

CORRECTED MINUTES

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

September 16, 1997

120 Farrah Hall

3:30 PM

The [minutes for April 1997](#) were approved without corrections.

President's Report

Margaret Garner, Faculty Senate President, first reported on the State Core Curriculum and General Studies Committee (SCGS). Since the August meeting, the UA Senate has collaborated with the UAB and Auburn senates to present a joint resolution passed in June 1997 to the full committee. Dr. Charlotte Borst from UAB had requested time for a short presentation at the regularly scheduled meeting on Sept. 12th. Dr. Borst gave a summary of the background leading to the joint resolution, described a need for broad interpretation of the law and the importance of institutional autonomy, and requested that there be no extension beyond the original 41 hours for general studies. Her comments were followed by brief statements from Garner and Gary Swanson of Auburn and then open discussion and questions from the group. The major concerns are focused on the essentiality of flexibility and respect for the diversity that exists among the campuses. Garner stated that the senior flagship institutions should not be restricted in any way from retaining and encouraging the broad range of opportunities for students which our faculty offer. Regarding the degree requirements for specific majors, it is absolutely essential that decisions remain with the faculty at the senior institutions. Frequently during the meeting, representatives referred to the Georgia law upon which the Alabama law was based and the model informally adopted by the SCGS. According to this model, decisions for degree requirements remain solely with the senior institutions. The Chief Council of Academic Officers have met and prepared a report, "Achieving Consensus on the Make-up of Area V," which was first presented to the SCGS on September 12th and adopted. Garner is requesting a copy of the disc so that this report and implementation plan can be placed on the Senate web page as soon as possible. Amy Ward and Garner attended the meeting, representing the Senate. Garner asked Amy to be the Senate's continuing representative so that that the Senate can be kept informed in a timely manner, particularly this year when so much is still in the formative stages. Garner reported that the discipline committees are meeting now. Some are much further along than others. Those affecting the professional schools have the additional support of accreditation standards; those without such guidelines, which includes many majors in Arts and Sciences, may have a more difficult task.

Garner reported on Senate appointments. The search committee for the position, Director of Admission and Financial Aid, will be headed by Dr. Hank Lazer. Senate Vice President Ray White will serve as the Senate representative. The search committee for the position, Director of Registration and Records, will be chaired by Dr. Priscilla Hancock. Senator Marcus Brown will be the Senate representative.

The Greek Life Task Force announced by the President recently will be reviewing issues related to alcohol and drug use and diversity in the Greek community. Its membership involves faculty, administrators in Student Life, students, and alumni. The Senate representative to the task force is Senator James Taylor, a member of the Student Affairs Committee.

Garner then discussed the Outreach Document. The document and the recommendations for including it into the Faculty Handbook have been shared with the Council of Deans. Based on conversations with the Provost, Dr. Ron Rogers is leading an effort to respond with some alternative language. Garner talked with Rogers and was able to clarify some issues. Rogers seems positive toward the document and remains optimistic that agreements can be reached. The President has made it clear in his public comments and his vision for the University that outreach is a

valued part of our role citing expanding outreach activities as one of the five general areas of emphasis.

Garner reported that the Provost has prepared a paper, "*Drawing Strategy from Vision: A White Paper for Discussion*," which will be published in Dialog. The purpose is to provide a wide range of opportunities for discussion and input to the "future directions and its related allocation of resources over the next five years." Review of numerous recommendations from task forces, committees and special reports over the past year provided background information in addition to the President's "Vision for The University of Alabama." The Senate Standing Committees will be asked to review the document for comment and recommendations from the Senate to the Provost.

The constitution ballot was the next item of discussion. Garner asked the Senate to urge the faculty to review and vote so that there will be a significant input from the faculty at large.

Garner urged all senators to check their email daily so that the committee work and other announcements can be transmitted in a timely manner.

The President has asked Garner to address the President's Executive Council on September 30th, recommending ways the Senate and the Council can work together more effectively. The President continues to seek advice from the Senate and to demonstrate respect for faculty roles in University governance. Garner asked the Senate to send comments by email as soon as possible.

Garner made the following announcements. The University of Alabama Board of Trustees meets in Tuscaloosa on Friday (September 19) at the Bryant Conference Center. Garner will provide a report updating the Board on Senate activities over the summer and some of the plans for this year. Garner intends to strongly share the Senate's disappointment with the lack of state funding and the deplorable state of faculty salaries.

The random selection of faculty for availability to any tribunals has been completed and faculty will be receiving letters soon. In addition, Joe Benson has been appointed as the faculty liaison as provided in the Grievance Document.

