

FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

June 11, 2002 – 3:00 PM – 307 Ferguson

ATTENDING: Steve Miller, John Mason, Keith Woodbury, Harry Price, Jim Eddy, Bob Sigler, Nick Stinnet, Frannie James, Clark Midkiff, Norm Baldwin, Guest: Joanna Hutt, Dialog

The minutes of the May 21st Steering Committee were approved.

President's Report – (*Steve Miller*) Steve will be meeting with President Mason and Provost Barrett this week and asked for suggestions of any topic the Steering Committee would like addressed. The percentage and equal **reallocation** of funds among the colleges for faculty pay increases was a suggested topic. Concern was expressed regarding the elimination of academic programs – would administration or faculty make those decisions. It was suggested the faculty look at reallocation very carefully and assess if opposition should be expressed. Discussion included the origin of funding and lack of administration sharing budget information with faculty. The issue of setting aside funding for **salary equity and compression** will be brought forward in this meeting. It was mentioned that the interpretation of "equity" is crucial.

Steve will attend a meeting Friday morning chaired by Dean Greene of Engineering — an **Enrollment Task Force**. Steve met with Eric Engstrom to discuss "**Healthy Campus 2010**". Mr. Engstrom's consulting company is heading up this project and they provided a "Top Ten Things A Parent Can Do To Promote Student Success in College" list to the parents of enrolled students. They are developing a questionnaire to reach out into the community to determine what steps should be taken to have a better, healthier campus. Eric Engstrom and Rich Keeling have been invited to speak at the next Steering Committee meeting. Steve will also meet with the **Athletic Director**, Mal Moore. The discussion will include ways for each group to work together for the ultimate good of the University and students. It was suggested that the Athletic Capital Campaign issue be brought forward in this discussion. Coach Moore and Coach Franchione will be invited to speak and answer questions at a Faculty Senate meeting in the fall. The Steering Committee discussed athletic funding, salaries of athletic personnel, distribution of football tickets and the increase of Student Activity fees. A report was given concerning the Data Warehouse. Access to this information, changes in procedure and training was discussed.

Action Discussion Items:

The Senate Operations committee composed a letter to be sent before classes begin to all senators and alternates reminding them of **obligations of serving** in the Faculty Senate. The dates of the Faculty Senate meetings will be included along with a welcoming letter. The Steering Committee approved.

The Legislative Agenda Committee is searching for ways to increase the faculty/staff **membership in HEP** and participation in **UASPAC**. Sending an email to faculty/staff early fall encouraging membership and stating the reasons this is so important was suggested. Also, the public support of the Chancellor and President would be influential. Elections are coming up and increased membership will increase influence on the outcome

of those elections with only those that support education receiving the endorsement of HEP and UASPAC.

The Provost appointed an ad hoc committee of four (two faculty members and two deans) to consider the **Intellectual Property Rights Policy**. There was some tweaking of language and number five and number six suggested by the deans received the most serious consideration. The committee recommended striking number six altogether but that was not done. The deans were concerned about the loss of online courses especially when it was multi-offered. The committee was concerned about the University assigning a faculty member to develop an online course giving the University ownership. Language was inserted stating there will be a standing committee on Intellectual Property Rights composed of three faculty members and three members appointed by administration. The details of this committee composition will be asked of the Provost. The second point of number six is negotiation as opposed to absolute determination of the person controlling intellectual properties. The concern was expressed that negotiation would come from unequal positions and devalues the teaching process and faculty. The steering committee agreed to pass the document back to the Provost for inclusion in the faculty handbook.

The "**Availability of Funds for Faculty Entertainment of Students**" document was presented. President Sorensen had agreed to make available reimbursement funds for expenses incurred by faculty hosting students enrolled in their courses and/or academic advisees. This would be \$65.00 per occasion not to exceed one occasion per semester during the fall and spring semesters with reimbursements not available during the summer. The Steering Committee approved this policy, and asked that Steve express thanks to Student Affairs for the gesture.

The **Faculty Senate website** has been changed and was presented to the Steering Committee for suggestions. It has been reorganized and a new masthead added. It was suggested to include a photo of a faculty member teaching a class. Links are included to the Ombudspersons.

Jim Eddy has been asked to chair an ad hoc committee yet to be named to respond to several concerns — enrollment, Healthy Campus 2010, and undergraduate life. Faculty definitely should decide what their responsibilities are to create a **better environment for students** and be proactive in these issues. Enrollment will continue to be a pressing issue since last year the enrollment projection of 450 evolved into a 150 decrease and was a two million dollar loss in tuition. The projection is an increase of only 3,600 students in K-12 by 2015. The University cannot depend on this area for increased enrollment. The effects of decreased enrollment will possibly result in downsizing classes and other measures. Low enrollment in some classes could result in discontinuing those classes. Some specifics were discussed and should be reviewed very carefully. Faculty would be involved in those decisions as stated by the Faculty Handbook.

Perimeters will be set down this fall for the **method of operation of the Faculty Senate**. Each committee will be asked for a report at each Senate meeting. This hopefully will create more initiatives being brought forth from the ranks and by committees.

Planning and Operations Committee is need of a co-chairman. Last year this committee brought about a change in **final exam schedules** by eliminating Saturday exams. They also forwarded a SGA suggestion for **Fall Study Days**. This was opposed by administration, particularly the Vice Presidents. Coordinating with county and city school breaks, staff off days and other issues precluded this from approval.

The Faculty Leadership committee is in the process of developing an instrument for

feedback concerning deans and chairs.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 PM