

UA Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

25 August 1998

corrected minutes

Highlights

- [New Senate Administrative Secretary Linda Knowles introduced](#)
- [Outreach document update](#)
- [Changes in University Standing Committees](#)
 - University Press liason not renewed
 - Campus Safety & Security Committee was reestablished
 - Core Curriculum Committee merged into the Undergraduate Programs and Services Committee
- [Legislative Activities](#)
 - interviews with Lt. Gov candidates
 - Higher Education Partnership (PAC)
- [Continuous Quality Improvement \(CQI\) Forum -- 24 September](#)
- [Update on Athletic Certification process](#)
- [Update on +/- grading system](#)
- [Faculty encouraged to join Higher Education Partnership \(higher ed PAC\)](#)

3:30pm --- Ferguson Forum

- Senate Roll Call --- (*Ray White*)
 - Senators absent: Laszlo Baksay, David Beito, Mindy Taggard, Charles Leathers, James Taylor, Dexter Gordon, Lori McKinnon, Karla Carmichael, Ed Ellis, Ruby Morrison, Ike Adams
- Quorum check
- Approval/Correction of April Minutes --- (*Ray White*)
 - April minutes were approved without correction
- **President's Report** --- (*Margaret Garner*)
 - The Faculty Senate is very pleased to welcome Linda Knowles as the Administrative Secretary; she will be staffing the Senate office, 461 Alston Hall, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays
 - Outreach document update
 - Misinterpretations of intent and language have been ironed out in the Senate's proposed language for outreach in the Faculty Handbook. The definition of service has been expanded and viable service areas have been clarified. Dean Cully Clark informally remarks that the language is certainly saleable to the Council of Deans. Senate V.P. Rob Ingram and Dean Clark will take a summary to the Council of Deans. There is a copy of the Outreach Document on the Senate web pages. There should be closure on this document in the near future.
 - Faculty Senate liasons to University Standing Committees
 - Updated copies of the University Standing Committees were e-mailed to Faculty Senate members.
 - There have been changes in a few University Standing Committees since last year:
 - the University Press liason was not renewed, since its Editorial Board is dominated by UA faculty and administrators (including the Board chair, who will give reports to the Senate) and the minimum term for Board members is 3 years, which is longer than a Senate term
 - Norman Stein suggested that this should be revisited. The Senate has offered to make longer standing representation, to accomodate the 3 year term of UA Press Editorial Board members, even allowing for the "Senate Liason" to serve after having rolled off Senate.
 - the Campus Safety & Security Committee was reestablished
 - the Core Curriculum Committee merged into the Undergraduate Programs and Services

Committee

- Legislative Activities
 - The Legislative Agenda Committee recently met with Lt. Governor candidates. University faculty were sought out by the candidates, which is due to the efforts of the Legislative Agenda Committee and the Faculty Senate.
 - A higher education Political Action Committee (PAC), called the Higher Education Partnership, is being formed to support candidates who support higher education in Alabama. Faculty participation is encouraged and more information will be forthcoming.
- Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)
 - Dr. Sorenson learned of the benefits of CQI through communication with educators across the country. Some CQI programs are more successful than others. Dr. Sorenson has made the decision to continue to look into this and employ someone to lead this initiative. There will be a CQI forum on September 24 at the Bryant Conference Center. Dean's offices will be asked to recommend participants, however, the participants will not be limited to these recommendations. Drs. Garner, Ingram and Ward visited universities involved in implementing this program. It has been in effect for six to eight years at Penn State and Wisconsin-Madison. This program embraces all campuses of Penn State. Penn State did a survey of faculty, staff and students. They asked for suggestions for improvement in key areas and followed and implemented some of those suggestions. This action was primarily taken in areas such as operating and service areas, building and grounds and mail service as opposed to classroom. An example of the type of problem addressed by this program is transforming the 90-day turnaround time for graduate students admission to only three or four days. No one has been hired to lead the initiative at this point. Bill Rose is a volunteer consultant to the President's Office and presented an overview of CQI at a previous Steering Committee meeting. The impression from that meeting was generally positive.