Garner made the following additional announcements: The Senate was urged to review the letter from the provost identifying a position for Director of Faculty Development. Applications are being accepted through the end of September. UA enrollment showed an overall increase of about 1% with an increase of 200 transfer students (total of 1300) and a change in the mix of students representing an increase in in-state students and a decrease in out-of-state students. There are 100 National Merit Scholars for the '97-98 year, a record number.

Reports from Senate Committees

Jim Richardson and Peggy Jessee, co-chairs of the **Academic Affairs** committee reported that the committee reviewed five recommendations from the Council of Assistant and Associate Deans concerning proposed changes in academic policies. These recommendations were based on the report from the Recruitment and Retention Task Force. The committee agreed with the following four proposed changes:

1. Minimum Scholastic Standards Policy:

- a. Place decision-making regarding readmission after probation/suspension with the deans. (This decision had previously been with the Office of Admissions).
- b. Establish rules for second or subsequent suspensions. (There were only rules for the first suspension).
- c. Scholastic Progress Standard scale should be made more rigorous. The alternative scale was suggested by the Council of Assistant and Associate Deans. (New scale changes GPA for 0-32 hours earned from 1.40 to 1.50; 33-64 hours from 1.60 to 1.70; 65-96 hours from 1.80-1.90; 97-112 hours from 1.90 and above 113 hours from 2.00 to 97 and above hours to 2.00).

1. Academic Second Opportunity Policy: Reduce the number of years a student must separate from the University to return with a "clean slate" from 8 to 3 years.

2. 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). (The old policy figured the "I" as an "F" in the overall GPA and there was no set time period for removal of the "I").

3. **Withdraw Policy:** No changes to the withdrawal policy. (The SGA had proposed extending the withdrawal period but the council recommended against it because of adverse effects on administrative and planning needs of the University).

Proposed:

Forgiveness Policy: A student will be able to drop 10 hours (currently a student can drop three courses). Also, individual colleges would no longer be able to specify courses that cannot be dropped from the GPA calculations.

With regard to the fifth recommendation, the committee has the following suggestions:

- a. The forgiveness policy needs to be re-proposed in connection with the Academic Bankruptcy policy.
- b. Considering the range of requirements in the various programs across units, the practicality of a common forgiveness policy needs to be evaluated.
- c. If there is going to be a common Forgiveness Policy, it should be approved by a full faculty vote.

In addition, the committee discussed three other issues that the Provost asked the Senate to consider:

Plus/minus grading policy, applicability of undergraduate catalog to students not continuously enrolled during a four-year period, and the "C" rule.

Lee Pike and Rona Donahoe, co-chairs of the **Financial Affairs** Committee reported that two statements rumored to be attributable to the director of the Russell Student Health Center were brought to their attention by the Faculty Senate president. The rumored statements related to two separate issues, 1) managed care and 2) the administrative authority for the Student Health Center. The information in question came out of a Student Affairs meeting held during the past three weeks. Lee Pike contacted Mr. John Robertson, director of the student health center, to seek clarification.

Managed care: It was reported that the director of the student health center had stated that "managed care" for faculty/staff is definitely coming to the University. When contacted, Mr. Robertson said that he had not heard that managed care was coming and that he did not know of any specific initiatives. He talked briefly about his observation of some of the places where managed care capitalized products were born and how they were not working out well. He went on to say that, in general, he was not automatically opposed to a managed care product as long as the incentives were there for good reason and not to line the pockets of an insurance company. Mr. Robertson offered to contact the Financial Affairs Committee co-chair if he learned of any action on the issue of managed care.

Russell Student Health Center: It was reported that the director of the student health center had stated that the student health center was being transferred from Student Affairs to the College of Community Health Sciences. When contacted, Mr. Robertson indicated that back in April there had been a lot of discussion about combining the student health center with CCHS. However, he said that in a meeting held approximately three weeks ago President Sorensen had stated that he wanted to make it clear that no decision had been made. Mr. Robertson added that, as far as he knew, it isn't going to happen and the center will remain in Student Affairs. He indicated that he looked forward to working with Dr. Brown next year.

Bob Sigler and Bob Brooks, co-chairs of the **Student Affairs** Committee, reported that the Committee was evaluating the need for a resolution addressing the segregation of the Greek system on campus. Pat Hermann has addressed a meeting of the Committee. This initiative has received some coverage in the local press.

A working group headed by Bob Brooks is evaluating the need for a resolution opposing the sale of alcohol at the student union. It is noted that several of the directors of divisions of student affairs believe that in order to teach our students responsible behavior in an environment in which alcohol is served, we need to expand the range of opportunities for students to consume alcohol in structured situations on campus.

