

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
APRIL 10, 2007 – 3:00 PM – 206F SHELBY HALL**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ATTENDING:** John Vincent, Karen Steckol, Clark Midkiff, Lowell Baker, Margaret Garner, Jenice “Dee” Goldston, John Mason, Steve Shepard, Shane Street, Jeanette Vandermeer, Mathew Winston

**GUEST:** Bill Jones, UA Systems Office

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes of March 20, 2007 were approved.

The Faculty Senate Office has been moved to 401 Martha Parham West. The mailing address is Box #870388. The phone number remains the same, 348-6635. The remains of an antebellum dorm burned during the Civil War is located underneath the proposed excavations for a trolley stop in front of Toumey Hall. The Steering Committee is greatly concerned about the preservation of valuable **archaeological finds**. The framed copy of the **resolution** commemorating the joint session of the Faculty Senate and the SGA Senate will be displayed in the Faculty Senate office. The Provost sent congratulations to both organizations for conducting this historic meeting. **Meeting dates** for Steering Committee summer meetings are May 8, June 12, July 17 in Shelby 206F at 3:00 PM. Meeting dates for the Steering Committee for the next academic year are August 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, and Dec. 4 in 206F Shelby Hall at 3:00 PM. Meeting dates for the spring are Jan. 8, Feb. 12, Mar. 11 and Apr. 8 with the meeting site yet to be determined. The full Faculty Senate meeting dates are Aug. 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, and Dec. 11 in Shelby 150 at 3:30 PM. The spring meeting dates are Jan. 15, Feb. 19, Mar. 25, Apr. 15 with the site yet to be determined. The College of **Arts and Sciences** will be celebrating their 175<sup>th</sup> birthday on the same date as the April Faculty Senate meeting. The hours of the celebration will be extended to allow senators time to attend. The **COIA** meeting at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California does not have a Faculty Senate representative committed to attend at this time. John Vincent has asked the chair of the Resources and Priorities Committee to make arrangements for monthly updates from construction administration to that committee. The **Professional Staff Assembly** passed a resolution regarding the parking and transportation changes to be implemented this fall. A letter from the Faculty Senate will be written to the Professional Staff Assembly expressing shared concerns about the new parking situation. Discussion included various problems concerning new parking zones, parking fees, and perimeter parking.

Bill Jones of the UA Systems Office addressed the Steering Committee. A background review of last year’s elections was presented. Increased percentages for higher education the past two years have been good. Work continues on this year’s state budget. Tax receipts have decreased the last two months directly impacting the budget allocations. Input was asked from the Steering Committee regarding the textbook bill issue. The discussion included the issues of a proposed textbook committee to review textbooks, tax

exemptions or tax holidays for textbook purchases, specifying textbooks to be used by faculty, timelines for textbook lists from faculty members, textbooks with supplemental CD's that are unusable after one use, two-year college investigation, proposed legislation, online materials and publishing companies. Higher Education Day in Montgomery was held on the same day as the UA Board of Trustees meeting causing difficulties for some to attend the meetings. The meeting of the Council of University Faculty Senate Presidents and Honors Day was also originally scheduled during this time frame but was cancelled. There is a training program for students conducted by the Higher Education Partnership organization in August with excellent speakers. This is considered to be a very successful program. An invitation was issued by Bill Jones for anyone with the opportunity to visit this program. The report on Higher Education Day was positive even with the scheduling conflict this year.

The only item of contention at the Board of Trustees meeting focused on acquiring a higher return on investments.

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

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

**Research & Service** – (*Shane Street & Clark Midkiff*) This committee is addressing the reporting structure in the Academic Misconduct Document and the Conflict of Interest Document. The RAC will issue a report.

**Other Business** – The University faculty meeting will be April 26 in the Bryant Conference Center in the Rast Room at 3:00 PM.

President John Vincent expressed appreciation to the Steering Committee for their service to the Faculty Senate this past year.

**Meeting adjourned 4:20 PM**