

CORRECTED MINUTES

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

April 15, 1997

Bevill 101

3:30 PM

The minutes for March 1997 were approved with two minor corrections.

By the Senate Constitution, the first order of business is the election of new Senate officers. For President, Margaret Garner was nominated and elected by voice vote, without dissents. For Vice President, Ray White and Bob Sigler were nominated. White was elected by a secret ballot. For Secretary, Tom Novak was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Outgoing President's Report

Outgoing Senate President Amy Ward reported that she had met with the Council of Deans to discuss revisions to the Faculty Handbook. This was an historic event, in that no previous Senate President had ever met with the Council of Deans. Ward summarized the chronology of events as the Senate received the handbook draft, and she discussed the six items the Senate recommended be reinstated. Also discussed were changes to the sexual harassment policies and the Senate Service/Outreach document. Little was resolved at the meeting, but Ward reported a cordial and animated discussion.

Ward also reported that the Steering committee has approved proposed revisions of Appendix A to clarify language and make it clear that program review is not the ACHE/SACS review.

Ward expressed her appreciation and joy in serving as president this past year. She stated that she was proud of the focus and dedication of all members of the Senate this year. She thanked previous officers, the steering committee, and especially the co-chairs of the Academic Affairs committee, who put in so many extra hours on the mergers.

Reports from Senate Committees

Peggy Jessee, co-chair of the **Academic Affairs** committee reviewed the major issues addressed by the committee this year. The Prolog and Goals of the Core Curriculum were reviewed, but when the Provost developed a task force for many of these issues, the committee tabled discussion to wait for the task force report. Jessee noted that the SLIS merger, while proceeding smoothly, showed many failings of the 'Principles & Procedures.' Other issues still on the table include the Recruitment & Retention Task Force recommendations, specifically noting plus/minus, entrepreneurial Summer School, and medical withdrawals.

Ray White, co-chair of the **Academic Affairs** committee reviewed the Senate's impact on the University's computer purchases. Last spring, a Senate task force offered a proposal to save millions of dollars. Some of these recommendations were followed, while others were probably tabled. When Priscilla Hancock, the new Associate Vice President, came in February, it was too late to convert from the VM system mainframe to a UNIX system and still meet the year 2000 crisis. She did manage to cut the price of the proposed mainframe purchase in half, and also got a UNIX platform for the original cost, for a potential savings of \$8 million on this issue.

Rona Donahoe, co-chair of the **Financial Affairs** committee, reported that the committee has reviewed faculty benefits (BCBS & TIAA/CREF match), participated in the search for a new Chief Information Officer (Hancock), and passed a resolution concerning faculty salaries. On the subject of computing, Rona requested that any academic users of the mainframe please inform their senators or the CIO (phancock@seebeck.ua.edu). Hancock plans to put the UNIX platforms out by early summer, and plans to put all the active academic users on them about 18 months later.

Nick Stinnett, co-chair of the **Research & Service** committee, discussed the Service document. The committee felt that service needed to have a greater visibility in the Faculty Handbook, and get more credit in promotions and merit raises. This led to the Senate's Service Document. Later meetings are scheduled with Provost Barrett on this issue. The Provost was also quite supportive of the Senate's resolution for more support for the library.

Bob Halli, co-chair of the **Planning & Operations** committee, reported on a resolution on aligning the Senate appointees to standing committees with the Senate committees. He also noted that the committee had constructed guidelines for building the academic University Calendar. The committee was not consulted about the Commencement issues, although it should have been, and it did conduct a survey of the faculty on the subject.

Bob Sigler, **Student Affairs** co-chair, reviewed the major issues of the year, specifically calling attention to Dining Dollars, the SGA re-creation and transition, and the question of faculty advisors for student groups.

Wythe Holt, co-chair of the **Senate Operations** committee noted that one of the duties of the committee was monitoring senate attendance. The committee is also charged to suggest changes to By Laws & Constitution. In order to make the Senate more democratic and open, the committee presented changes two meetings ago which were accepted by the Senate. Changes to the Constitution need a vote from the full faculty, and Holt proposed that such a vote take place in the fall. The committee also participated on a task force recommending to the Provost changes which would tend to rationalize the University Committee structure.

