

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 22, 2006 – 3:00 PM – 206F SHELBY HALL**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: John Vincent, Karen Steckol, Clark Midkiff, Lowell Baker, Marcia Barrett, Karen Burgess, Carolyn Cassady, Margaret Garner, Martin Evans, Dee Goldston, Douglas Lightfoot, John Mason, Steve Shepard, Shane Street, Jeanette Vandermeer, Mathew Winston

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Crimson White representative; Adam Jones, Tuscaloosa News

The minutes of the July 13, 2006 Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting were approved.

ACTION ITEM: The Provost has asked for input concerning the **Public Access Act**. This act requires federal agencies that fund over \$100 million in annual external research to make electronic manuscripts of peer-reviewed journal articles that stem from their research publicly available on the Internet at no charge. Everyone would have access to these documents through university libraries. There were several questions including the financial provision for publication, peer-review and posting on the Internet and, if institutions such as Harvard, Cal Tech, etc., support this act. The point was made that the research is paid for and should be available to taxpayers. It was suggested to review the act itself to determine the input from the Steering Committee. The Research and Service Committee will find and distribute the Public Access Act document to the Steering Committee along with any other information concerning this issue.

President's Report – (*John Vincent*) Appreciation was expressed to the Provost for the delivery of **Academic Planners** before the start of the semester. Thanks were also expressed for **CUC** recommended **committee assignment letters** being received before August 15. The **Blount Program** is having low enrollment problems. There was discussion regarding the reasons for this decline. The **Faculty Senate office** will be relocated to another location not known at this time. **Study areas** have been opened in Tutwiler 24/7. Gorgas Library will be open 24/7 during dead week and finals. Utilization of these spaces will be monitored. The Provost is generating data on **faculty retention** as a function of raises. Auburn University has passed a **post-tenure review** policy. The document states that every faculty member shall be reviewed once every six years after tenure and/or promotion. **Graduate Dean Francko** handed out the diplomas for graduation. **Mark Nelson** from the College of Communications will be the replacement for **Hank Lazer's** old position. Lazer was the Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Programs and Services and is now the Associate Provost. The process of faculty membership on **intellectual property committees** is ongoing. The **Office of Research** has allowed non-required matching funds on federal grants related to education. There was further discussion of the process of obtaining grants. A copy and link of the **UA System Data Summary** providing information on faculty hiring, tenure, promotions and other information was handed out. The tenure/tenure-track faculty number has decreased ten percent in the last two years with the number of students increasing from 20,000 to 23,000 plus. The Steering Committee determined that this issue should be monitored closely.

Vice President's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) Karen Steckol pointed out several items of potential interest in the UA System Data Summary.

Astra is the new system to be used for class scheduling. The implementation has been delayed due to “glitches”. Any class that deviates from the pattern provided by this system must be approved by the Provost. The Academic Affairs Committee was assigned to examine this system.

The **bicycle paths** were discussed. Concern was expressed that due to the different directions on the path, someone would be injured.

Secretary's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) A warning was stated that everyone should be aware that a new stop sign has been installed at the exit from the new Recreation Center parking lot.

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & Martin Evans*) A faculty member has raised the issue of summer working expectations of nine-month faculty members. The Academic Affairs Committee will bring a report back to the next Steering Committee meeting. The Provost will be sending the Faculty Handbook updates to this committee for review before placing it in the Handbook. Reviewing policies for the evaluation of Deans and Chairs will also be addressed by this committee.

Faculty Life – (*Steve Shepard & Lowell Baker*) This committee will be addressing PEEHIP and Family Friendly policies.

Financial Affairs – (*David Arnold & Jeanette Vandermeer*) The committee will be meeting September 5. A request has been submitted for Dr. Linda Gilbert and Reba Essary to make a comprehensive and detailed report on the budget.

Research & Service – (*Shane Street & Clark Midkiff*) The assignment for this committee included a review of the **Intellectual Property Agreement** document and policy. A simplified version and inclusion in the Faculty Handbook were points brought forward. The **Animal Care** facility will remain in its current location.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Douglas Lightfoot*) This committee will review the **Faculty Senate bylaws** regarding Faculty Senate elections and appointments to committees. A **resolution** commending **Bob Sigler** for his service to the Faculty Senate as parliamentarian for many years will be composed.

Student Affairs – (*Carolyn Cassady & Karen Burgess*) Administrative changes in the **Student Affairs Office** and the **Student Government election process** will be examined by this committee. The point was made that administrative changes should be made known to the faculty in a timely manner.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) Bill Jones requested input from the Steering Committee concerning the best method of meeting with candidates. Forums, time of meeting, and separate meetings were discussed. The Steering Committee felt that the **Legislative Breakfasts** held at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel were successful and recommended that type meeting be continued.

Old Business – The **new dining facilities** including Bryant Café, Doster Hall, and Mary Burke are open. More publicity regarding the food service facilities is recommended. **Bamaflex** medical has been extended to \$7500.

Jane Stanfield, Executive Director, Capstone International Center will address the Faculty Senate next week concerning Fulbright opportunities.

The Steering Committee moved into Executive Session.