

CORRECTED MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE MEETING

October 17, 1995

Ferguson Forum

3:30 p.m.

• **President's Report**

- [Presidential Headhunter Meeting](#)
- [Faculty Representation on University Resources & Priorities Committee](#)
- [Role of Faculty Athletic Representative Reconsidered](#)
- [New Faculty Mentoring Program](#)
- [Meeting with University System Lobbyist](#)
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- [Emphasize Junior & Senior Years at Expense of 1st Two Years ??](#)
- [Faculty Senate on Web](#)

• **Reports from Senate Committees**

- [Questions for Crump](#)
 - Are the proposed University cuts going to be across the board or selective, reflecting the priorities established a few years ago?
 - What cuts are planned for the libraries? Are there any capital campaign plans to inject support into the libraries?
 - If legislators are commenting on the absence of university faculty lobbying personally in Montgomery, shouldn't we be organizing such a presence?
 - What is the current impact at the University of Alabama of students choosing to save money by going to cheaper two-year junior colleges, then transferring for their last two years to the University? Is this a growing trend at the University of Alabama?
 - What is the nature of the revenue sharing between the athletic department and the University?
- [Getting Information from Committees -> Senate -> Faculty](#)
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• **Old Business**

Members absent and not represented by an alternate: Joe Benson, Barney Cargile, Frank Page, Pamela Parker, Stuart Bell, Charles Haynes.

The [minutes for September 1995](#) were approved, with a grammatical correction changing 'from' to 'for' at the bottom of second page. The corrected sentence should read "Scott Bridges asked whether there were any plans **for** a counter-attack on the low view of higher education..."

President's Report

PRESIDENTIAL HEADHUNTER MEETING

Faculty Senate President Norman Stein reported that the headhunter hired to assist the presidential selection committee would meet with the Senate Steering Committee and interested faculty on Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 4:30PM in the President's Conference Room in Rose. Those interested in attending should check with Stein.

FACULTY REPRESENTATION ON UNIVERSITY RESOURCES & PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

The administration has reconsidered the composition of the Resources and Priorities committee in response to Stein's calling attention to the requirements for faculty representation. One staff member has been removed and arrangements are being made to add faculty members so that faculty would be in the majority, as the requirements for the composition of that committee demand. Stein was encouraged that when the administration has been found to be in violation of its own rules, it does take steps to comply with those rules.

ROLE OF FACULTY ATHLETIC REPRESENTATIVE RECONSIDERED

Stein reported that the administration is reconsidering the role of the Faculty Athletic Representative, and it appears that the Faculty Senate will have a role in choosing new persons for that position.

The athletic program is also up for reaccreditation, and several faculty members are involved in that effort.

Last meeting, the Senate elected Wythe Holt to the "Slash & Burn" committee. However, since Holt already serves on the Mediation & Grievance Committee, he is ineligible to serve on both. When asked, Wythe preferred to remain on the Mediation & Grievance Committee, so the Senate will elect a replacement later in the meeting.

NEW FACULTY MENTORING PROGRAM

The new faculty mentoring program sponsored by the Senate and organized by Claudia Johnson seems to be going well. Stein commended Johnson for her efforts in this regard.

Stein has received letters with nominations for the Faculty Senate Distinguished Service Award. An ad hoc committee has been appointed to determine the proper procedure for dealing with nominations and selecting an awardee.

MEETING WITH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM LOBBYIST

Stein reported that Provost Taafe has suggested that it would be helpful for members of the Senate to meet with the University System's lobbyist. Communication would be beneficial to both sides. Stein will set up a meeting on a Tuesday scheduled for either the Senate Steering Committee or the full Senate, and will communicate the date and time to senators to allow them to attend.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY SUGGESTIONS ACCEPTED

Stein and Amy Ward met with Taafe, who reported that the Senate's comments on the conflict of interest policy were well received by Bob Wells and other members of the administration, and that the policy would be amended to reflect complete agreement with the Senate's suggestions. Taafe also said that he expected to send the latest draft of the new faculty handbook to the Senate for comment in the near future.

LIBRARY TO GET EXTRA SOFT MONEY

In addition, Taafe said that the library would be receiving extra soft money this year as has been the case in the past.

The Senate Academic Affairs Committee felt that some questions remained to be answered after Don Crump's visit to the Senate last month. Stein is drafting a letter to Taafe requesting a written response to those questions.

EMPHASIZE JUNIOR & SENIOR YEARS AT EXPENSE OF 1ST TWO YEARS ??

In a related issue, Crump mentioned that the University was thinking about emphasizing the upper class courses at the expense of the freshman and sophomore years. Some administrators have mentioned plans for hiring non-tenure track 'Master Teachers' to teach these lower level classes. If implemented, this could have a significant effect on the faculty.

