

UNCORRECTED
MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Jan 16, 1996

Ferguson Forum

3:30 p.m.

- **President's Report**
 - [Articulation Agreement Discipline Committees](#)
 - [Taaffe Plan for "Redefining University"](#)
 - [HMO Plans](#)
 - [Elimination of State Match to TIAA/CREF ??](#)
 - [In-State/Out-of-State Tuition](#)
 - [ACHE to be Given More Power ??](#)
 - [Lobbyists' Town Meeting](#)
 - [Presidential Search](#)
 - **Reports from Senate Committees**
 - [Teaching Over the Internet](#)
 - **Reports from Senators on University Committees**
 - [Library Serials Reductions of 40%](#)
 - [Library Use Fee ??](#)
 - [Lobbying Efforts](#)
 - **New Business**
 - [Faculty Distinguished Service Award Nominees](#)
 - [Resolution RE: Old Senate Nominates for Distinguished Service Award](#)
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Members absent and not represented by an alternate: Harold Selesky, Paul Allen, Eugene Cooper, Barney Cargile, Subhabrata Chakraborti, Frank Page, John Evans, Mark Weaver, Diane Kimoto, Stephen Tomlinson, Charles Haynes, Martin Parker, Jerry Hoffman, Ginny Raymond.

The [minutes for December 1995](#) were approved after the following corrections:

Comments made by Pam Parker were incorrectly attributed to Lisa Russell on pages 3 and 5.

Ginny Raymond corrected the record of her statement in the last paragraph of page 2 to read: "The Senate should recommend..." Matt Winston corrected the record of his comments on page 4.

President's report

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEES

Faculty Senate President Norm Stein reported that Provost Jim Taaffe wrote him a memo responding to the Senate's November resolution on the formation of discipline committees as directed by the Articulation & General Studies act. Taaffe wrote that he had consulted with Don Crump, who said that formation of discipline committees has not started yet. Taaffe wrote that when these committees begin to be formed, he will confer with the Faculty Senate to be sure that faculty members are involved in the selection process.

TAAFE PLAN FOR "REDEFINING UNIVERSITY"

Stein also wrote a lengthy memo to Taaffe concerning the suggested changes in the University which have been described as "redefining the University." Taaffe thanked him for the memo, and said that the ideas concerning changing tenure were premature, and would not be considered further. Taaffe's office is working on another draft of the 'idea document.'

HMO PLANS

Stein communicated with President Sayers about the Senate's deep concern over the possibility of plans to institute a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO). Sayers believed that the process of deciding whether to use an HMO and if so, what company is a completely open decision/process. Stein told him that there were very few faculty who are in favor of bringing in an HMO.

ELIMINATION OF STATE MATCH TO TIAA/CREF ??

Stein reported that there are some rumors about Governor James' proposals for higher education. Some have suggested that he may be planning to eliminate the state's matching contribution to the TIAA/CREF retirement plan. There are currently six schools in Alabama which match contributions to TIAA/CREF. Of those schools, the University of Alabama system has the biggest contribution, up to 5%. The Alabama Council of College and University Faculty Presidents (ACCUFP) prepared a white paper on employee benefits which argues for local institutional control over benefits and that reduction of the TIAA/CREF benefit could be a significant recruiting disincentive. The University of Alabama's program is not an unusually generous benefit in that some universities contribute 10% or more without requiring a matching employee contribution. The Alabama State Teacher Retirement System (STRS) is an excellent benefit for faculty who stay at Alabama for their entire career, but it is not so good for those who move in or out of the state during their career. For this class of faculty, TIAA/CREF is very important.

IN-STATE/OUT-OF-STATE TUITION

The governor remains very concerned about subsidizing out-of-state students. His proposal to modify the way out-of-state students are charged may be very detrimental to the University, or it might not be not bad at all, depending on how it is written. The University is one of the best in the state at consistently charging out-of-state rates instead of giving those students in-state rates.

ACHE TO BE GIVEN MORE POWER ??

The third issue in higher education reform concerns developing a state-wide board for all the state's institutions of higher education. It may be that ACHE will be given more power, including the power to close down specific programs. It is not yet clear what form the proposed legislation will take.

LOBBYISTS' TOWN MEETING

University lobbyists are planning a town meeting at the University and Shelton on Feb 12. They hope to have plenty of faculty, alumni and townspeople there. They also want to conduct a workshop for faculty who want to influence legislation, specifically covering how to write letters, visit with legislators.

