

CORRECTED MINUTES

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

August 26, 1997

120 Farrah Hall

3:30 PM

The minutes for April 1997 were approved with minor corrections.

Handouts were distributed to the senate by Tom Novak, Secretary. The handouts included a listing of the Senate officers, the [Steering Committee](#), and [all Senators](#), as well as the [liaisons](#) to University Standing Committees and the [schedules](#) for the meetings of the Senate and Steering Committee.

President's Report

Margaret Garner, Senate President, reported that the Faculty Senate Steering Committee has met every two weeks throughout the summer to deal with a host of issues on behalf of the Senate. Garner stated that it appears that both faculty and the administration are increasingly looking to the Senate for an even more active and responsive role in university governance, with both sides viewing this as mutually beneficial.

The use of E-mail has greatly enhanced the work of the steering committee and, as of now, all senators have access. The Steering Committee found it very helpful to send out comments, questions, and reports so that members could be prepared prior to meetings and focus discussions on issues, particularly those needing a decision. Garner indicated she would like to use the same approach for standing committees and the full senate. She asked the Senators to please check their e-mail regularly for updates, schedules, and requests for input. Some items will lend themselves easily for this method while others will also require open discussion for a decision to be made. In either case more information prior to discussion will result in better use of time at the full senate.

This summer the Steering Committee continued to have regular meetings with the Provost. The Committee has already received a schedule for bimonthly meetings for the fall semester.

Garner discussed Articulation and General Studies Agreement. Last April, the senate unanimously passed a resolution calling on the UA administration to do whatever was necessary to protect the autonomy of the institution in meeting curricular needs of students beyond the general studies agreement. In June the Faculty Senates of Auburn, UAB, UAH, and UA jointly passed a much shorter resolution which was shared with the state committee. Since then, Provost Barrett and Dean Yarbrough asked that we share the joint statements with the other four year institutions in the state. They both indicated the helpfulness of our efforts. A cover letter explaining our concerns and a copy of the joint resolution were sent in July.

Garner then reported about Challenge 21, which is a community based effort to plan for the future of the city and county to make this region a more competitive and compelling place to live. Six major areas are being addressed and include: Education, Infrastructure, Quality Living, Private Sector Leadership, Government, and Economic Development. The vision and strategies were discussed with the Steering Committee this summer and endorsed on behalf of the Senate. The Council of Deans and the University, through the President's office and the UA System office, also endorsed the plan. Garner is currently serving on the Challenge 21 steering committee along with Dean Barry Mason and Dr. Charles Nash from the system office.

Garner reported that the Faculty Senate Web page is managed by Marcus Brown. The Senate continues to look for ways to make the web page useful and timely. A category for all resolutions passed by the Senate should soon be

ready for presentation on the Web, so that the resolutions are readily available to both senators and faculty. Several issues of interest, such as revisions to the [Senate Constitution](#) and [Bylaws](#), [minutes](#) and [scheduled meetings](#), and the Outreach Document can be found on the Web. Garner urged the Senate to please check the web site often and generate suggestions for additions.

Garner stated that the Outreach Document was unanimously passed and sent forward to the Provost last year. The Senate was requested to write specific language for inclusion into the proposed Faculty Handbook. This language was written and approved by the Steering Committee and is now with the Provost. These recommendations should be on the web page soon.

The Faculty Handbook is now awaiting the approval for incorporation of the Outreach Document and final revisions for the sexual harassment policy to which the Steering Committee had further input this summer.

The current recommendations for the full faculty vote to revise the constitution and bylaws are on the senate web page. The Office of Academic Affairs will manage the faculty wide vote this fall.

Garner stated that the Senate voted last year to link the senate committees with specific university standing committees. The liaison selections reflect that decision. The liaison selections are available from the senate secretary and should be on the web soon.

The Committee on University Committees recommended to restructure some committees, and it was endorsed by the Steering Committee.

