

CORRECTED MINUTES

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

August 27, 1996

Palmer Pavilion

3:30 p.m

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Members absent without representation: Ed Merrill, Paul Allen, Rhoda Johnson, Selwyn Hollingsworth, Ray Carroll, William Gonzenbach, Jim Richardson and Jerry Hoffman.

President's Report

Amy Ward reported on her meetings with President Sorenson and Provost Barrett. Ward is very optimistic about clear paths of communication to the administration.

Ward also reported on the formation of a small committee to review plans for a pending upgrade of the mainframe computer. Committee members are Ray White, Rona Donahoe, Pat Bauch and Marcus Brown.

A revised draft of the Faculty Handbook was given to the Senate for comment early in August. The draft is as amended by former Provost Taaffe. Barrett didn't want to comment on it, since she had not yet had a chance to look it. Barrett asked the Senate to report its comments to her. Ward plans to get a copy of the report to each committee cochair, then bring recommendations to the Senate before reporting to Barrett and Sorenson. No time-line has been projected at this point.

Ward reported that the Senate's Legislative Agenda adhoc committee is still active, with Scott Bridges serving as its chair. This committee was formed out of a sense of alarm over the negative attitude toward higher education in Montgomery. The committee has been active in facilitating the rally last spring and in mobilizing the University community to present our concerns to the Legislature. Current plans are to forward our concerns to President Sorenson and the UA System lobbyists, and to work together with them to inform Montgomery. President Sorenson is supportive of our efforts in this area, and we want to put forward a clear unified voice. There has been some consideration of forming a PAC (political action committee), but those plans are still in the formative stage.

The Legislative Agenda committee was particularly active this summer when there was a bill before the state Senate to give a raise for employees of four year colleges. Ward sent a letter to Don Siegelman, and read a letter he sent in

response. Other local legislators were also supportive.

Other Reports

Vice President Margaret Garner gave a brief background of the Senate, focusing on the purpose and duties of the Senate and the issues that face each committee. Her notes are included as an [appendix](#).

Marcus Brown reviewed the regulations from the [Senate Constitution](#) and [Bylaws](#) on attendance and use of alternates.

Old Business

The Senate has been given possession of an office in Wilson Hall, room 321. The phone line there (348-0033) has a voice mail feature. The office and the new phone number will be listed in the new campus phone directory.

New Business

Joe Benson was approved as Senate Parliamentarian on a voice vote.

The Senate approved the standing committee liaison assignments.

Lynda Harrison asked whether the Undergraduate Admissions & Retention Committee was still functioning. Other senators responded that it is still active.

Bob Sigler reminded the Senate that student groups who have any political agenda must get a faculty advisor and register with the Office of Student Life.

The meeting was adjourned to committees at 4:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

[Marcus Brown](#), Secretary

These are Margaret Garner's notes for her presentation to the Senate.

The Faculty Senate is relatively young having elected its first president in 1975 when the University of Alabama was close to 150 years old. Since that time the Senate has matured in many ways due to tireless effort of those early leaders who inspired others. As a means of orienting new senators and reminding those continuing in service, I would like to review the purpose of the Faculty Senate, how representation from the university community is determined, our general goals for service and the charge to each senator. (These are summarized from the Faculty Senate Constitution.)

Purpose:

To aid the University of AI in making judgments on issues related to policy, development and operations and thereby to assist the University in its *continuing quest for excellence*.

Methodology:

Our general goals for service involve *facilitating meaningful dialog* on matters of general faculty concern, and providing a *readily available/accessible channel of communication* between faculty and administration.

Representation:

Based on faculty numbers in the division, one senator for every 20 faculty.

Charge to each senator:

1. Bring issues from your faculty for consideration to the senate;
2. Develop a mechanism for informing your faculty of issues being addressed by the senate and also seeking their input as appropriate;
3. Actively participate in senate committee work and with the appointed liaison position with a university standing committee.

How The Senate Is Organized

All senators are assigned to one of 6 committees. These committees and some of the issues each is expected to address at this time are identified. Senate Committees typically meet on the first Tuesday of each month and other times as needed.

Academic Affairs Committee: University computer upgrade (some members of this committee have been involved in this activity over the summer as well); The review of proposed merger/discontinuation of academic units as well as the use of the relatively new document for merger/discontinuation; Modifications of the Core Curriculum.

Student Affairs Committee: The issues surrounding Dining for Dollars; From the Office of Academic Affairs, changes in the Academic Probation, Suspension and Reinstatement Policies.

Research and Service Committee: Review of the Faculty Handbook with particular attention to the section on promotion, tenure and service; comparison of the Committee's report on the role and use of service to the OAA and handbook revision committee

Senate Operations Committee: Review of the University Standing Committees and explore the possibility of merger into the Faculty Senate; Review and determine if the Legislative Agenda Committee should become a permanent part of the Faculty Senate.

Planning and Operations Committee: Annual review of the University Calendar.

Special Committee

Legislative Agenda Committee: Created last year by the Senate with broad based membership beyond the Senate. The goal was to help shape the role and involvement of faculty in promoting increased awareness and effective action in improving the public and legislator's commitment to higher education. A number of key outcomes have included workshops to inform faculty, meetings with key legislators, writing campaign for faculty and an area wide rally to demonstrate support for higher education, etc. We can expect more activity and recommendations this year. Our thanks to Scott Bridges and the committee. It was a great first year.

Steering Committee Of The Faculty Senate

Meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Tuesday and other times as needed. The Steering Committee sets the agenda for

the Senate. The composition includes the elected officers (President, Vice President, and Secretary), the chairs and cochairs of senate committees, the Parliamentarian, and any chairs of special committees.

Senate Representatives On University Standing Committees

There are 45 University Standing Committees which have assigned liaisons from the Senate. These appointments are included with your agenda today. The primary role as liaison is serve as the communication link between the Senate and the committee. This year as always there will be a call for a report. Too often there have been no reports. It will be helpful to know what issues are being addressed, if the committee is not meeting at all, and/or suggestions on ways, if any there may be an advantage for merger of the respective committee with the Senate.

Summary

Our charge as elected Faculty Senators is to serve in a partnership role in university governance with the administration so that together, we assure a strong future for the University of Alabama in achieving excellence and providing effective leadership for tomorrow's challenges in all our pursuits.

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