

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2010 – 3:30 PM – 2002 SHELBY HALL**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Clark Midkiff, Jeanette VanderMeer, Melondie Carter, Rona Donahoe, Margaret Garner, Brian Gordon, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Ed Stephenson, John Vincent
Parliamentarian DoVeanna Minor

ABSENT: Lowell Baker, Marcia Barrett, Steve Emens, Jim Hall, Steven Hobbs, Katrina Ramonell, Karen Steckol

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog

Roll call and quorum check by Secretary Jeanette VanderMeer.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes of August 17, 2010 were approved.

Vice President's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) President Karen Steckol is presently undergoing medical treatment. Thoughts and prayers were expressed for her.

Several issues concerning the Alabama-Penn State football game were discussed including **health and safety** of those attending the game, traffic flow, inadequate lighting in certain campus areas and walking paths, lack of seating for students in the upper deck and excessive alcohol consumption. It was suggested a letter be written to Dr. Mark Nelson, Vice President for Student Affairs, expressing great concern for the safety of students involved in excessive alcohol consumption and for those surrounding students not involved in this type behavior. The Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee will review this issue.

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

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) An AAUP report suggesting tenure for teaching faculty will be reviewed by the Academic Affairs Committee at their next meeting.

Specific academic departments were not informed of game day parking changes around their areas. Some parking areas and roads were closed for the Alabama-Penn State game for the first time. Some faculty/staff members work in their offices or labs on game days and should be made aware of parking changes affecting their areas.

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

Financial Affairs – (*Katrina Ramonell & Steven Hobbs*) The Financial Affairs Committee should be in the process of scheduling a meeting with Lynda Gilbert, Vice President for Financial Affairs.

Information Technology – *(Jim Hall & Osiris Molina)* No report.

Research & Service – *(Ed Stephenson & Brian Gordon)* A meeting with Joe Benson, Vice President for the Office of Research, has been rescheduled for October.

Patent policy changes have been received and will change the Faculty Handbook requiring a review by the Faculty Senate and a faculty wide vote. Those changes apply to graduate and undergraduate student research. It was proposed to have those experienced in the patent process review the changes. An advisory committee will be assembled to study the changes.

Contract and grant accounting should be improved to show how much money is left at the end of the year. The delay in setting up contracts and grants has been attributed to staff turnover and lack of staff within the Office of Research.

Senator Steve Kasinas of the College of Education has forwarded a report titled “The Future of Research Universities in Alabama” emphasizing the **future of higher education** in Alabama. A forum based on an Oklahoma-Oklahoma State model addressing the future of higher education in Alabama was proposed. The Research and Service Committee will invite Steve Kasinas to further explain his proposal. Margaret Garner suggested incorporating this issue with Higher Education Day activities.

Faculty & Senate Governance – *(Rona Donahoe & Steve Emens)* The Faculty and Senate Governance Committee is seeking nominees for **Ombudsperson**. This is a campus-wide election. Methods of acquiring candidates were discussed including an email to C&BA and Engineering Deans requesting names of those willing and qualified to serve.

Student Affairs – *(Melondie Carter & Seth Panitch)* **Student alcohol consumption** and safety at football games is a major concern of this committee. Ticket and student seating locations at the games and behavior policies were discussed. The safety issue will be brought to the attention of the Intercollegiate Athletic Committee.

Healthier food choices in vending machines have been brought to the attention of the Student Affairs Committee. Studies and surveys have been conducted in the past and this information will be gathered for review. Vending machines do not offer a long-term safe environment for some foods. There are seven different student health related teams on campus available for consultation. Vending machines are sales driven and available items must sell.

Legislative Agenda – *(Margaret Garner)* There is a need for an increase in Higher Education Partnership membership. It was suggested to invite Bill Jones to a meeting.

Reports from Other Committees

The Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee will meet on Thursday, September 16th at 3:00 PM.

The Textbook Committee continues to meet and discuss the textbook rental program.

Faculty and staff members should be aware of additional charges on **medical** procedures conducted at different facilities in Tuscaloosa. The University of Alabama is self-insured and any cost saving methods should be sought and used. Education on such issues should be made available for the Human Resources Department and researched by the insured.

Faculty members are upset about the location of their football seats being moved to the upper deck. Some have health problems that do not allow them to climb to such heights.

Disappointment was expressed concerning the cancellation of classes for the Georgia State football game on Thursday, November 11.

April 11, 2011 will be Higher Education Day in Montgomery, Alabama.

Meeting adjourned 4:55 P.M.