

FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

AUGUST 20, 2002 – 3:30 PM – ALSTON CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

ATTENDING: Steve Miller, Norm Baldwin, John Mason, Keith Woodbury, Margaret Garner, Beth Macauley, Harry Price, Jim Eddy, Nick Stinnet, Subhabrata Chakraborti, Wythe Holt, Frannie James, Catherine Davies.

Guests: Joanna Hutt, Dialog, Tom Strong, Dean of Students

The July 9th Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes were approved with one correction and one addition.

Tom Strong, Dean of Students, gave a report on the **progress of integration of the Greek system**. He also stated that the “Ask Me” buttons were successful. Students ask questions and directions of those faculty and staff that are wearing these buttons. Within the next two weeks the national group will be selected that will affiliate with the new multi-cultural sorority being organized on campus. This will be an independent group with a small number of chapters. Approximately sixty women attended a meeting and a sorority house has already been provided for this group, with four or five women already living in the house. National typical membership is fifteen to twenty members, however, the number here will far exceed that average. They will not participate in fall rush. All national Pan Hellenic groups, before establishment, are preceded by a marketing survey on campus. If it is determined that the establishment of a group would weaken the national organization, they will not establish a new group. The sororities have a quota and it is already known how many women will go through rush. This number would be 650-800 and would be divided among the sororities as their quota. For example: they could be told that they could not take more than forty-two members into their house. If the quotas are a large number and a national group determines to establish a sorority, their investment would be approximately one million dollars. The new Christian-based fraternity has two African American members and is growing. They have petitioned to become a member of the local IFC. This process takes a year and should be completed in January. University students have been asked to help recruit African American students by going back to their high schools and talk to those that could possibly be a member of their group, and the students have complied. Last year’s freshmen class had 254 African Americans with two-thirds women and one-third men. After eliminating those men with athletic scholarships, prior commitments to African American fraternities, less resources for the expense of fraternity membership, there is a small number of eligible African American men. There have been efforts by the Faculty Senate to whittle away at the recommendation and legacy systems. The point was made that there are potential legal problems because institutional racism and discrimination exists on the UA campus. To become a member of an African American fraternity or sorority, a student must have been here a semester, some groups require two semesters, have a 2.5 GPA and have a history of service. Those are not requirements for the white groups. To have a combined fall rush, one of the groups would have to change their requirements. Only those sororities that do not make quota are involved in spring rush. Great value is placed on freshmen students and upper-class students normally do not have an opportunity to participate in rush. The rule has been changed and upper-class

students do not count against the quotas. There are situations where students are pre-selected and the groups already know the students that will be pledging their organization. Membership in fraternities has decreased possibly due to emphasis on alcohol and hazing. A faculty member has requested that a "date certain" be set for integration of the Greek system. At this point, great efforts are being made to bring about this integration.

President's Report – (*Steve Miller*) In a **meeting with UAB Faculty Senate**, Steve spoke about the health care systems of both campuses. He also reviewed the other subjects covered by UAB FS in a 2 1/2 hour meeting. UAB Faculty Senate President Tim Heaven will address our Faculty Senate. An on-campus pharmacy to lower prescription drug costs was an idea included in the discussion. The UAB Financial Affairs committee is interested in meeting with the UA Financial Affairs committee to discuss these issues. John Mason and Steve met with Louis Pitschmann, Dean of **Libraries**, concerning the UA libraries. Dean Pitschmann requested input from the Faculty Senate concerning the libraries going largely to electronic access of journals. This would save the expense of binding and other expenses and would allow many faculty members access to data at the same time, plus add to the number of journals available. If implemented, this would save 20% of their costs. The Dean requested an opportunity to address the Faculty Senate concerning this issue. Steve met with Jeff McNeil, Director of Development, concerning whether the **athletic Capital Campaign** affect on fundraising for academics. Steve will ask Dr. Mason, interim UA President, to address this in his comments to the Faculty Senate next week. Over the next two years, a fundraising plan for the University will be revealed. From the larger fundraising project, the athletic Capital Campaign was pushed forward due to the NCAA situation to help the athletic program. It is now felt that it was. If it had been revealed as a part of a large Capital Campaign, it would have been perceived as a much better situation by the faculty. There were objections to the selection of members for the **Presidential Search committee** – that it does not contain proper representation of the faculty as a whole. There are several faculty members on the committee from different areas of the University and it is felt that the faculty voice will be heard. The Chancellor plans to have faculty town meetings on campus for input into the selection of a President. The Steering Committee was requested to send their input to Steve by September 10, with comments about characteristics of the person they feel should be chosen. The Presidential Search committee does not have a charge at this point. Miller referred the committee to the recent selection process of the UAB President. There was a broad search for the person to fill that position. There was discussion of prior selection processes and the qualifications considered for the potential president. It was suggested to contact John Dew, Director of Quality Control, for leadership standard input.

