

CORRECTED

MINUTES

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

November 21, 1995

Ferguson Forum

3:30 p.m.

- **President's Report**

- [State-Wide Core Curriculum](#)
- [Cuts in State Match to TIAA/CREF ??](#)
- [Caps on Out-of-State Enrollment ??](#)
- [Faculty Workload Assessment ??](#)
- [Ethics of Faculty Consulting](#)
- [Nicole Mitchell Named New UA Press Director](#)

- **Reports from Senate Committees**

- [Use of QUEST and IITS in Distance Learning](#)
- [State-Wide Curriculum \(Articulation Agreement\)](#)
- [University Financial Policy is Sound](#)
- [University Commercial Development](#)
- [HMO Skepticism](#)
- [Responses to University Budget Cuts](#)
- [Student Honor Court Proposal Rejected](#)
- [New Faculty Senate Lobbying Committee](#)

- **Reports from Senators in University Committees**

- [Student Health Healthy](#)
- [Campus Master Plan Committee Meets when Faculty in Class](#)
- [Is Medical Coverage Adequate for International Students ??](#)
- [Library Expects 40% Budget Slash](#)
- [How to Evaluate Administrators Above Dept. Head Level ??](#)
- [Power Plant May Not Pass EPA Smoke Guidelines](#)

- **New Business**

- [Resolution RE: Procedure for Distinguished Service Awards](#)
 - [Resolution RE: Faculty Participation in State-Wide Discipline Committees](#)
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Members absent and not represented by an alternate: Subhabrata Chakraborti, Tom Hebert, Jerry Hoffman, Claudia Johnson, Martin Parker, Jim Taylor, Mark Weaver.

The [minutes for October 1994](#) were approved.

President's Report

STATE-WIDE CORE CURRICULUM

Faculty Senate President Norman Stein reported on his attendance at the ACCUFP (Alabama Council of College and University Faculty President) meetings. One of the major topics under discussion there was the Articulation and General Studies legislation. Since the law was passed, a state-wide core curriculum has been designated. The next stage of the negotiations probably will set requirements for various disciplines for all colleges and universities in the

state for the first two years. It appears probably that 'discipline committees' will be set up to make these decisions. Each committee will include members from four year schools and from two year schools. The final method for deciding on the members of the committees will be discussed at the December 6 meeting of the Articulation group. ACCUFP had a resolution asking the four year members of the committees be selected by lot from the nominees of each public college or university campus. Stein was concerned that University of Alabama and Auburn should be always represented, rather than by depending on the chance of the lot.

It seems likely that the state commission will choose from among those nominees from each college or university. It is not yet clear how will the University of Alabama will select its nominee for each discipline committee.

The ACCUFP members also discussed suggested changes to higher education. These include:

1. Possible cutbacks in the state's match for TIAA-CREF contribution.
2. Caps or changes on out of state enrollment. Since the University gains a significant amount of income from out of state tuition, this could have a large impact.
3. Discussion of 'Faculty workload.' Some states already have laws which mandate the amount of time faculty should spend teaching.

These 3 issues will probably be on the agenda for the Legislature in its session next spring.

At the last meeting of the Faculty Senate, the Academic Affairs committee had some questions for Provost Taaffe. The questions have been submitted, and Taaffe wants to meet with Academic Affairs co-chairs and Norm Stein to discuss the questions.

ETHICS OF FACULTY CONSULTING

Stein also commented on the issue of the ethics of faculty having consulting jobs. Some officials in Montgomery have suggested that there should be restrictions placed on faculty consulting. University Counsel believes that the current guidelines in the Faculty Handbook allow consulting, and do not anticipate any changes.

The Presidential search is still underway. Some nominations have been sent to the search committee through Stein.

NICOLE MITCHELL NAMED NEW UA PRESS DIRECTOR

Stein extended congratulations to Nicole Mitchell, who was recently appointed director of the University of Alabama Press. Her appointment makes the University Alabama Press one of the few with a female director.

