Resources and Priorities Committee to discuss an overlap of the responsibilities of these two committees. Requests for the Faculty Senate President to be a member of the Executive Committee have been denied. There was further discussion of the charge for each of these committees, the length and transition time of the committee members and the need for faculty input in University financial decisions. The point was made that PEEHIP billing should be researched. The cost continues to escalate and more financial information should be acquired.

Research & Service – (*Clark Midkiff & Dee Goldston*) It was recommended this committee continue to pursue the issue of establishing a standing oversight committee for research activity on campus. The CUC has passed a resolution asking for the creation of such a committee. There was further discussion of grants and sponsored programs.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Kim Andrus*) One person for the Mediation Committee, two persons for the Faculty Participation in the Selection of Deans and Chairpersons and in the Evaluation of Academic Programs Committee, and two persons to the CUC will need to be elected next year. The Faculty Senate bylaws states new senator training should be conducted the first Tuesday of April. It was suggested to change the training requirement to be conducted before the first full Senate meeting. There was discussion of senator election results and the efforts of officers of the Faculty Senate to speed up the process.

The faculty/staff campus meeting will be Wednesday, April 26 at 1:30 PM at the Bryant Conference Center. Any suggestions for the speech given by the Past President Mathew Winston should be passed along to him. There was further discussion concerning faculty service. The focus at the University at this time seems to be on research.

Arts & Sciences passed a policy at the request of Mathew Winston which places those senators with expiring terms willing to serve on the alternate list.

Student Affairs – (*Priscilla Davis & Karen Burgess*) The charge to this committee will include meeting with Dr. Margaret King concerning the SGA political organization.

In a conversation with Margaret Garner and Bill Jones, Karen Steckol reiterated the importance of the two percent PEEHIP retirement issue. The difficulty would be in locating a sponsor for any changes. Organization would be critical to advancing this issue.

Meeting adjourned 4:15 PM

Officers met at this time to make committee assignments.