The **Legislative Agenda** committee is not really a 'Senate committee' since it includes a Dean, a department chair, and several members from all across the campus, including President Sorensen, but it was begun as a Senate initiative. Scott Bridges, chair of the committee, reported that the committee has met to identify issues that would be important in the Legislature this session. This spring's activity included meeting with several legislators, the higher education rally at the Bryant Center, and the solicitation of several to write regularly to the Senate Ways & Means Committee and the House Appropriations Committee. Our SGA has been effective in writing letters, and Harlan Foster, the new SGA president seems to be very interested in these issues. State Senator Poole talked about including the required funding for retirement in the education budget. Georgia universities have received a 6% increase for the last 3 years, which puts us about 20% down below their funding level.

Senate President Margaret Garner commented that the Legislative agenda committee has blazed new trails for involvement, and has made a real impact. She noted that legislators say that if any legislation comes up affecting K-12, they will get thousands of letters, but if any legislation comes up affecting higher education funding, no one will send letters or call the legislators! Most legislators count letters. Garner suggested that the Senate needs to be ready to respond quickly to possible legislative changes.

Reports from Senators on University Committees

Rhoda Johnson reported that the Campus Master Plan committee was alerted that some plans were under way to build a retirement center near the campus. Several sites have been considered, with the latest being near the water tower at east end of campus. The committee is still looking at a new fire station on campus. The MacMillan building has been proposed to the city, but several issues remain to be settled.

Old Business

Resolutions from Planning & Operations (attached to the agenda).

Bob Halli introduced the resolutions, saying that it was hoped that these alignments would streamline the reporting of

activities on the University standing committees to the appropriate Senate committees. The resolutions passed.

New Business

The proposed Senate committee assignments were approved by the full Senate, without dissent. The Senate also approved a resolution from the Steering Committee congratulating the recipients of the Frances Summersell award.

The Steering Committee endorsed the spirit of the following resolution, and sent it to the Senate for debate. Wythe Holt introduced the resolution, and gave some background. Holt suggested that some junior colleges seem to want to use the Articulation agreement to allow the junior colleges to control the first two years, even at the 4 year colleges. The Human Environmental Sciences faculty is very upset by these developments, as are other professional schools: Engineering, Social Work, Nursing, Dietetics, etc. The resolution reads:

WHEREAS it is important that students transferring to the University of Alabama from junior colleges be well prepared,

AND WHEREAS the criteria endorsed by the Articulation Committee tend to promote uniform quality,

THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA endorses the Articulation Committee's goal of establishing an approved forty-hour inventory of general studies at two-year colleges that would be accepted for credit by all public four-year colleges in Alabama,

BUT WHEREAS extending the general studies curriculum to sixty hours would necessarily require increased appropriations to provide competent instruction at junior colleges in numerous additional disciplines at a time when postsecondary education is seriously underfunded,

AND WHEREAS any such extension would hinder the ability of the four-year institutions to develop their own curricula in the context of developments within each discipline and complex and mutable accreditation constraints,

AND WHEREAS requiring the University of Alabama to submit its courses to the Articulation committee for approval undermines the constitutional autonomy of the University and its right and responsibility to develop new courses and curricula in response to continual developments in knowledge and changes in pedagogy,

AND WHEREAS in requiring the University of Alabama to submit course descriptions and syllabi for roughly one third of its undergraduate curriculum (some forty semester hours) for its approval, the Articulation Committee has already violated Article XIV, Section 264 of the Constitution of Alabama, 1901, which provides that "The state university shall be under the management and control of a board of trustees,"

AND WHEREAS the expressed intention of some members of the Articulation Committee to require submission of course descriptions and syllabi for roughly one half of the University's undergraduate curriculum (some sixty semester hours) would be a further violation of the same article and section of the Constitution of Alabama,

AND WHEREAS the regulation of textbook selection on this campus by the Articulation Committee, which has already been contemplated by at least one of its disciplinary committees, would be a further violation of the same article and section of the Constitution of Alabama,

AND WHEREAS the statute creating the Articulation Committee enables any six of its members to approve or disapprove courses and syllabi to be offered by the University of Alabama, in clear violation of the same article and section of the Constitution of Alabama,

THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA urges the administration of this

campus and of the University of Alabama System to protect the University's constitutionally established autonomy by every means possible, including appropriate efforts by the UA System's representative to the Articulation Committee, in addition to appropriate efforts in the press, in the legislature, and if necessary, in the courts.

The resolution passed without dissent. The Senate adjourned to committees to select co-chairs at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcus Brown, Secretary