

uncorrected minutes

- Faculty referendum on Plus/Minus grading to occur in February
- Student Health no longer routinely providing medical excuses for students
- Student applications up 23%
- Enhancement Initiative: four programs supported so far with two more this year
- Teaching technology initiative to be funded
- Safety concerns in neighborhoods behind the Strip
- Faculty Development Office to offer colloquia on topics requested by faculty

3:30pm --- Ferguson Forum

- Senate Roll Call & Quorum Check --- (*Ray White*)
 - Senators absent: Harvey Kline, Catherine Pagani, Lori McKinnon, Debbie Novak
- Approval/Correction of December Minutes --- (*Ray White*) --- [*e-mailed*]
 - December minutes were approved with minor corrections

- **President's Report** --- (*Margaret Garner*)
 - **Plus/Minus referendum**

The faculty referendum on the grading system will be in early February. The Provost will soon be sending a letter to the faculty describing the procedure. She will be encouraging faculty to review again the data compiled by the Academic Affairs Committee, which is [available on the web](#). The Crimson & White will publish the data compiled by the Academic Affairs Committee as well as the results from the SGA's Academic Affairs Committee survey, entitled "The Bottom Line."
 - **University Studies Project Team supplementary members**

John Vincent & Scott Hestevold have been named by the
 - **New Student Health policy announced**

Student Health will no longer be routinely providing medical excuses for students. The announcement memo can be found [here](#) on the Senate web site.
 - Senators are reminded that it is their responsibility to find alternates if they must miss meetings. If Senators will be on sabbatical, they must find an alternate to cover the time they will be away.

- **Vice President's Report** --- (*Rob Ingram*)

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee met with Provost Nancy Barrett on January 14. The discussion focused on student applications and scholarships, the enhancement initiative program, and other University initiatives.

Student Applications up 23%

The Provost indicated that student applications were 23 percent higher than last year. The University is making a major effort to recruit top students. During the current year, the number of full pay (tuition,

room, and board) scholarships has increased from 6 to 20; the number of full tuition scholarships has increased from 100 to 150. Students with ACT scores of 26 or above and with good grades are offered \$1,000 scholarships. The scholarships are the result of private funds raised by the University and an effort to coordinate available funds throughout the University.

Enhancement Initiative: Four programs supported so far, two more this year?

The enhancement initiative program began last year with awards to four programs. An effort will be made to add two additional programs this year. The deadline for submissions is April 1. Submissions should be made through the unit's dean.

Technology Initiative to be funded

The Provost also indicated an interest in funding a technology initiative. Funding would come from reallocating resources from non-academic activities. Part of the initiative would provide grants to faculty for innovative use of technology in teaching. The Provost suggested that there would probably be two rounds of applications, one in March and the other in September. Another part of the initiative would be used for purchasing computers and software for faculty. A third part would be used to support distance education efforts.

Faculty Referendum on Plus/Minus Grading

We discussed who would vote in the forthcoming referendum on plus/minus grading. The procedures used in recent votes will be used again. Faculty who are members of the Teachers' Retirement System and have at least 50 percent appointments for teaching and/or research will be eligible to vote. Members of the Teachers' Retirement System are full time (permanent or temporary) faculty who have been with the University for at least 13 months.

Also, we discussed new responsibilities for Ike Adams, who has become an assistant to the Provost. He will be dealing with student issues, disciplinary matters, space allocations, and is working on processing changes to the faculty handbook.

• Reports from Senate Committees:

- **Academic Affairs** --- (*Marvin Johnson & Marion Paris*) - no report
- **Financial Affairs** --- (*Robert McLeod & David Arnold*) - no report
- **Planning and Operations** --- (*Philip Johnson & Jerry Webster*)

Late in Fall Semester of 1998 Wythe Holt brought-up a concern about safety along 14th Avenue near the strip on the floor of the faculty senate. There is a police substation there that is supposed to be co-manned by the city and university police forces (the manning by the UAPD is voluntary), but at present no one mans it.

As a follow-up a delegation of the senate planning and operations committee, consisting of myself, Debbie Novak, and Jerry Webster met with Steve Tucker (University Director of Public Safety) to discuss the problem.

The following points summarize our findings:

- The area in question is under city jurisdiction – but the campus police are aware of the problem, the victims and offenders are often associated with the university, and in the long term the university is committed to helping police such areas.
- The manpower at the university police is at an all-time high, with 39 officers on staff and 2 vacancies to be filled in May. However 9 of these officers are new and in a training programs that total about 1 year. It will be August before the trainees will be available for full

assignments and until then we are for all practical purposes understaffed.

- The lack of trained officers is likely to continue. As a consequence of the Mercer Report our police force has only limited means to increase salary with seniority; thus experienced officers probably will continue to accept jobs with local cities since they offer substantially higher pay.

- **Research and Service** --- (*Bing Blewitt & Betty Bryce*) - no report

- **Student Affairs** --- (*Bob Sigler & Mike Miller*)

- Student affairs will be meeting monthly with Dr. Sybil Todd, Vice President for Student Affairs. They have also asked to be put on her e-mail distribution list. The Committee will now receive information distributed to her staff.
- The Aquatic Center is now back to Student Affairs having been briefly administered by the Athletic Department. Concerns remain about whether there will be charges for faculty services (access to the pool) previously offered for free.

- **Senate Operations** --- no report

- **Reports from Senators on University Standing Committees**

- **Research Advisory Committee**

The Committee on Research and the University Grants Committee were merged into the Research Advisory Committee, which meets only in the Spring, so has yet to meet.

- **Reports from other Committees**

- **Legislative Agenda Committee** --- (*Scott Bridges*)

Scott Bridges expressed the hope that the new governor will be more supportive of higher education than the former Governor.

- **University Studies Project Team**

The Project team is meeting every two weeks this semester. At the most recent meeting they began to talk about establishing long term goals, breaking itself up into subcommittees and assessed the level of their consensus on foundational issues.

- **OLD Business**

- RESOLUTION proposing Senate V.P. being changed to President-elect --- [*attachment*]

There was a wide ranging discussion of the merits of having the Senate Vice President formally acknowledged to be the President-elect. To do so would provide more continuity and clarity. Other senators remarked that the current system is more flexible and that there is no need to constrain ourselves in case there are too few or many potential candidates for the positions of Vice Presidential and President. Another suggestion was that Senate formalize a one year rotation of all positions. A majority of the Senate majority voted to return the issue to the Senate Operations Committee for further discussion. Senators should forward suggestions and comments to the Senate Operations Committee, at senops@merkin.astr.ua.edu.

the sense of the senate was that the chain of command be less flexible, rather than m

- **NEW Business**

- Beverly Wallace of the Faculty Development Office, reporting on their work to provide support for faculty teaching. They are in the midst of reorganizing their web site, bama.ua.edu/~facdev, which is also cross-

linked on the Senate's [Faculty Resources](#) page. The Faculty Development Office will be organizing some colloquia this term on topics requested in faculty poll.

RESOLUTION on Vice President

It is recommended that the Faculty Senate By Laws be changed to affirm that when officers are elected, the person who is elected Vice President is also President-Elect. This practice is followed by a number of faculty senates across the nation. This change will provide greater continuity and a more efficient operation of the Faculty Senate.

--- Senate Operations
