

corrected minutes

- Faculty referendum ballot on Plus/Minus grading system approved and forward to Provost
- NCAA Certification
- University Standing Committee reports not being received in Senate
- Summer School administration folded into Interim Program Coordinating Council
- Student Health will be changing policy on excused student absences, effective January 1999
- Strategies against Web-aided plagiarism
- Legislative Agenda Committee seeking new members from University community
- Prof. Gene Marsh, Faculty Athletic Representative, commended by Senate
- Use of "Pretty Good Privacy" software endorsed for securing e-mail

3:30pm --- Ferguson Forum

- Senate Roll Call & Quorum Check --- (*Ray White*)
 - Senators absent: Rocky Durrans, Dexter Gordon, Lori McKinnon, Debbie Novak, Marion Paris, Mindy Taggard, Marcia Winter
- Approval/Correction of November Minutes --- (*Ray White*) --- [*e-mailed*]
 - approved w/out correction

- **President's Report** --- (*Margaret Garner*)
 - **University Studies Project Team supplementary members**

The Senate will be recommending 1-2 more members to the University Studies Project Team, which is revamping the core curriculum. Senators were asked to make suggestions to Linda Knowles.

- **NCAA Certification Process**
 - An NCAA Certification team is on campus interviewing coaches, staff, administrators and sub-committees. There is a very positive feeling about the progress being made. A resolution commending Prof. Gene Marsh, Faculty Athletic Representative will be presented under New Business --- [*attachment*]
- **ACHE meeting 10 December in Montgomery**
 - There will *not* be a faculty panel meeting prior to the main meeting. The faculty panel will meet in January; Rob Ingram will represent the Faculty Senate on this panel. The movement towards performance-based funding for universities is being put on hold pending further study. The legislatively mandated committee funding ended in October. The committee report sent to Chief Academic Officers caused serious concerns about the implementation and substance of this report. The Chief Academic Officers have now recommended to the Council of Presidents of the four year institutions of this state that it be put on hold for further study. The faculty panel also expressed concerns and assured us that this will be followed through the year. Our concern has been that the mission differences be taken into account.
- **University Standing Committee reports not being received in the Senate**
 - There is concern whether the Standing Committees are meeting or if the issues raised are not of a nature to be brought forward. Margaret Garner requested that written reports be given with information about what the committees are doing and what issues they are considering. Ray White was charged with tracking down whether committee membership lists are being put on the web.
- **Summer School administration folded into Interim Program Coordinating Council**
 - Concern was raised about the intent of having interim administrators reviewing summer school as well. The interim review process is cumbersome, and it may be counterproductive to take summer

school review out of the colleges.

- **Vice President's Report** --- (*Rob Ingram*) --- no report

- **Reports from Senate Committees:**
 - **Academic Affairs** --- (*Marvin Johnson & Marion Paris*)
 - Two resolutions will be presented under New Business
 - **Financial Affairs** --- (*Robert McLeod & David Arnold*) --- no report
 - **Planning and Operations** --- (*Philip Johnson & Jerry Webster*) --- no report
 - **Research and Service** --- (*Bing Blewitt & Betty Bryce*) --- no report
 - **Student Affairs** --- (*Bob Sigler & Mike Miller*)
 - Student Health will be changing the policy on excuses for sickness, effective January 1999. Students will have to see a doctor or nurse to get an excuse.
 - **Senate Operations** --- (*Nick Stinnet*)
 - A resolution on changing the Senate Vice President to President-elect will be proposed under New Business --- [[attachment](#)]

- **Reports from Senators on University Standing Committees**
 - **Information Technology Committee** --- (*Ray White*)
 - Web sources for plagiarised term papers
 - The web has made it much easier for students to plagiarise term papers. A New York Times article (23 Sep 98) recently reported on this growing problem. A [web article from the University of Iowa](#) reviews web sources for plagiarised term papers and offers ideas for creating writing assignments that are not easily plagiarised, such as:
 - review outline & bibliography well before paper deadline
 - have concrete writing topics that are peculiar to the class discussion
 - The committee endorsed Marcus Brown's Senate resolution on computer privacy
 - A tentative web policy was approved
 - A sub-committee looking at faculty computer support will be active in the Spring
 - A sub-committee on web policies & procedures is getting started
 - A sub-committee on assessing multimedia classroom needs is getting going, having added Carol Tingle, director of Ed Media & Technology.
 - A computer resources committee (dealing with undergrad labs) is finalizing a survey
 - **Biosafety Research Committee** -- (*John Vincent*)
 - A biosafety manual is being produced and will be released soon.
 - **Security & Safety Committee** -- (*Nancy Rubin*)
 - An additional \$200,000-300,000 worth of new lighting has been installed on campus.
 - **Awards Committee** -- (*Carmen Taylor*)
 - Award selections will be made in January
 - **Staff Development Committee** -- (*Lee Pike*)
 - A concerted effort will be made to expand the recognition of staff.
 - **International Education Committee** -- (*Nancy Rubin*)
 - Most of the previously vacant positions have now been filled in the Capstone International Affairs office. This unit deals with visas, immigration and other issues regarding international students. Edwina Crawford is the person to contact for assistance.