Vice President's Report – (*John Mason*) John gave a report from the **Enrollment Task Force** committee and stated that UA was down 535 freshmen last year and down 191 transfer students for a total of 700 student decrease. Steve stated that we are about 200 above our good numbers from several years ago. Strong emphasis on retention, atmosphere and recruitment must continue. This committee is still in discussion mode, however, signs will be placed on campus with maps of the campus and new signage will be placed on the highway coming into Tuscaloosa. Suggestions were made to hang banners advertising the University's accomplishments, namely the national ranking given by US News and World Report and other recognitions of the University. John is a member of the **University Budget Reallocation Committee** and this committee will meet on August 27, with eight meetings scheduled before December. These committee members must be present and cannot send a substitute. John will keep the Steering Committee informed about the progress being made.

Norm shared information he had concerning **utility costs and square foot usage** by the University. The University of Alabama maintains eight million square feet with

approximately 18-19,000 students. The University of Kentucky maintains six and one-half million square feet with 23-24,000 students. Florida State University maintains eight million square feet with 36,000 students. The new Shelby building on campus will have two to three million dollars utility costs and the AIME building is heating and cooling the entire building for one year with only a few people occupying the building. Further discussion included the efficiency of building usage and operating costs on campus. The Planning and Operations committee will pursue this issue.

The wisdom of **reallocation** was discussed. The Chancellor wants three and one-half million dollars reallocated by next year. The concern is that those operating efficiently with a decreased budget will be hit even harder. It was questioned how Quality Control figures into these issues. Ray White, a faculty member, saved the University five million dollars in technology. The suggestion was made to be a voice in raising the issue of outside funding rather than continue to cut already struggling schools and departments. If no one speaks up, it will be considered approval of the methods being used. New avenues must be found since this same formula has been used for decades and has not worked. The same percentage is applied to everyone but should be determined by individual department issues such as student to faculty ratios, dollars per student, students graduated, number of research dollars generated and other factors. According to Jin Eddy, at the University of Indiana, each department determines the courses to maintain and other decisions that pertain to their department only. Auburn is giving faculty and staff 12% salary increases with a tuition increase and their enrollment is up. UAH enrollment is up and they could give 3% salary increases from enrollment alone. A partnership with our students must result in a better image for UA and increased enrollment. The Board of Trustees should be proactive in bringing in outside funding.

Secretary's Report – (*Keith Woodbury*) Keith is in the process of updating the **faculty email list** and each committee will be able to email to their committee members with one email address. New faculty members have been added to the list. Any written committee reports submitted to Keith will be posted on the web page.

A “**grade distortion**” report has been submitted by Senators Beito and Nuckolls and was forwarded to the Academic Affairs committee.

Steve Miller met with the SGA President, Jeremiah Arsenault, concerning a **recycling report**. This was referred to the Planning and Operations committee.

The issue of using **Social Security numbers** to identify students has caused identity theft problems. This was referred to the Student Affairs committee.

The “**Feedback of Chairs and Deans**” issue is proceeding, with the development of the instrument. This process has been in place at UAB since 1996. Dr. Mason asks that the final instrument be submitted to the deans before implementation.

The **Retired Faculty Association** will be reactivated with leadership provided by Jim Walters.

Arts and Sciences electronic support has been taken on by Priscilla Hancock.

Greek integration policy as determined by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee will be for the Faculty Senate president to meet with the Presidents of the Pan Hellenic Association and meet with any fraternity group available. It was determined that it is not realistic to set a date at this moment for integration implementation. It was suggested that attention to faculty diversity is a more important issue at this time. It was also suggested that the minority ratio of student and faculty is more on the side of the students and to

follow up on what progress has been made on the stand taken by the Faculty Senate last year. The negative publicity has not helped the cause and further action should be to have discussions in Senate meetings, and try to avoid these issues ending up on the front page of the newspaper. The Student Affairs committee will pursue these points.

The **Legislative Agenda Committee** reviewed meetings attended and will be working toward student voter registration with a polling place being placed in Ferguson Center. A review of one-time transfers from state funds to the General Fund included eighty million dollars in corporate income tax that has not been paid back. These funds are being held back to help the cash flow and interest is owed on that eighty million dollars.

“Amendment One” passed last year established a “Rainy Day Fund” for pro-ration situations. That could be depleted next year and there are no provisions to rebuild the fund. Tax reform and property tax increases are not popular topics with the politicians and it is critical to monitor the candidates and their platforms. Higher Education Day is set for March 13, 2003. It is critical to have a large number of faculty, staff and students attend this meeting in Montgomery. It was suggested to create a favorable environment for the students that attend this meeting advocating their institution. Another Constitutional Reform seminar will be held on campus with the date and location to be determined. Steve and Margaret will determine a couple of dates and send to the Steering Committee for input.

Healthy Campus 2010 is looking at possible solutions for health problems for faculty, staff and students. Interviews with students will be conducted and the data compiled. This issue is moving quickly with the goal being the creation of a healthy campus.

The co-chairs were encouraged to meet with their committees as soon as possible and bring old business forward and meld with the charge given to the committees by the president of the Faculty Senate.

On October 7th, the Law School will have a showing of “Dangers to Civil Liberties since September 11.”

A symposium will be held Oct. 31, Nov. 1 and 2, titled “English and Ethnicity”. Teachers may obtain continuing education credits for attending this symposium.

Meeting adjourned 5:45 PM