

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 8, 2008 – 3:00 pm – 206F SHELBY HALL**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Karen Steckol, Clark Midkiff, Jeanette Vandermeer, John Vincent, Lowell Baker, Marcia Barrett, Melondie Carter, Carolyn Cassady, Margaret Garner, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Jenice "Dee" Goldston, John Mason, Ed Stephenson, Shane Street

GUESTS: Cassandra Smothers, Dialog

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Jeanette Vandermeer

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes of March 11, 2008 were approved.

President's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) Faculty Senate and University **committee assignments** will be made following today's Steering Committee meeting. President Karen Steckol will compose and forward to all faculty members a **bullet synopsis** after each Faculty Senate meeting. It was suggested to send an email to all faculty members inviting them to attend the Faculty Senate meeting in August. John Vincent gave a report concerning direction, priority and the future of **research** at the University of Alabama. The Steering Committee voted to discontinue the Faculty Senate Deans and Chairs Review. The Faculty Senate conducted and funded this review in the past.

A **budget** presentation was given via teleconference by Bill Jones, Director of Government Relations for The University of Alabama System. The report included the status of the budget and the concentrated efforts underway to increase state funding for higher education institutions in Alabama.

Vice President's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) The following section of the Faculty Handbook applies to a current situation brought to the attention of the Faculty Senate:

“3. (a) The remuneration for internal supplemental compensation activities depends upon negotiation between the faculty or staff member and the agency in question. Usually, the daily rate for internal compensation will not exceed (1) 1.5 percent of the academic year salary or (2) 1.15 percent of the twelve-month salary, and the pay for teaching a supplemental course will be no more than that for teaching a comparable course during a summer term”.

This limits the compensation available for teaching summer courses and has been the University policy for at least forty years. The Steering Committee agreed to take no action on this issue.

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

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & Rona Donahoe*) The Academic Affairs Committee formulated a list of topics to be addressed in the coming senate year. The Steering Committee agreed that the general priority survey results will not be shared due to flawed distribution, percentages and survey instrument.

Faculty Life – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn & Lowell Baker*) The posting of signs limiting the smoking areas around campus entrances are extremely slow.

Financial Affairs – (*Jeanette Vandermeer & David Arnold*) “Comparison of Total Premiums, Co-pays & Deductibles Contributed by The University, Employees, Retirees & COBRA Members for Healthcare in 2005, 2006 & 2007” and “Reasons for Increased UA Healthcare Costs – 2006 versus 2007” were handouts distributed to the Steering Committee. Some reasons for the increased cost is that 200 more people joined BC/BS. There were more doctor and chiropractor visits and more prescriptions filled along with the higher costs of catastrophic illnesses. There will be more emphasis on wellness and prevention at the University in the future. PEEHIP statistics, years of service, medical benefits and the amount of money to be set aside to cover medical expenses were discussed.

Research & Service – (*Shane Street & Ed Stephenson*) The new draft of the Conflict of Interest Policy has been received by this committee. Some of the committee’s suggested revisions were included including the voting status of committee members. One addition concerns how the University reports to the Federal agency when a conflict of interest is discovered. The draft will be emailed for the approval of the present Research and Service Committee.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Roy Maize*) No report.

Student Affairs – (*Carolyn Cassady & Melondie Carter*) No report.

Rona Donahoe will be Faculty Senate Parliamentarian.

Selection of Deans and Chairs Committee – A report was given by Lowell Baker. The Handbook copy passed by the Senate is in limbo. It went to the deans and the deans wanted to share this with the chairs. The delay will continue if the copy has to go back to the Senate for re-approval. A survey/evaluation document is mandated by SACS. Only two sections of the document were changed and the timeline of the establishment of the document was discussed.

The block seating issue is at a standstill at this point. The Faculty Senate will continue to push this issue.

Meeting adjourned – 4:30 PM

Faculty Senate officers met to make committee assignments.