

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 10, 2011 – ROOM #2002 SHELBY HALL – 3:00 PM**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Clark Midkiff, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Jeanette VanderMeer, DoVeanna Minor, Karen Steckol, Marcia Barrett, John Vincent, Rona Donahoe, Russell McCutcheon, Lowell Baker, Wesley Church, Robert McLeod, Carolyn Cassady, Brad Hodges, Margaret Garner, Ed Stephenson, Melondie Carter, Seth Panitch.

ABSENT: Katrina Ramonell, Ion Stancu.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes of April 12, 2011 were approved as amended.

President's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) President Midkiff presented an engraved gavel set and leather traveling bag to Past President Karen Steckol with sincere thanks for an excellent job as Faculty Senate President for three years. Past President Steckol presented President Midkiff with his gavel set.

President Midkiff explained his meeting with the Provost was interrupted and cancelled due to a massive tornado striking with massive destruction the Tuscaloosa area along with a major portion of north and central Alabama. The Provost could not reach President Midkiff by phone due to communication interruption caused by the storm. The Provost contacted Past President Steckol concerning the cancellation of classes and final exams giving the Faculty Senate input into the decision.

The **Ombudsperson** election process conducted by the Provost's office is not complete. The **Evaluation of Deans and Chairs** review is not complete. Both issues will be discussed in the Steering Committee's meeting with the Provost.

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

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

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Seth Panitch*) Melondie Carter attended the organizational meeting on the morning following the **tornado disaster** conducted by the UA Student Government Association. There were over 400 UA students at the meeting to volunteer to assist victims of the storm. These students remained on campus following the cancellation of classes and final exams. Several fraternity houses cooked and delivered 30,000 meals to first responders and storm victims.

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

Faculty Life – (*Wesley Church & Lowell Baker*) The Faculty Senate Faculty Life Committee's maternity leave proposal has been sent by the Provost to the female Deans for evaluation and feedback.

Financial Affairs – (*Katrina Ramonell & Robert McLeod*) No report.

Information Technology – (*Carolyn Cassady & Brad Hodges*) The Information Technology Committee will meet with John McGowan in August. It was reported that the College of Engineering network was down last weekend causing disruption in printing documents for faculty trying to work over the weekend. No response was made until Monday. Points discussed were extending computer helpdesk hours and assistance conducting business with other countries at odd hours.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Ion Stancu*) No report.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Rona Donahoe & Russell McCutcheon*) The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee will be working on bringing consistency to the Faculty Senate Constitution and Faculty Senate Bylaws with the main focus being the **definition of a faculty member** qualified to serve in the Faculty Senate.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) The **STARS** (Student Teams Advocating Realistic Solutions) retreat will be held August 7-9 at the Sandestin Resort in Florida. This is a leadership and higher education advocacy training workshop. The Higher Education Partnership is organizing the STARS groups to help with those storm-damaged institutions in their area. Every year these students have a project to give back to Alabama communities.

The **HEP** membership drive using payroll deduction has been discontinued by law. Other methods of paying membership dues are being developed. Membership drive events for the future were discussed. It was pointed out that the HEP web site should be updated.

Other issues discussed were **Higher Ed Day** attendance, monitoring pending legislation and faculty increased benefit contributions.

Temporary emergency counseling services for those affected by the tornado is a coordinated effort of The University of Alabama mental health professionals and is available to provide **counseling and mental health services** to those storm victims needing assistance. Location and hours of operation were passed out to the Steering Committee members. Discussion included demeanor and personality changes for the faculty members to look for, procedure to follow if signs observed, follow-up this fall, contact with students in the areas affected by the tornado and offering support group interaction.

It was suggested the **Faculty Senate issue appreciation** in some form to those volunteers and responders to the tornado victims. Several options were suggested for the Faculty Senate as a body to assist in the clean-up and rebuilding of the city. Habitat for Humanity was one suggestion.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee members talked about their experiences, damages, shelter needs, losses, lack of communication and faculty input regarding final exams. It was suggested that every division evaluate what went well and find solutions to those things that did not go well during the weather crisis.

Meeting adjourned 4:40 PM.