

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2008 – 3:00 pm – 206F SHELBY HALL**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Karen Steckol, Clark Midkiff, Jeanette Vandermeer, Marcia Barrett, Melondie Carter, Carolyn Cassady, Marci Daugherty, Rona Donahoe, John Mason, Katrina Ramonell, John Vincent

GUESTS: Adam Jones, Tuscaloosa News

Roll call and quorum check by Faculty Senate Secretary Jeanette Vandermeer.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of July 8, 2008 were approved.

President's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) The University of Alabama's **enrollment** is expected to be over 27,000 following adjustments. **President Witt** will speak to the Faculty Senate meeting on August 26, 2008. A letter was read from Lynn Shipp regarding her efforts to purchase **football tickets**. She is an eleven-year employee in Student Receivables and has purchased and received tickets in the past. In June an email was sent to her stating she was on the list of employees not allowed to purchase tickets. The letter stated that if you were employed by the University prior to 1997, employees would be allowed to purchase tickets. She called the Ticket Office and was told she was on the list to purchase tickets. Lynn's co-workers received their tickets but Lynn did not. She called the Ticket Office and was told she would be receiving a refund check. She was not notified of modifications made in staff qualifications to receive tickets. The purchase of football tickets by staff members does not come under the Faculty Senate's purview. This issue will likely be considered by the University's Intercollegiate Athletic Committee. There was discussion concerning what changes could be made to address this situation. Ed Stephenson has been re-appointed to the **Curriculum Oversight Committee**. The committee did not meet last year but has been reconstituted for this year. This committee decides if an application for a course as a core course is justifiable and fits into the core curriculum. It does not design or modify the actual core. The Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee will pursue information concerning whether the charge for this committee includes investigating the core curriculum and deciding whether the system is in need of revamping. The report "Full-Time Instructional Faculty Salaries by Rank – UA, UAB, UAH and UAS Averages Compared to SUG 50th Percentile" was handed out. The report shows The University of Alabama ranked above the **50th percentile in SUG averages** in every area except assistant professors. The Search Committee reviewing candidates for the position of **Vice President for Research** consists of the following members; Professor and Chair of Biological Science and Committee Chair Martha Powell, Mechanical Engineering Professor Clark Midkiff, Arts & Sciences Dean Bob Olin, Engineering Dean Chuck Karr, C&BA Senior Associate Dean Mike Hardin, CCHS Associate Dean for Research and Health Policy John Higginbotham, Professor and Saxon Chair of Clinical Psychology John Lochman, Professor and Saxon Endowed Chair in Nursing Jeri Dunkin, Hill Crest Foundation Endowed Chair in Mental Health Research David Pollio, Institute for Communication and Information Research Director Bill Evans, Educational Psychology Professor Steve Thoma, Metallurgical and Materials Engineering Professor and Acting Chair of

Chemical and Biological Engineering Viola Acoff, SGA Vice President of Academic Affairs Brandon Clark and Economic Doctoral Student Sandra Collins. Suggestions were solicited for placement of advertisement for this vacancy. Nominations were requested for membership on the **University Assessment Council**. The meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month from 12:00 until 1:30 PM with lunch provided. An email will be sent to the members of the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee for a nomination. There was discussion of the new **face roster** containing photos of students. Those who had seen it were very pleased. Information to all faculty members will be forthcoming from the Provost to avoid violation of FERPA rules relating to the use of student photos. The University has the largest new faculty class in the history of the institution. One question posed by a new faculty member concerned the University **maternity leave policy**. There is a committee reviewing methods to make the maternity leave policy standard/compliant in all schools/colleges. The Steering Committee affirmed that the new **academic calendar** is much improved. The Steering Committee discussed faculty graduation attendance and policy. Suggestions included changing the location of faculty seating, having all faculty members stand at the President's request and eliminating the seating chart from the brochure. It was recommended to bring this issue to the attention of the Provost.

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

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

Reports from Senate Committees –

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

Faculty Life – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn & Lowell Baker*) The committee is waiting for a response from the Provost concerning the Review of Deans and Chairs report.

Financial Affairs – (*Katrina Ramonell & Steven Hobbs*) – This committee is in the process of setting up meetings with the Vice Presidents.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Laurie Bonnici*) – No report.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Michael Martone/Marci Daugherty*) No report.

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

New Business – Requests have been made for a separate faculty recreation area in connection with the campus wellness program. Discussion included the location of an exercise area, lockers and showers, numbers of faculty participants, most convenient/less crowded times, expense, increased enrollment and scheduling.

There was some discussion of designated campus green space on campus and the enforcement of smoking and non-smoking areas around the entrances to campus buildings.

Meeting adjourned 4:15 PM.