Garner reported that President Sorensen has formed a Community Advisory committee, which met for the first time on Aug. 20th. (The list of subcommittees and their membership is attached to this report.) The charge to the committee is to provide advice to the President on issues of mutual concern to the University and our community at large. Garner will serve on this committee this year.

Lee Engel is the Executive Vice President for the SGA and will be representing the SGA at our meetings. He can be reached at 348-5427 or by email, Lengell1@bcc.cba.ua.edu. Note that the number one (1) follows his name in the email address.

Attached to the President's Report was a [roster](#) of President Sorensen's Community Advisory Council for 1997-1998.

Reports from Senate Committees

Jim Richardson, co-chair of the **Academic Affairs Committee** reported that Nancy Barrett has asked the Faculty Senate to consider several recommended changes in academic policies, and to let the Provost know if we support these changes by October 20. The Council of Assistant and Associate Deans proposed these changes, based on proposed changes from the Recruitment and Retention Task Force and by the Student Government Association. The five proposed changes are:

1. Minimum Scholastic Standards Policy:
 - a. Place decision-making regarding readmission after probation/suspension with the deans
 - b. Establish rules for second or subsequent suspensions
 - c. Ask the Faculty Senate to evaluate if the Scholastic Progress Standard scale should be made more rigorous
2. Academic Second Opportunity Policy: reduce the number of years a student must separate from the University from 8 to 3 years.
3. Failing and Incomplete Grades Policy: Incomplete grades will no longer be calculated in a student's GPA as an F, unless the student omits to have the I removed within 12 months (and before graduation).

4. Forgiveness Policy: A student will be able to drop 16 hours (currently a student can drop 3 courses). Also, individual colleges can no longer specify courses which cannot be dropped from the GPA calculations.
5. Withdrawal Policy: no changes to the withdrawal policy. (The SGA had proposed extending the withdrawal period but the council recommended against because of adverse affects on administrative and planning needs of the University). Richardson also reported that the Provost has asked for the recommendations of the Faculty Senate on three other issues, as requested by the council of Assistant and Associate Deans. The recommendations are due December 1, 1997.
6. Plus/Minus Grading Policy.
7. Applicability of undergraduate catalog to students not continuously enrolled during a four-year period.
8. The C Rules: can a passing grade of D satisfy degree requirements?

Joe Benson asked if the October 20 deadline could be extended until after the October 21 Faculty Senate Meeting.

Rona Donahoe, co-chair of the **Financial Affairs Committee**, reported that possible committee agenda items for the 1997-98 year include:

1. Salary Issues - Raises and Inequity (by discipline and gender)
2. Benefits - Keep informed and fight efforts to move to HMO.
3. Computing and Libraries - Keep informed on needs and funding.
4. Proposal to move control of Student Recreation Center to Athletics
5. Proposal to move control of Student Health Center to CCHS
6. Lottery (as a funding method for education)

Rona requested that senators should contact either co-chair (Rona Donahoe or Lee Pike) with additional agenda items, and that the first Committee meeting will be October 7th at 3:30 PM in the Bruno Library conference room, second floor.

Bob Sigler, **Student Affairs** co-chair, reported that the committee was very active this past summer in the interviews for the Vice-President for Student Affairs.

Bob Hali, co-chair of the **Planning and Operations Committee**, reported that the committee will deal with University calendar issues and other issues as they occur.

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.

Bridges reported that under the leadership of Lt. Governor Don Siegelman and Finance and Taxation-Education Chairman Hank Sanders, the state Senate passed a proposed Senate budget improving appropriations for universities. The Senate gave each university at least a one percent increase plus money to cover the increase in the cost of retirement for the next year. A 2.5% increase, including money for retirement, was proposed for The University of Alabama.

Representative Tim Parker attempted to pass an amendment in the House Ways and Means Committee to add \$5 million to the appropriations for colleges and universities. The motion initially passed with a 9 to 5 vote. However, a motion was then made to reconsider the vote, and the favorable vote was subsequently reversed 8 to 5.