Stein also reported that he has received word that there is a teaching award which needs nominations.

FACULTY SENATE ON WEB

Stein asked Marcus Brown to report on Senate information now available on the campus computer network. Brown

reported that there are now a set of preliminary World-Wide Web (WWW) pages for the Faculty Senate. The pages are still being refined, but they already list the calendar for the Senate, the Senate Constitution and By-Laws, officers and members of the Steering Committee, as well as a roster of all the senators and alternates. The roster contains the names, phone numbers and email addresses (when available) of every senator and alternate. It is hoped that this information will allow faculty members at large to communicate their concerns more easily with their senators. There is also a page which will allow anonymous email to the Senate if desired by the user. If a senator or alternate does not want their phone number or email address listed, he or she should contact Brown.

The Faculty Senate World-Wide Web pages can be found by pointing a browser such as Netscape, Mosaic or Lynx to "<http://cs.ua.edu/FacultySenate/>" or they can be reached from the University of Alabama (<http://www.sa.ua.edu/>) page by following the link to "Other UA WWW Sites" and then following the "Faculty Senate WWW" link.

The minutes to the September meeting are already available on these pages, and minutes for earlier meetings will also be available soon. In the future, Brown hopes to put reports from the Senate committees on these pages, and any reports from senators on standing committees. Brown hopes that these pages will provide a quick and easy way to communicate the concerns and deliberations, not only of the Senate, but also of all University standing committees to the faculty.

Brown invited senators to make suggestions concerning any other information which should be made available by using the Senate World-Wide Web pages.

Reports from Senate Committees

QUESTIONS FOR CRUMP

The **Academic Affairs** committee discussed concerns about some of the issues discussed by Don Crump in his visit to the Senate, and they have drafted some further questions that they would like the administration to respond to.

Margaret Garner reviewed those questions for the Senate. They are as follows.

1. Are the proposed University cuts going to be across the board or selective, reflecting the priorities established a few years ago?
2. What cuts are planned for the libraries? Are there any capital campaign plans to inject support into the libraries?
3. If legislators are commenting on the absence of university faculty lobbying personally in Montgomery, shouldn't we be organizing such a presence?
4. What is the current impact at the University of Alabama of students choosing to save money by going to cheaper two-year junior colleges, then transferring for their last two years to the University? Is this a growing trend at the University of Alabama?
5. What is the nature of the revenue sharing between the athletic department and the University?

GETTING INFORMATION FROM COMMITTEES -> SENATE -> FACULTY

The committee was also concerned about improving the flow of information **from** its various committees and its representatives in university standing committees **to** Faculty Senate and then **on to** faculty at large. It was suggested that computer World-Wide Web pages would be very efficient in getting information from the Senate to other faculty.

Financial Affairs co-chair Charlie Haynes attended a seminar sponsored by AAUP on "How to read a university budget statement." He will bring a short summary of the University's financial position to the Senate at a later meeting.

PHASED RETIREMENT CONSIDERED

The Financial Affairs committee has been asked to consider a phased retirement plan which would allow faculty to retire in stages. This would have to be approved by the Retirement System.

Planning & Operations had no formal report.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY SUGGESTIONS ACCEPTED

Research & Service is reviewing the update to the policy on Conflict of Interest which was discussed at the last Senate meeting. The administration was pleased with the Senate's suggestions and has incorporated them into the new policy, including confining the more restrictive portions to apply only to the two federal agencies which required it. The new policy has been adopted. Bob Wells would like to further revise the policy so that we have one policy which would apply to all granting agencies.

FACULTY WORKLOAD LEGISLATION

The committee is finishing the report on faculty workload from the survey taken last spring. Norm Stein observed that some have proposed legislation for passage in the next session which would require faculty to account for their time.

STUDENT HONOR COURT PROPOSED

Student Affairs reported that the proposal for a Student Honor Court has been reviewed by the Provost and is expected to be implemented soon. The Student Life Committee is now reviewing the proposed SGA constitution.

SENATE HISTORY

Senate Operations is compiling a Senate History for inclusion on the WWW pages.

Old Business

Since it was discovered that Wythe Holt who had been elected to the committee to oversee the merger or discontinuance of academic units was ineligible to serve because he already serves on the Mediation & Grievance committee, it was necessary to elect a replacement for the one year term. Amy Ward nominated Norman Singer from the School of Law.

Singer was elected without dissent.

There was no New Business.

There being no further business, the Senate adjourned at 4:14 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcus Brown, Secretary

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*These are the **Uncorrected** Minutes.*

Please send corrections, questions or comments to Marcus Brown: mbrown@cs.ua.edu

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