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

Stein reported that the Presidential Search committee now has about 111 nominations. At least twenty-five have come from faculty nominations. There are about 10-15 names who look quite promising, a few of which have expressed interest.

Reports from Senate Committees:

TEACHING OVER THE INTERNET

Margaret Garner, cochair of the **Academic Affairs Committee**, reported that the committee met with Carroll Tingle from the College of Continuing Education to discuss the possible use of higher technology to extend course and degree options beyond the campus for revenue enhancement. The committee feels the need for more faculty involvement and awareness of these options. One idea which was suggested at this meeting was the development of a campus-wide technology committee to promote use of telecommunications to increase the range of our offerings. Gene Dobson

reported that the advancing technology has suggested some new ideas concerning teaching, and these require a good deal of rethinking among departments. This could revolutionize the way we teach. For example, courses or parts of courses could be enhanced by bringing faculty in from other universities in state or anywhere in the southeast. There are already meetings of deans to promote cooperation among schools.

Some senators suggested a possible problem, leading to a reduction in faculty, if each school doesn't need to keep all the areas in each discipline covered with local expertise. Others responded that there is potential for this type of abuse, but other large players are already moving into this market. If the University doesn't get involved quickly, we'll get left behind completely. Universities like Stanford and Georgia will take over from a distance.

The Academic Affairs Committee is planning to meet with Dr. Taaffe to discuss his ideas on reinventing the University in the near future. All interested senators will be invited to attend.

The **Financial Affairs Committee** had no report, as did the **Planning & Operations Committee**.

On behalf of the **Research & Service Committee**, Nick Stinnett reported that the initial draft on Faculty Workload will be shared with Drs. Crump and Taaffe in the next few weeks.

Student Affairs Committee cochair Bob Sigler reported that the committee met and discussed the SGA Constitution proposals. The committee has three small changes to recommend, and is preparing a resolution on these matters.

The **Senate Operations Committee** had no report.

Reports from Senators on University Committees

LIBRARY SERIALS REDUCTIONS OF 40%

Joe Benson reported that the **Library** committee sent a resolution to the Provost with regard to developing guidelines for serials reductions, that this be done by the faculty of each department, rather than by the library staff. It has been reported that there is no more money coming out of OAA for the library. If the reduction in budget is cut from serials, this will result in about 40% reduction in our serials.

Nick Stinnett commented that Taaffe's proposals for concentrating on upper-level and graduate work is inconsistent with these kind of cuts on the library. Some speculated that electronic delivery could save up to 50% in costs, but Lee Pike stated that after some research, he can see no evidence that electronic delivery of journals will save any significant money.

LIBRARY USE FEE ??

There was some sentiment for a "library use fee" of perhaps ten to fifteen dollars per student per semester which would help fund library. Others suggested that some of the present student fees be used for the library. The general consensus of the Senate was that a 40% cut is extreme.

LOBBYING EFFORTS

Scott Bridges reported on efforts to influence the issues with will be presented to the legislature in the upcoming session. He requested that senators speak to their colleagues with respect to what individual faculty members are doing by way of professional service outside Tuscaloosa. For example, if it could be shown that our faculty members are helping a high school in Dothan or a business in Opelika, this could have an impact on our lobbying efforts.

There was no **Old Business**.

New Business

FACULTY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD NOMINEES

The Senate elected a 5 member committee to review nominations of the 'Faculty Senate Distinguished Service Award. Members of the committee must be faculty who are not currently senators. Martha Morgan, Rona Donohoe, Morris Meyer, Lynda Harrison and Carol Schlicter were nominated. After a short discussion, these were elected by acclamation.

RESOLUTION RE: OLD SENATE NOMINATES FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Next, the Senate considered a resolution from the Steering Committee:

"Be it resolved that consideration of nominations of the Distinguished Service Award be done at the March meeting of the Senate, the last meeting of the current Senate, rather than at the April meeting."

Since the last meeting of this Senate will be in March, with new Senators taking office in April, it was felt that the decision to award or not to award should be made by this Senate rather than the next. It was also noted that passing this modification to the procedure would simply formalize the way the last couple of awards had been selected. After additional discussion, the resolution passed by acclamation.

One senator asked if there were any advance notice on how many faculty had taken advantage of the early retirement offers. The response given was that approximately 90 to 100 faculty members have chosen to retire.

There being no further business, the Senate adjourned at 4:41PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcus Brown, Secretary

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

Please send suggestions to Marcus Brown: mbrown@cs.ua.edu