

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
MAY 9, 2006 – 206F SHELBY HALL – 3:00 PM**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**ATTENDING:** John Vincent, Karen Steckol, Clark Midkiff, David Arnold, Lowell Baker, Carolyn Cassady, Margaret Garner, Martin Evans, Jenice “Dee” Goldston, Douglas Lightfoot, John Mason, Steve Shepard, Shane Street, Jeanette Vandermeer, Mathew Winston

**GUESTS:** Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Tuscaloosa News reporter

Roll call and quorum check by Clark Midkiff.

The minutes of the April 12, 2006 Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting were approved.

**President’s Report** – (*John Vincent*) Steven Hobbs, Law School; Joe Phelps and Jeff Weddle, CIS; and Linda Enders and Deidre Leaver-Dunn of HES are the newly elected **senators for 2006-07**. The Faculty Senate remains three senators short from Arts & Sciences. All A&S divisions are filled with the exception of Social Sciences. Various methods of addressing this situation were discussed. There were assignment duplications on some **University Standing Committees**. The corrections were removing Clark Midkiff from the University Recreation Committee and assigning him as the new Senate representative for the Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee. Gary Hoover fills the vacancy on the University Recreation Committee. Joe Phelps has been assigned as the Senate representative to the Undergraduate Programs and Services Committee. Catherine Davies is co-chair of the **Campus Master Plan** Committee. Efforts are being made to make this a more active committee. Discussion included campus transportation and environmental issues. Any suggestions or input should be forwarded to Catherine Davies. An area specifically for **faculty and staff dining** in Mary Burke is being considered. The location seems to be a problem since it is not a central campus location. It was suggested to have a trial period of one day a week to determine interest. Discussion included menu items, notifying faculty and staff about this reserved space, and the advantages and disadvantages of such a reserved area. The **chair survey** sponsored by the Faculty Senate has been delayed until fall. The instrument is ready, however, it is the end of the semester and very few faculty members will be on campus during the summer. The survey results will go to the deans as well as the chairs this year. The dean survey will be conducted next spring. Those results will go to the deans and the Provost. The Academic Affairs Committee was given the charge to look into requesting mandatory five-year reviews for deans and chairs. The Faculty Senate Financial Affairs Committee co-chairs, the senate president, and the executive committee of the University Resources and Priorities Committee will meet to discuss the lack of information and faculty input about University **financial decisions**. The Faculty Senate Financial Affairs Committee co-chairs Jim Hall and Jeanette Vandermeer wrote a letter to Provost Judy Bonner expressing those concerns. The Provost has scheduled a meeting May 10 at 8:00 AM. John Mason has agreed to remain the representative for the **Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics Committee**. A report will be issued from the ad hoc committee concerning **maternity-family leave benefits** along with a list of recommendations. Marianne Woods will be coming off the position of Chair of the IRB and Human and Animal Research Committee. A new **Research Advisory Committee** will

be in place next year as a University Standing Committee. An ad hoc committee will function in its place until next year. Faculty membership will be added to the Office of Research Intellectual Properties Committee/Technology Transfer Committee. One of the Office of Research key issues is the potential establishment of **research faculty**. This would be scientists and engineers dedicated to research only. These positions would have to generate their own support revenue. There are three sources of University revenue – state, tuition and research dollars. The model being used creates self-sustaining research centers. Further discussion included the functions of such an establishment, housing and funding of centers, and the lack of potential profits in research. Copies of the 2006 report to the Faculty Senate from the **Continuous Quality Improvement and Planning Office** were handed out. Hiring and retention of minority faculty members will be issues specifically considered next fall by the Coalition for Diversity and Inclusiveness; salaries, community and culture networking for minority faculty members were also discussed.

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

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

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

A Wellness Center Director candidate, David Hunnicut, will be on campus on May 18 in G54 Rose for an interview.

The availability of an internet link to term papers was discussed. Software is available to cross check to determine if a student uses this type information.

Interviews for Graduate Dean are being scheduled for the next three or four weeks. Everyone was encouraged to monitor their emails for announcements concerning the times of interviews.

An invitation was given for Communicative Disorders Department and Clinic Open House on Thursday, May 11 in the old Capstone Medical Center from 4:00 until 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 PM