

FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

AUGUST 16, 2011 – 3:00 PM – ROOM #2002 SHELBY HALL

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Clark Midkiff, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Jeanette VanderMeer, Marcia Barrett, Rona Donahoe, Wesley Church, Brad Hodges, Ed Stephenson, Melondie Carter, Robert McLeod, DoVeanna Minor.

ABSENT: John Vincent, Russell McCutchen, Lowell Baker, Katrina Ramonell, Carolyn Cassady, Margaret Garner, Ion Stancu, Seth Panitch.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog.

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

The July 12, 2011 Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes will be approved electronically.

President's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) The possibility of UA faculty/staff raises this fall was discussed.

President Midkiff received a request from Ashley Ewing, Information Security Officer of the Office of Information Technology, to speak to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee concerning campus **technology**. This will be scheduled sometime this fall.

The following names were suggested to **invite to speak** to the Steering Committee: John McGowan, Vice Provost of Information Technology; Tim Leopard, Assistant Vice President for Construction (Campus Master Plan); Rebecca Kelly, Director of Health Promotion and Wellness; Wahnee Sherman, Community Service Center Director; and Joe Benson, Vice President of Research. The Faculty Senate Research and Service Committee (Ian Stancu and Ed Stephenson) should meet with Joe Benson to discuss IRB scientific merit issues. It was also suggested to invite a representative to discuss and answer questions concerning campus energy conservation.

Vice President's Report – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn*) Concern was expressed about an inappropriate Pan-Hellenic recruiting video titled "Go Greek". This will be discussed with the Provost.

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

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) The priority issue for this committee will be the recommendation for an internal policy to choose a professor to advance for the SEC faculty competition. Any suggestions concerning criteria and the selection process are welcomed.

Faculty Life – (*Wesley Church & Lowell Baker*) The Faculty Life Committee expressed concern regarding State vehicles parking in faculty parking spaces. With parking spaces so limited on campus, this has developed into quite a problem.

Financial Affairs – (*Katrina Ramonell & Robert McLeod*) No report.

Information Technology – (*Carolyn Cassady & Brad Hodges*) No report.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Ion Stancu*) The relocation and renovation of the Environmental Health & Safety Department update included noise-level testing of tools and the effect on current research projects. Each concern has been addressed and satisfactory adjustments have been made.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Rona Donahoe & Russell McCutcheon*) This committee will meet September 6th. Faculty Senate Bylaw revisions will be formulated with the “definition of a faculty member” as the main focus.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Seth Panitch*) The Student Affairs Committee will be considering Graduate Student health insurance benefits for regular GTA/GRA positions compared to Graduate Council Fellowship recipients, water fountains for the Quad and Greek recruiting issues. Details of funding for Graduate Students and half-time Graduate Students position benefits were discussed.

Old Business - The number of faculty attending graduation ceremonies was down. Degrees were presented posthumously to the families of students lost in the April tornado. Rest room facilities need to be increased, water, chairs and cooler air-conditioning should be provided in the faculty waiting area in the Football Indoor Practice Facility prior to graduation ceremonies.

New Business – The Tuscaloosa News published The University of Alabama administrative personnel and faculty salaries. Methods were discussed to increase public awareness of subjects such as the amount of time involved in becoming a full professor, newspaper balanced reporting, UA is state supported – not state funded, salaries still below the SUG fiftieth percentile level, salaries must be at a level to retain qualified faculty members and the value of higher education to the State of Alabama. This issue will be discussed with the Provost.

Meeting adjourned 4:15 PM.