

President's Report

Faculty Senate

February 18, 1997

Since our last meeting, I received from Bryan Fair a revised draft of the Faculty Handbook version of the Sexual Harassment Policy. I distributed a copy of the revision to all of the members of the Steering Committee as well as to Dr. Beverly Thorn for comments and feedback. We met a couple of weeks later to discuss any recommendations for changes in the revision. I also invited several members from the Student Government Association to meet with us and share their impressions, because the SGA had passed a resolution in December on sexual harassment issues. I am in the process of working with Dr. Thorn to summarize the recommendations, and they will be passed back to the Steering Committee for review. Marcus is in the process of making this draft available on the Senate Web Page. (Link to: [Sexual Assault](#); [Sexual Harassment](#); [Personal, Familial, and Consensual-Sexual Relationships](#))

I also received word from the Alumni office that they were forming a committee to identify student recipients of alumni awards and wanted names of three faculty members to serve on that committee that was beginning to meet in February. I asked the Steering Committee to send names of faculty to me to serve on that committee. As a result, Lynda Harrison, Bob Sigler, and Jessica Matson have all agreed to serve on that committee.

I have sent to the Academic Affairs Committee for review a report of the Database Needs Assessment Committee, which was sent to me by Nancy Barrett. This was a task force established by her to assess the University of Alabama's database needs, identify obstacles to their acquisition and installation, and propose a plan for meeting the needs identified in the assessment.

All of you received by e-mail the recommendation of the Faculty Steering Committee to approve the memorandum prepared by the Academic Affairs Committee with regard to the SLIS/College of Communication merger. The result of the Senate vote was 30 approving the memo and 1 dissent. Several of you sent in written comments with your vote. A few were concerned that the process as stated in the Principles document had not been followed. I think there are really two issues here, i.e., whether the process was followed and whether the communication was clear that the process had been followed. I think we were really dealing with the latter rather than the former. The Steering Committee and Academic Affairs Committee are working on this issue.

I am meeting with the Academic Affairs Committee tomorrow to review the Senate process with regard to the SLIS merger. We are looking at what we can do to make our internal process better and clearer, and at ways to provide more guidance to the Provost or Deans as to the kind of information we would like to see up front, and in general the role of the Senate in the formal process. We will communicate back to the Steering Committee and you any substantive results from this discussion.

I received formal word from President Sorensen today that he had accepted Provost Barrett's recommendation to merge SLIS with the College of Communication. I will send that letter to the Steering Committee members and urge them to share it with their committees.

[Back to the February 1997 Minutes](#)

[Back to the Minutes Menu page](#)

[Back to the Faculty Senate Home Page](#)