- **Reports from other Committees**
 - **Legislative Agenda Committee** --- (*Scott Bridges*)
 - It seems that in the last election there were 4000 extra votes from this area compared to the previous

election. Scott expressed the hope that education was a motivating issue. He called for new members for the Legislative Agenda Committee. The committee will be dividing into smaller groups concentrating on more specific tasks. Scott reminded the senate that the committee is a non-partisan group. Contact Scott Bridges if you would like to participate. The next legislative session begins in March. Scott also reminded senators that our last raise was funded out of our own retirement, so we need to make up for a shortfall of \$2 million next year. Jim Taylor pointed out that 94% of the candidates endorsed by the HEP were elected. Robert McLeod asked how AEA characterized their success in endorsement. Jim Taylor responded that they also claim a 94% success rate. It was pointed out that for many candidates, we would be on the same side. Wythe Holt asked about strategy for next year. Scott replied that it was too early for details, but higher HEP participation is a major goal. There will be a push for a return to the historical 2-1 split between higher ed and K-12 funding.

- **OLD Business** -- none

- **NEW Business**

- **RESOLUTION commending Prof. Gene Marsh, Faculty Athletic Representative** ---[[attachment](#)]
 - Approved by acclamation
- **RESOLUTION on Computer privacy & PGP**

--- (AA & Marcus Brown) --- [[attachment](#)]

- Unanimously approved

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

--- (Nick Stinnet) --- [[attachment](#)]

Norm Stein made a motion to postpone the vote until the next Faculty Senate meeting. Ray White seconded the motion. The vote was 21 for and 10 opposing. This would allow the members to review the resolution before voting. Nick Stinnett made the points that this was the procedure practiced at most major institutions and this resolution would only formalize what the U of A Faculty Senate had been doing for over ten years. This procedure would also provide continuity and the person assuming the President's role would have experience and knowledge needed to provide proper leadership. Marion Paris questioned what would happen if the person was not reelected a senator. These points will be addressed at the next meeting. Jim Taylor suggested that we explicitly address changes in leadership due to retirement, sickness, etc. Send questions & comments to Nick Stinnet.

- **Ballot on Plus/Minus grading system** --- (Marvin Johnson)

The resolution presented by the Academic Affairs Committee of a ballot for a referendum on Plus/Minus was brought forward. First, the ballot asks whether to keep the current system or to change it. Then the ballot then asks for a preferred alternative system, in case a majority vote to change the grading system. The three options offered are: add to current system A+ grade which would carry a value of 4.33 quality points but does not change the cumulative GPA of 4.0; to have a system of letter grades with pluses but no minuses or to return to prior system of letter grades with no pluses or minuses or to leave the system as is. The voting date will be set by the Provost's office and the ballot is on the Senate web site. The proposed rank-order voting was rejected by the Academic Affairs committee. A date of implementation was added to the ballot. These changes would apply to undergraduate students only. The addition of the statement, "I do not support any of these positions" was rejected by the Academic Affairs committee. Jim Taylor asked that all the options be joined, so there is not a two part vote. Norman Stein resonded that the current structure makes it more likely that we can be done with one ballot. The ballot was approved unanimously and will be recommended to the Provost for further action.

RESOLUTION commending Gene Marsh, Faculty Athletic Representative

WHEREAS, The University of Alabama has completed a two year process of self study for the Athletic Department and programs, and

WHEREAS, Professor Gene Marsh, as Faculty Athletic Representative, began this review prior to the NCAA's requirement of a self study for Certification, and

WHEREAS, Professor Gene Marsh has consistently sought input from a broad audience including the faculty, staff, students, alumni and the community, and

WHEREAS, Professor Gene Marsh has effectively led a steering committee and supported the Co-Chairs of each of the four subcommittees addressing Commitment to Equity, Fiscal Integrity, Academic Integrity, and Rules Compliance in their deliberations, and

WHEREAS, Professor Gene Marsh has been a tireless leader in the development and implementation of the University of Alabama's compliance process, and the excellence of this process was recently recognized by members of the NCAA Enforcement Committee, and

WHEREAS, Professor Gene Marsh has been particularly concerned that the faculty be well informed through meetings with the Faculty Senate Steering Committee, the Faculty Senate, interim reports, providing a complete copy of the Self Study document to the library, and a website,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the University of Alabama Faculty Senate expresses its sincere gratitude to Professor Gene Marsh for his exemplary service to the University in his role as Faculty Athletic Representative.

---Margaret Garner, President

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

RESOLUTION on Computer Privacy

WHEREAS e-mail has become a normative means of communication among faculty, students, staff and administrators at The University of Alabama,

AND WHEREAS it is trivially easy to send e-mail which appears to be from other people,

AND WHEREAS it is relatively easy for technically skilled computer users to intercept, read and alter e-mail,

AND WHEREAS there are readily available systems of public-key encryption (PGP being the defacto standard) which can provide secure authentication and privacy when required,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of The University of Alabama encourage the faculty, staff, administrators and students to use digital signatures on all e-mail, and to use encryption when appropriate,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that network administrators and other UA computer staff make software to accomplish the above available to everyone on this campus as easily as possible.

--- Marcus Brown

