

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**APRIL 12, 2011 – 3:00 pm – Room 2002 Shelby Hall**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ATTENDING:** Clark Midkiff, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Jeanette VanderMeer, Marcia Barrett, Lowell Baker, Ed Stephenson, Brian Gordon, Rona Donahoe, Steve Emens, Seth Panitch, Margaret Garner, DoVeanna Minor.

**ABSENT:** John Vincent, Katrina Ramonell, Steven Hobbs, Jim Hall, Osiris Molina, Melondie Carter.

**GUESTS:** Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

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

**President's Report** – (*Clark Midkiff*) The Faculty Senate will meet in Assembly Hall 110 in the AIME building beginning August 23, 2011. The **Faculty Senate meeting** dates of August 23, September 20, October 18, November 15 and December 13 of 2011 and January 17, February 21, March 20 and April 17 of 2012 have been confirmed.

President Midkiff received a request to review faculty **payment of organizational dues** with money from overhead, faculty release or other funds. The recently passed Ethics Law may have an impact on this practice. It was suggested to refer Ethics Law questions to the Office of Counsel for resolution since there are questions with no clear answers at this point.

**Vice President's Report** – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn*) No report.

**Secretary's Report** – (*Jeanette VanderMeer*) The Faculty Senate will no longer meet in the Capstone College of Nursing Building due to an Administrative Counsel ruling brought about by excessive requests for meeting space in the building.

**Academic Affairs** – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) No report.

**Faculty Life** – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn & Lowell Baker*) This committee continues to pursue the maternity leave policy.

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

**Information Technology** – (*Jim Hall & Osiris Molina*) No report.

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

**Faculty & Senate Governance** – (*Rona Donahoe & Steve Emens*) The bylaws and constitution of the Faculty Senate are not consistent. There is confusing language in the election paragraph concerning the order to be followed during senate elections. Nominations from the floor during the Faculty Senate officer elections in March were allowed by suspending the rules. The

supposed intent of the paragraph was to allow nominations from the floor only in February with the election to be held in March. Any change in the bylaws must be presented at one senate meeting and voted on the next senate meeting. It was suggested to delay this until the fall meetings since there are no senate meetings during the summer. Proposed amendments will be presented at the August 23 Faculty Senate meeting.

Another issue brought forward is the qualification of a faculty member to hold a senate seat.

### **Section 8 - Faculty Senate bylaws states:**

“A faculty member holding a regular appointment is someone who is tenured, tenure earning, or a temporary full- or part- time instructor at The University of Alabama. Temporary full- or part- time instructors are individuals who teach six hours or more per term on a continuing basis (three or more consecutive academic-year terms, including the most recent completed term) who do not hold tenure or are tenure earning at another institution of higher education.”

### **The Faculty Senate Constitution states:**

#### Article III Apportionment of Senate Representation--

“Each division of the University, including colleges, schools, and the University Libraries, is represented in the Faculty Senate by one senator for each twenty persons, or fraction thereof, serving on the date of the election under a regular appointment as an instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, or professor engaged in teaching or research at least half of a normal load during the regular year, or a librarian having corresponding rank and professional engagement.”

This statement does not specify whether the position is temporary or permanent. There seems to be a movement toward contract appointments rather than a tenure track line. Section 8 of the Faculty Senate bylaws would exclude librarians, research faculty, clinical faculty who do not teach six hours or more for a minimum of three years. There is a statement in the Faculty Senate constitution that the bylaws may not contradict the constitution. These documents should be brought into parallel in wording and meaning. If an amendment to the constitution should be determined the process begins with the proposal being brought before the senate, emailed to the entire faculty, and a minimum of thirty days before coming up for a referendum.

The documents seem to create two sections of faculty which are tenure and tenure track with no time requirements to be eligible to serve as a senator and non-tenure faculty with six hours of teaching for a minimum of three years for eligibility. The intent could have been to avoid short term faculty being eligible to serve. The three year qualification would not apply to tenure or tenure track faculty. The Faculty Handbook clearly states there are basically two types of faculty appointments. Those types are faculty members who have been awarded tenure and probationary or temporary appointments. Probationary faculty members are employed with the understanding that performance level during the probationary period may result in the award of tenure. Employment as a temporary faculty member conveys no rights or expectations to continue employment beyond the period in the letter of appointment. The Handbook further states temporary are all faculty labeled adjunct, temporary, visiting and clinical within their appointment. Probationary includes those on tenure track but not those tenured. The language

and definitions in the Faculty Senate constitution and Faculty Senate bylaws need to be clarified. The Faculty & Senate Governance will bring back recommendations to accomplish this.

The Faculty & Senate Governance Committee is to oversee and evaluate the University standing committee structure and participation of faculty in University governance and planning process. The committee is so charged.

**Student Affairs** – (*Melondie Carter & Seth Panitch*) The Student Affairs Committee has been looking into the displacement of the living learning communities by construction of sorority houses. The argument is that these are houses of exclusion not inclusion. The reasoning behind the destruction of campus buildings pertained to renovation and bringing the buildings up to code costing \$14 million dollars. The committee is seeking an answer to the question of the origin of decisions concerning the use of spaces on campus. The living learning communities are being moved to Harris Hall. This is not the most conducive environment for the type work being done by this community. There are 240 students affected by this move. The suggestion was made to invite SGA President Grant Cochran speak to the Steering Committee concerning increasing integration of the Greek system.

**Legislative Agenda** – (*Margaret Garner*) Approximately 3,000 attended Higher Education Day in Montgomery. About seventy University students attended. The theme was promoting 2/3 funding for K-12 and 1/3 for higher education. An invitation was extended to attend the Student and Alumni Advocacy and Faculty and Staff Leadership meeting in August in Destin, Florida.

#### **Reports from Other Committees –**

Lowell Baker reported concerning the Campus Master Plan Committee meetings. Details were given concerning the construction of the sorority houses behind the President's Mansion and Rose Administration Building. Gated parking will be available to the sorority members for a fee. There is a reduction of parking spaces and disruptive construction. Discussion included the streets that will be closed, limited access and reduced parking for faculty and staff, a new campus heating and cooling system and plant, expansion of Gorgas Library, construction of the new Engineering and Science complex and use of the Bryce property.

Meeting adjourned 4:20 PM.

Faculty Senate officers met to make committee assignments.

Meeting adjourned 6:00 PM.