The upcoming forum on 24 September at the Bryant Conference Center will give everyone an opportunity to acquire information. The speakers at the forum will be

- Dr. John Brighton, Provost, Penn State
- Ms. Louise Sandmeyer, Director of Quality, Penn State and
- Dr. Warren Porter, Zoology chair, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Philip Johnson suggested that someone talk about programs that did not work, to learn from those examples, as well. Norm Stein expressed concern that a business model is not appropriate for the University. The decision to go through with this has apparently already been made, independent of faculty input. The speakers coming to the Forum have a vested interest in the CQI program at their institutions. Why not invite random people from these institutions? Margaret Garner replied that she spoke to the Faculty Senate presidents at each institution she visited and that Amy Ward spoke to a faculty friend at Wisconsin. All comments were positive.

In continued discussion, the cost of implementing CQI was raised as a concern. For example, a new administrator is being brought in to lead the initiative. It was suggested that the Senate needs to closely monitor this point. Dr. Garner responded that the administrative position is not a new position, but filling a vacant position from the University's previous attempt to implement a CQI. Nancy Rubin mentioned that a CQI program was very successfully implemented at Capstone Medical Center and she thought that such a program could be positive for the University. Margaret Garner concluded the discussion by encouraging Senators to keep their level of interest and to participate in the upcoming forum. Senators were also encouraged to attend to bring CQI-related questions to a meeting with Bill Rose; a head count was requested to make sure the size of the President's Conference Room is sufficient for those interested.

- Update on Athletic Certification process
 - The athletic certification process is going very well. A copy of the self study will be placed in the University Library. The Faculty Senate has representation on this committee and it has been

requested that the representative not be changed every year. To have the same representation on the committee will give continuity to the issues they confront. Gene Marsh sent a copy of the Committee Report and Updates to Dr. Garner and there will be a copy placed in the University Library for everyone to access.

- Reports from Senate Committees:
 - Academic Affairs --- (*Marvin Johnson & Marion Paris*)
 - Update on +/- grading system

One complete cohort has now passed through +/- system. The mean GPA at the University has been recently calculated without +/- and is only 0.024 greater than the mean GPA calculated with +/- . Other universities were canvassed for their current grading system. The Academic Affairs committee will convene a public forum on the +/- system but will first make a more formal proposal to the Senate later. There may be a referendum on the +/- issue.
 - Financial Affairs --- (*Robert McLeod & David Arnold*)
 - Robert McLeod talked with Harry Price of the University Resources and Priorities committee to establish common grounds and concerns
 - Planning and Operations --- (*Philip Johnson & Jerry Webster*)
 - the proposed Campus Master Plan update is available on the web at bama.ua.edu/~landmgt/planupdate.htm
 - Research and Service --- (*Bing Blewitt & Betty Bryce*)
 - will be revisiting the "varying teaching load" issue with regard to tenure and promotion
 - Student Affairs --- (*Bob Sigler & Mike Miller*)
 - no report
 - Senate Operations --- (*Nick Stinnett*)
 - no report
- Reports from Senators on University Standing Committees
 - no reports
- Reports from other Committees
 - Legislative Agenda --- (*Scott Bridges*)
 - Scott Bridges encouraged faculty to:
 - participate in election campaigns; this would help increase visibility of higher education to legislators' eyes
 - join the Higher Education Partnership, a newly formed PAC supporting legislative candidates who support higher education
- OLD Business
 - Shared Governance document ---- (*Nick Stinnett*)
 - The governance document is on hold. Justice cannot be done to the governance document and to the Faculty Handbook if worked on at the same time. The committee is working on the finer details of the Handbook.
- NEW Business
 - President Sorensen will be holding a University-wide faculty meeting 16 September at 10am or 10:30am
 - Candidates for the Directorship of Seebeck Computer Center will be interviewed in September and October
 - Dean Mason has reserved office space for Faculty Senate meetings in 123 Bidgood, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 PM until 5:00 PM