Reports from Senate Committees

USE OF QUEST AND IITS IN DISTANCE LEARNING

The **Academic Affairs** committee reported on their discussion on the question of meeting budget cutbacks. One possible way to meet these challenges is to get on the forefront of technology using programs such as QUEST and IITS. Development of the "Classroom without walls" might form a hedge against lower enrollment.

As a result, the Academic Affairs committee is considering the possibility of a University level technical committee to determine how technology could be used to promote education. Representatives from the educational technology program will meet with the committee.

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT

The Academic Affairs committee also reported on the Articulation agreement. The Alabama articulation committee is mandated by law. This effort did not begin in Alabama, since thirty five other states have similar legislation. The Articulation Steering committee has 10 members, all administrators from their respective institutions. One member is from the University and one is from Auburn. Three are from junior colleges, two are from historically black institutions, and three are from regional colleges. All votes must be decided by an 80% majority, which gives any minority of three a veto power. Various deans and department heads are meeting across the state now to begin setting

up the individual discipline committees. Dr. Crump will meet with the Academic Affairs to discuss the probable impact of this agreement. Other senators are welcome to attend.

UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL POLICY IS SOUND

Charlie Haynes, co-chair, reported that the **Financial Affairs** committee met November 7th. Haynes presented a summary of the University's financial statement, stating that the University's financial officers have conducted a tight, conservative fiscal policy over the last several years. The expenses incurred are consistent with the University's mission.

UNIVERSITY COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Some faculty members have expressed concern about the University's involvement in commercial development, particularly around the Strip. Haynes reported that the University has been involved in some level of commercial activities for years, including marketing "Crimson Tide" logos and insignia, and food and housing for students. The University usually prefers to keep a low profile, letting brokers and developers handle actual transactions and management of these projects. He noted that these types of involvements have been a source of income for the University, and are not allowed to become a net loss.

HMO SKEPTICISM

The Financial Affairs committee is also concerned with the possibility of introducing a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) a part of the University's health benefits package. Some have expressed concern that this may be motivated more by a desire to use some of the underutilized UAB medical facilities than by a desire to improve the health benefits of the University's employees. The committee recommends caution in adopting a new HMO plan.

RESPONSES TO UNIVERSITY BUDGET CUTS

Some faculty asked how we could explain the University's relatively stable financial position to those who want to cut the appropriation. In the discussion, senators made the point that much of the University's reserve funds are given with certain restrictions such that they can only be spent in narrowly defined ways. While they do reduce the amount of support the University needs from the state, they cannot be used to pay for many of the things that the state appropriation pays for, such as salaries and maintenance. Atly Jefcoat drew a parallel with Lyndon Johnson raiding the Social Security trust fund in the 1960s, or Congress raiding the national highway trust fund. While it may have seemed to make good political sense at the time, the long-term problems caused were considerable.

Planning & Operations had no formal report, nor did **Research & Service**.

STUDENT HONOR COURT PROPOSAL REJECTED

Bob Sigler, co-chair of the **Student Affairs** committee reported that the Council of Deans has turned down the Student Honor Court proposal, and that the new SGA constitution has been revised. The revised version is now available.

The **Senate Operations** reported briefly concerning the resolution on the Faculty Senate Distinguished Service award. The resolution was later considered under New Business.

NEW SENATE LOBBYING COMMITTEE

Stein asked Scott Bridges to report on an ad-hoc Senate who met with the University and System lobbyists in an effort to understand the current situation and to better present our cause to the Legislature. Bridges had been concerned by the need to increase communication between the faculty and the Legislature. The lobbyist were open and forthright about the current political situation. Bridges reported that in the view of some, we are in a political battle in which a concern for truth has become a casualty to the desire to win political battles, at least on the part of some in Montgomery.

Reports from Senators in University Committees

STUDENT HEALTH HEALTHY

Ruby Morrison reported that the Student Health accreditation visit went well, and a positive report is expected. She

also reported that on the job injuries will now be handled by Russell Health Center.

