

FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
August 14, 2007 – 206F Shelby Hall – 3:00 PM

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: John Vincent, Karen Steckol, Clark Midkiff, Lowell Baker, Marcia Barrett, Melondie Carter, Carolyn Cassady, Margaret Garner, Rona Donahoe, Jenice “Dee” Goldston, Ed Stephenson, Shane Street

ABSENT: David Arnold, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Roy Maize, John Mason, Jeanette Vandermeer

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Clark Midkiff.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes of July 17, 2007 were approved.

President’s Report – (*John Vincent*) The **United Way** campaign is underway with Faculty Senate President John Vincent serving as a member of the steering committee. The Professional Staff Assembly President has been added as a steering committee member this year. Joe Benson, Interim Vice President for Research, is scheduled to speak at the October meeting of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee. The Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, Mark Nelson, will speak in September. Ray White and Dave Dixon were the names forwarded to the Provost for the **Interim Vice President for Technology** search committee. Seating at the stadium for **football** games is an ongoing issue. SGA President, R. B. Walker, has asked Karen Steckol to be a member of the **SGA advisory committee**. John Vincent met with R. B. Walker last week. The SGA letter requesting leniency and understanding with student late arrivals for class due to the new **transit system** has not been received. The SGA continues to address the **textbook issue**. Textbook prices, price comparisons, bundling, faculty textbook lists, late teaching assignments and a tax holiday were discussed. A copy of the “**Faculty Terminal Degree Report**” was presented. This report concerns the number of faculty and the institution from which they obtained their degree. The University of Alabama system has 74 faculty graduates with Ph.D.s from The University of Alabama. Degrees from UAB numbers 27; Florida State, 25; Georgia, 21; LSU, 19; Chapel Hill, 17; Ohio State, 17; Texas A&M, 11; other schools are listed. The Honors Council induction ceremony will be held September 13. The Board of Trustees will meet on the same date. Karen Steckol volunteered to serve as a member of the “**Selection and Evaluation of Deans and Department Chairs Committee**”. Marcia Barrett will review the names of those committee members that have rotated off the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee in the last few years and forward those to John Vincent. John Vincent gave a review of his participation in “**meet and greet**” new students and families at Ridgecrest dorm. Having resident areas prepared and ready for occupation was discussed. Parts of the archaeological dig are being preserved with ongoing discussion about the method to display and preserve the historical finds. A cluster hire for five or six positions will be made this year for **Material for Information Technology** affecting Engineering, Chemistry and Physics.

Vice President’s Report – (*Karen Steckol*) **Wireless internet technology** was discussed. As Department Chair after being told wireless technology could not be installed in her building, Karen offered to pay for this service but the request was denied. Karen will contact Shane

Merritt, the Interim Vice President for Technology, for more information. The process for visitor and client parking at the Communicative Disorders building was discussed. This will be pursued following this semester's adjustments to the new transit and parking system.

The newly marked **bus/bike lanes** are very confusing. Some cars are using the bus/bike lanes as a traffic lane causing a dangerous situation. If a vehicle turns right from the car lane, it crosses over the bus/bike lane. Faculty members are being asked to volunteer three hours at a bus stop on campus to assist students with directions.

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

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & Rona Donahoe*) Rona Donahue has been appointed co-chair of the Campus Master Plan Committee. This committee will monitor the issues of increased enrollment and faculty members, e-learning system, transit system, emergency campus evacuation plans, emergency vehicle cancellation and response and other issues.

It was suggested that the external consultants be requested to present a monthly report updating changes made in the Campus Master Plan.

Faculty Life – (*Deidre Leaver- Dunn & Lowell Baker*) No report.

Financial Affairs – (*David Arnold & Jeanette Vandermeer*) A meeting is being arranged with Lynda Gilbert, Vice Chancellor for Financial Affairs, to discuss the University's this year's University budget. She will also be asked to discuss the University's bond status.

Research & Service – (*Shane Street & Ed Stephenson*) Graduate student course fees are now being charged in Arts & Sciences. Some colleges charge a fee per credit hour for students taking courses in that college. A&S did not previously charge student fees. A fee for all Arts & Science courses was established without considering this would include graduate student courses. Most other colleges charge a fee. The distribution of those monies was discussed. Those monies must be used and demonstrated for academic purposes only.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Roy Maize*) No report.

Student Affairs – (*Carolyn Cassady & Melondie Carter*) No report.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) A report was given concerning the HEP Leadership Retreat. About one hundred attended with thirteen students from The University of Alabama along with Margaret Garner, Bill Jones, Cliff Davis from Alumni Affairs and others. March 6, 2008 is Higher Education Day to be held in Montgomery. The SGA plans to request support from the Faculty Senate regarding faculty consideration for any student class absences for those attending Higher Education Day. The textbook issue continues to be discussed.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 PM.

