

uncorrected minutes

Highlights

- [Legislative Priorities for the University](#)
- [Provost issues Teaching Technology RFP \(Request for Proposals\)](#)
- [University's connection to Internet II is imminent](#)
- [Web site for University Standing Committees now up](#)
- [Biosafety manual completed and to be distributed to all relevant faculty](#)
- [Should the University provide benefits to fraternity/sorority house mothers?](#)
- [SGA Capstone Event - 10 April - University students, staff & faculty volunteers are sought for a community cleanup campaign designed to foster better community relations.](#)

3:30pm --- Ferguson Forum

- **Senate Roll Call & Quorum Check** --- (*Ray White*)
 - Senators absent: Laszlo Baksay, Don DeSmet, Lori McKinnon, Marcia Winter
- **Approval/Correction of January Minutes** --- (*Ray White*) --- [*e-mailed*]
 - January minutes were approved without correction
- **President's Report** --- (*Margaret Garner*)
 - **Legislative Priorities for University**

As you know through email communication, President Sorensen requested a meeting with the Steering Committee to review the legislative priorities for the University. The Steering Committee had an opportunity to consider the 4 priorities and then to discuss them openly with the President and the UA Legislative Liaison, Bill Jones at a called meeting. Those priorities are: · Restore the 2.35 percent increase in the University's match for the RSA. (For UA alone this amounts to about \$3 million. Recall that President Sorensen agreed with the Senate last year to dedicate all the increase in funding to faculty and staff salaries.) · Request a return to the traditional 2: 1 appropriation between higher education and K-12 education. · Request a 6% increase over the FY 1999 appropriation. · Create a fund to offset the cost of health care insurance for UA employees. (This would be similar to the current Public Education Employees Health Insurance Program, PEEHIP, which is available to K-12 and 2 -year employees, but selectively does not include 4-year institution employees.) The Steering Committee unanimously agreed to support these priorities. The concerns are many in this legislative session. We will need to make a solid and strong effort to present our needs to the legislators. On Tuesday, February 23rd there is scheduled a hearing on the higher education budget. Time has been requested for University Presidents to speak, but that has not been confirmed still.

Provost's Teaching Technology Request for Proposals

In late January, the Provost sent out information and invitation to apply for grants in support of innovative instructional technology to all faculty. Ray White has placed the [request for proposals](#) on the Senate Web page for your added convenience. The officers are very pleased with this opportunity and recently thanked the Provost at our monthly meeting with her. This initiative is an outcome of earlier discussions with the Provost about the need for this kind of support for faculty and resources to enhance our use of technology in instruction. Please review the proposal and note the two submission deadlines, March 15th and

September 1st.

Senate Elections

Please be giving serious thought to the upcoming elections for senate officers, President, Vice President and Secretary. Our bylaws as revised encourages any member to submit a letter of intention, with any supporting argument to the Secretary of the Senate, Ray White, by March 14th. These statements will be submitted to the Senate with the agenda for the March meeting. Persons may also be nominated from the floor of the senate at the March meeting. Ray White has agreed to coordinate nominations.

Annual Reports

Co-chairs of the senate standing committees are reminded that an annual report of their committee's work should be prepared in writing for the March meeting. It is helpful if the report also includes recommendations for continuation of issues and suggested priorities for the upcoming year.

Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Awards

Please make note of the deadline for nominations for the UA Alumni Association's OCTA which is March 12th. If you need further information, contact Glisa Boykin at 348-5963.

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

◦ Upcoming ACCUFP meeting

ACCUFP (Alabama Council of College and University Faculty Presidents) will meet 26-27 February. The agenda will include:

- Discussion of a meeting with the Council of Presidents and Chief Academic Officers with ACHE
- Performance-based budgeting
- Faculty workload policies (i.e. what faculty are doing with their time)
- Incentive funding (i.e. any implementation of faculty monitoring requires more funding)
- Rising Junior Exam (taken by college sophomores), which would be to assess and provide feedback for Junior Colleges on how they are preparing their students for entry into four year institutions.

Outstanding issues with regard to this exam include:

- What happens if a student doesn't pass the Rising Junior Exam?
 - What will be done with the information generated by the exam?
- The University's connection to Internet II is imminent.
 - The University will be leasing a T3 line for internet traffic (which has 30 times more capacity than our current T1 line).

• Secretary's Report --- (Ray White)

- Web pages are now available for University Standing Committees at www.ua.edu/committees. The Senate Administrative Secretary will maintain the site, so all Senators who are liaisons on University Standing Committees or members of Task Forces should encourage their committee chairs to forward any minutes and reports to Linda Knowles so they can be placed on the web site. Instructions for transmitting documents to Linda can be found on the web site. Ray White thanks Jan Duvall, Joyce Donly & Lennie Schmansdt for helping get the web site constructed.