CAMPUS MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE MEETS WHEN FACULTY IN CLASS

Matt Winston reported that the Campus Master Plan committee, made up predominately of non-faculty members, regularly meets on Tuesdays as 10AM, when many faculty are in classes. He suggested that the meeting times of most committees should be scheduled to facilitate faculty attendance.

IS MEDICAL COVERAGE ADEQUATE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ??

Ali Iran-Nejad reported that the International Student committee is concerned about adequate medical coverage for international students. The committee would like input about how to solve this problem.

LIBRARY EXPECTS 40% BUDGET SLASH

Joe Benson reported that the University Libraries committee expects a \$1.2 million reduction in the library acquisitions budget. This is a reduction of about 40%. The reduction will be divided among the colleges according their fraction of the 1992-93 budget. The library wants a list of proposed reductions by March 15.

HOW TO EVALUATE ADMINISTRATORS ABOVE DEPT. HEAD LEVEL ??

Margaret Garner reported that the Committee on Selection & Evaluation of Deans and Department Heads only meets in response to a problem. If faculty members are aware of a problem, they should communicate such to Margaret Garner. Chuck Hobby responded that the committee needs to consider how to evaluate officials above the department head level. Last year the committee decided that a procedure needs to be established for this type of evaluation.

POWER PLANT MAY NOT PASS EPA SMOKE GUIDELINES

Stuart Bell reported for the Energy Management committee that our power plant may not pass EPA guidelines for smoke emission. As a result, the University may want to replace the current coal-burning power plant with a new system.

There was no **Old Business**.

New Business

RESOLUTION RE: PROCEDURE FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Matt Winston distributed information on the Faculty Senate Distinguished Service Award as a precursor to discussion of the resolution on the agenda.

Resolution from the Steering Committee:

Whereas, the Faculty Senate has adopted a procedure for awarding Distinguished Service Awards (DSAs) for truly outstanding service to the faculty and the University; and

Whereas, the procedure provides that the Faculty Senate may award one or two DSAs in any given year; and

Whereas, the Faculty Senate has awarded only four DSAs during the last 12 years; and

Whereas, the President of the Faculty Senate has received letters nominating four individuals for DSAs; and

Whereas, in the view of the President of the Faculty Senate, each of the nominated individuals has rendered extraordinary service to the faculty and should be considered for DSAs in the current academic year; and

Whereas, the procedure for awarding DSAs provides that under special circumstances and on the recommendation of the President, the procedure may be waived by a 2/3 vote of the Faculty Senate; therefore

Be it resolved, that the procedure for awarding the DSA be modified for this academic year (1995-96) in the following respects:

1. The nominating committee may submit resolutions recommending up to four candidates to the full Senate for consideration for the DSA; and
2. The full Senate shall consider and vote on any such resolution submitted to it.

After discussion of the current process and the proposed changes, the resolution was amended to read 'more than two' in place of 'up to four' in the 'A.' clause.

The amended resolution passed without dissent.

The Senate turned to the election of two new members to the Mediation and Grievance Committee. Richard Rand (A&S) and Nancy Rubin (CCHS) were nominated. There were no other nominations, so these two were elected by acclamation.

Margaret Garner requested that a motion be considered. Since the motion was not on the agenda, the rules had to be suspended. Margaret moved suspension, Joe Benson seconded, and the necessary two-thirds of the Senate agreed to suspend the rules to consider the following motion:

RESOLUTION RE: FACULTY PARTICIPATION IN STATE-WIDE DISCIPLINE COMMITTEES

Be it resolved that Provost Jim Taaffe work with the Faculty Senate on a plan for faculty involvement in the selection of nominees for the statewide discipline committees as defined by the 94-202 act regarding Articulation & General Studies.

Bob Sigler seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed without dissent.

There was further discussion about the possible impact of the Articulation study. Faculty from Nursing & Education were deeply concerned about likely problems.

There being no further business, the Senate adjourned at 5:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcus Brown, Secretary

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