

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2009 – 3:00 PM – 206F SHELBY HALL**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Karen Steckol, Clark Midkiff, Jeanette VanderMeer, Lowell Baker, Melondie Carter, Rona Donahoe, Margaret Garner, Steven Hobbs, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Michael Martone, Katrina Ramonell, Ed Stephenson, Harold Stowell, John Vincent, Ray White

ABSENT: Marcia Barrett, Marcia Daugherty, Chapman Greer, Jim Hall

Roll call and quorum check by Jeanette VanderMeer, Faculty Senate Secretary.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes of August 18, 2009 were approved.

President's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) The University of Alabama President, Dr. Robert Witt, will address the Faculty Senate meeting on September 15, 2009.

A copy of an article in “The Chronicle” was handed out. The article addressed the amount of money given to academics by **athletic programs** at other institutions. The cost of maintaining college athletics, frivolous spending, athletic revenues, athletic financial contributions to academics and athletic budget transparency were discussed. An invitation will be extended to an Athletic Department representative to speak to these issues.

Vice President's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) A faculty member has written a letter expressing concern about UA's **copyright policy** regarding textbook/course materials as stated in Appendix H in the Faculty Handbook. This was revised six or eight years ago. The University of Alabama patent policy is clear. Clark Midkiff will follow up on this issue.

The **stylist shop** located in Ferguson Center will possibly be relocated. The point was made that the University is promoting a “walking campus”. This possible relocation will decrease student services availability. The changes in campus life over the years could be affecting the definition of services needed by students such as entertainment availability and the convenience of refrigerators and microwaves in dorm rooms making it easier for students to eat in their rooms rather than in a public space.

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

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Marcia Barrett*) The Academic Affairs Committee was charged by the Provost to develop an **academic best practices** list for faculty. Section Five of the Faculty Handbook contains this list. An update is all that is needed.

This committee was asked to look at when the **Honors College** should be reviewed. The Honors College has not been in existence long enough for a review. Some procedure will be worked out given the uniqueness of the college in terms of the dean review.

The committee discussed the **summer duties** of faculty and the decision was not to pursue this issue.

John Vincent discussed entering his syllabus into **UAOPS** with no difficulties encountered. Katrina Ramonell was dismayed with the location of the “extra credit opportunities” blank. A suggestion was made to place this under “Options”. The length of severe weather information in the syllabus was discussed. Diluting the information provided in the syllabus and copying expenses were points made.

The next item discussed by this committee was the **core curriculum** review and reevaluation process. Past core curriculum documentation included the “Report From The Task Force on Goals of the Core Curriculum”, January 13, 1993; “Outline of 1990-1996 Efforts To Develop A Clear Basis For The University Of Alabama Core Curriculum”, September 12, 1996; and a memorandum to Provost Nancy Barrett from Jerry Rosenberg, Chair of the Core Curriculum Oversight Committee dated June 5, 1997. Making certain currently approved core courses should continue to be approved and reviewing the core are the main issues of the committee. According to a committee member, Ed Stephenson, one-fifth of the core will be reviewed this year, the same one-fifth that will come up before the State Articulation Agreement Committee. According to University standards, every five years core courses are to be reviewed and application made to retain the course. The lack of action by the Core Curriculum Oversight Committee has caused a shift in responsibilities. What constitutes a core course has been rewritten but must be approved by a faculty vote. The Academic Affairs Committee will invite Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs, Mark Nelson, to speak to the Faculty Senate. There was discussion of course requirements, mechanisms for a solution, core and department requirement differences, accreditation responsibilities, academic governance, and the goal of evaluating the core. The Academic Affairs Committee will look at the core curriculum versions historically, seek input, update the wording and develop a statement including a therefore to begin dialog/action on this issue.

The proposed use of Tegrity by all 100/200 level courses will be discussed with the Provost.

Faculty Life – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn & Lowell Baker*) The Faculty Life Committee used the Steering Committee’s input and suggestions to revise the **Maternity Leave Policy** separating nine and twelve month faculty leave/benefits in Section B1 and B2. Concern has been expressed regarding assignment structure for a returning faculty member after pregnancy. Negotiation of duties, double duty, voluntary team teaching, adoption/foster care and title of document was discussed. The Maternity Leave Policy was approved unanimously by the Steering Committee. The document will be forwarded to the Provost.

The faculty version of the **Climate Survey** was handed out to the Steering Committee members for discussion at the next meeting.

Email response/acknowledgement/receipt issues are important.

Financial Affairs – (*Katrina Ramonell & Steven Hobbs*) Susan Petty, UA Purchasing Manager, will address the Faculty Senate on November 17. Dr. Lynda Gilbert will speak to the Steering Committee on December 1. An invitation will be extended to the entire Faculty Senate.

Information Technology – (*Ray White & Jim Hall*) The Information Technology Committee is in the process of setting up a meeting with John McGowan. Technical issues to be addressed in this meeting will be Tegrity, internet connection speed, Banner, wireless installation and email capacity.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Harold Stowell*) The Research and Service Committee continues to work on the policies and procedures for a response to misconduct in research and scholarship allegations. The committee determined in reviewing the document that the accused had very little opportunity to respond to allegations. For example, research documents could be seized and labs could be closed prior to an investigation giving protection to the accuser rather than the accused. The committee felt there should be some way to determine whether the complaint is being made without accurate facts or without good information. There should be some consequence for anyone making an accusation in bad faith. This could involve faculty, student or staff member. Some parts of the document are mandated by the Federal Government and the document is twenty-two pages in length. The current policy states that a case can be pursued against any person engaging in academic misconduct while here or after departing the University. There is no statute of limitation in the document.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*Michael Martone & Marci Daugherty*) Mike Dugan, an Ombudsperson, will retire next spring. Ken Wright will go off the ombudsperson list this year. A list of all past ombudspersons is needed.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Chapman Greer*) Chapman Greer is resigning as co-chair. Carolyn Cassady will be the replacement. This committee will meet Thursday, Sept. 10.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) Higher Education Day will be March 4, 2010 in Montgomery, Alabama. Legislative Breakfasts will be held in the near future. The Student Health Center is doing an excellent job treating students with the flu and other health problems.

Other Topics

The Board of Trustees will meet Thursday, September 17 and Friday, September 18.

A proposal was made to begin Steering Committee meetings at 3:30 PM

Plans are underway for the annual Steering Committee reception for the Deans.

Meeting adjourned 5:10 PM.