• Reports from Senate Committees

- **Academic Affairs** --- (Marvin Johnson & Marion Paris)
 - Marvin Johnson reminded Senators that the second round of plus/minus ballots are due Wednesday 17 March.
- **Financial Affairs** --- (Robert McLeod & David Arnold)
 - The committee just got salary data for university faculty and will be assessing the impact of the recent raise on salary compression.
- **Planning and Operations** --- (Philip Johnson & Jerry Webster) --- no report
- **Research and Service** --- (Bing Blewitt & Betty Bryce) --- no report
- **Student Affairs** --- (Bob Sigler & Mike Miller) --- [[attachment](#)]

- Campus language houses are dwindling.
- **Senate Operations** --- (*Nick Stinnett*)
 - **Senate V.P. vs President-Elect**
The committee decided not to pursue formally changing the Senate Vice President position to a President-elect position. The committee has decided instead that continuity should be emphasized in the By-Laws and that language be inserted in the By-Laws which strongly encourage the Vice President to actively share the senate leadership with the President, in order to even out the workload and facilitate smoother leadership transitions from year to year.
 - **Proposed memo to absent senators**
The committee has prepared a memo which will be sent in the future to persistently absent senators in order to find out why they are absent and to encourage more regular attendance.

- **Reports from Senators on University Standing Committees**
 - **Biosafety Research Committee** - (*John Vincent*)
The biosafety manual is now complete and will be distributed to all who would need it by the Health & Safety Department. The Biosafety Research Committee will now be responsible for reviewing the safety of all biological materials, not just recombinant DNA work.
 - **Awards Committee** - (*Carmen Taylor*)
The committee has met and made selections for the 4 major university awards, which will be announced in the March Senate Meeting.
 - **Human Relations Council** - (*Debbie Novak*)
The Council is assessing the relevant issues and getting representation from outside the University in its efforts to focus on priorities.
 - **Energy Management Committee** - (*David Arnold*)
The committee has a report pending with suggestions for saving energy on campus.
 - **Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee** - (*Norm Stein*)
At the next meeting, they will review a proposal that the University provide benefits to fraternity/sorority house mothers.

- **Reports from other Committees**
 - **Legislative Agenda Committee** --- (*Scott Bridges*)
State funding for higher education is expected to be thin this year, given that it is the 1st year of a 4 year election cycle.
 - The Legislative Committee has reorganized into smaller subcommittees, which will be announced at the next senate meeting.

- **OLD Business**

- **NEW Business**
 - **Closure of Theatre & Dance Dept's Bachelor of Fine Arts program**
Bob Sigler expressed concern over the recent Tuscaloosa News story about the closure of the Theatre Department's Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program. Sigler asked whether the *Principles and Procedures for the Merger/Discontinuance of Academic Units* document applies to the closure of degree programs. Marion Paris & Ray White expressed surprise that the University community was made aware of such a closure via the Tuscaloosa News, rather than through an internal announcement. There was Senate consensus to find out more information from the Theatre & Dance Department. Norm Stein asked whether faculty have a say in whether the administration applies for a waiver from ACHE viability criteria for a particular program. Stein further asked why the administration must conform to ACHE's constraints and whether this is being resisted. Dexter Gordon reiterated that there must be some procedural shortcoming if the Senate finds out about this from the local newspaper. He suggested that the Academic Affairs committee should at least be notified of such events before reading about them in the newspaper.
 - **Sweat shops?**

Dexter Gordon asked if the University makes sure that the apparel manufacturers used to make clothing which bears the University logo are vetted to insure they are not sweat shops.

- **Announcements**

- **SGA Capstone Event**

- The Student Government Association is organizing a community cleanup effort for Saturday, 10 April. Student, staff & faculty volunteers are requested to help build better relations with the community. Any resident can apply to have their house/yard attended to by teams of students, staff & faculty.

- **Pending**

- **Merger document revision** - update --- (*Ray White*)

- The ad hoc committee reviewing merger guidelines is relaunching its effort to modify the existing guidelines for the merger/discontinuance of academic units, primarily by having a faculty task force convened at the beginning of any proposed merger/discontinuance.

Student Affairs Subcommittee Meeting Minutes - 2 February 1999

Mike Miller reported that the new International Education Committee has expressed several concerns which might be of interest to the faculty. International students are not receiving copies of the campus living guide when they receive their applications. U.S. students routinely receive this information. The committee noted that all language houses except for the German house have closed and the German house only has 15 students. International students cannot preregister so they are not able to get acceptable schedules in their first semester. The committee is seeking solutions.

Student professional organizations have been denied non profit rates for mailing newsletters. They should qualify as they both represent their sponsoring departments and are registered student organizations. Student life staff are seeking solutions.