The House passed a budget giving universities the same appropriation as the current year with no additional funding to cover the increased payment for retirement. Rep. Albert Morton attempted to pass an amendment adding 4% million

dollars to address the retirement increase. Rep Bill Fuller tabled the amendment.

Bridges presented the following House voting record with respect to funding:

Voted for *level funding* for higher education: (54)

Mr. Speaker	Fuller	Kennedy	Murphree
Baker	Balliher	Knight, J.	Newton, D.
Bandy	Graham	Laird	Papucci
Black, L.	Guin	Layson	Robinson
Black, M.	Hall, A.	Letson	Seibenhener
Box	Hall, L.	Lindsey	Spratt
Burke	Hamilton	Mauil	Starkey
Buskey	Hawk	McAdory	Thomas, J.
Carter	Hayden	McClammy	Turner
Clark, W.	Hilliard	Melton	Warren
Collins	Hogan	Minnifield	White
Dolbare	Holmes	Mitchell	Willis
Drake	Houston	Moore	
Ford	Jackson	Morrow	

Voted against level funding *in favor of increased funding* for higher education: (45)

Allen	Haney	Morrison	Sanderson
Carns	Hawkins	Morton	Sims
Carothers	Hill	Newton, C.	Smith
Clouse	Hinshaw	Page	Thomas, D.
Crigler	Hooper	Parker, T.	Townsend
Curry	Johnson, R.	Payne	Turnham
Dean	Jorgensen	Penry	Vance
Dukes	Knight, A.	Petelos	Venable
Flowers	McDaniel	Pringle	Wren

Gaines	McKee	Rogers, J.
Gaston	McMillan	Rogers, M.
Gipson	Millican	Sanderford

Not voting: (6)

Boyd	Johnson, E.	Perdue
Hammett	Parker, P.	Reed

Bridge stated that it is time to thank Lt. Governor Don Siegelman and Finance and Taxation-Education Chairman Hank Sanders for their support. Bridges said that it was also appropriate to thank Tim Parker and Charles Steele.

New Business

Chuck Hobby received a unanimous vote to serve as the Senate Parliamentarian.

The following committee assignments to liaison to university committees were unanimously approved.

University Committee	Senate Liaison
Undergraduate Programs and Services	Joe Benson
Academics and Athletics	Peggy Jessee
Awards	Stephen Tomlinson
Biosafety Research	John Vincent
Campus Master Plan	Philip Johnson
Committee on University Committees	Ray White
Conflict of Interest Policy	Brian Gray
Core Curriculum Oversight	Pat Cotter
Energy Management Committee	David Vold
Equal Opportunity	Karla Carmichael
Faculty and Staff Benefits	Ruby Morrison
Graduate Council	Bill Rule
Graduate Scholarship	Marcia Winter

Health and Safety	Ashley Evans
Human Relations Council	Pat Green
Information Technology	Ray White
Institution Animal Care and Use Committee	Amy Ward
Institutional Review for Human Subjects	Nick Stinnett
Intercollegiate Athletics Committee	Margaret Garner, Rhoda Johnson
Interim Program Coordinating Committee	David Beito
International Education Committee	Nancy Rubin
Libraries	Loy Singleton
Media Planning Board	James Taylor
Parking and Traffic Regulations	Robert Ingram
Research Advisory Committee	Charles Leathers
Resources and Priorities	Margaret Garner, Rona Donahoe
ROTC Programs Review	Marion Paris
Selection of Deans, etc.	Chad Hilton
Staff Development	Wythe Holt
Student and Campus Life	Bob Sigler and Bob Brooks
Student Health	Jena Barrett
Teacher Education Council	Pat Bauch
University Press	Larry Clayton

A short discussion occurred about how to handle people who want to address the senate. Margaret Garner suggested short 30-minute meetings. Ruby Morrison suggest a forum open to other faculty and advertised in Dialog. Wythe Holt indicated that the Senate voted last year to hold open the 4th Tuesday of every month for such meetings.

Marcus Brown informally polled the Senate to determine if most people were using the most recent version of Netscape.

The senate adjourned at 4:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Novak, Secretary

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