The Committee evaluated the need to express an opinion regarding an article in the Crimson White promoting the use of drinking games to make the consumption of alcohol more enjoyable (promote binge drinking). It appears that the issue has been addressed in an appropriate manner by student affairs. We will continue to monitor the Crimson White.

Plans are being implemented to increase student enrollment to 20,000.

Bob Halli, co-chair of the **Planning and Operations** Committee, postponed a discussion of changes in the Summer Schedule until new business was discussed.

Bill Rule presented Philip Johnson's report on the Campus Master Plan. The Campus Master Plan committee has met twice already this semester - both special sessions. Session 1 - Johnson was not notified of this meeting and has only hearsay information so far. Apparently Bob Bockrath or one of his staff met with the committee to present plans for major expansion of the athletic facilities. This would include expansion of the student recreation center and installation of some new facilities in the fields near the center.

Session 2 - 11 Sept - This meeting was directed to the location of the new Alabama Institute for Manufacturing Excellence (AIME) building. This is to be a "showpiece" building for the north end of campus. The architects are leaning strongly toward locating in front of the Bevill building on the grassy knoll by the swimming pool. They also offered a second location in the parking lot just north of Ferguson center.

The first location is architecturally sound (good location, showpiece for the university, etc.) but it conflicts with the campus master plan, in which this area and most of the parking lot north of Ferguson are slated to become a grassy parkland. The second location is consistent with the master plan, but apparently it would require some very expensive relocation of utilities, and since this is a laboratory building with large external equipment (air conditioners, loading dock, etc.) it would be tough to accomplish the "showpiece" goal in that spot.

The committee voted for a third site, the NE corner of the intersection of Campus Drive and Hackberry. The architects feel that the visibility is too low there, and that it would face the unsightly rears of the existing engineering buildings. However the building would improve the looks of that unsightly corner, is central to all of engineering, would be an easy location in which to hide the external equipment, and is at the *defacto* northern entrance to campus. Furthermore, the committee was very loathe to give-up the plan for a "northern quad."

On a final note from the meeting - it is time to update the master plan, but the provost is not convinced of the need.

Bill Andreen reported that the **Senate Operations** Committee was evaluating when electronic voting should be used, but the Committee was a long way from drafting a proposal. Andreen also stated that, after doing some research, the Senate agenda does not have to be distributed one week in advance of a Senate meeting; instead, it only needs to be distributed during the week prior to the meeting. He also mentioned voting for the changes in the constitution.

Reports from Senators on University Committees

Larry Clayton presented a report on the relocation of the University of Alabama Press, along with the following statement from the Editorial Board:

The Editorial Board of The University of Alabama Press strongly recommends that the University administration find appropriate space on the campus, or in the immediate vicinity, to relocate the Press, now being forced to vacate its quarters at the old Fort Brandon Armory.

The possibility of estranging the Press in some downtown office building is extremely troubling in the Board's view. Such a location would remove the Press from the University community and could well initiate an unalterable step toward the alienation of the Press from the University. The relocation would send the wrong message to the communities the Press serves.

The Press is one of the most visible symbols of the University's commitment to scholarship and the advancement of

knowledge. Its books reach thousands of reader in the State and Nation and help reinforce the most important element in the nature of a University-a place to foster learning and advance knowledge-in the public's mind. The University is, after all, a public institution with a broad constituency and broad goals. It is necessary to enhance those parts of the University community-such as The University of Alabama Press- which reach that constituency and foment our goals.

The Press is not a commercial activity that can be expected easily to prosper and grow while physically removed from the University. The Press is an integral part of the academic community, devoted to promoting and disseminating knowledge, and necessarily thrives best when literally located in the University community. Right now, even at the Fort Brandon Armory site, the Press is somewhat removed and thus alienated from the University.

There is ample space on campus to house the full range of the Press's activities, from editing to warehousing and distributing its products. The Bureau of Mines building is one such area. Gorgas Hall, to be vacated by the University Police, is another.

We strongly urge the administration to scrutinize once again the priorities it wishes to promote in the long run at The University of Alabama. If scholarship, learning, and the production and dissemination of knowledge are foremost among them, then we urge in the strongest possible terms that the Press be given ample space on, or in the very near vicinity of, the campus.

New Business

Bob Halli, Co-chair of the Planning and Operations Committee, made the following proposal with respect to the Summer Schedule:

- The thirteen consecutive week block of Interim and Summer Terms will begin on the first Monday after May 11.
- Interim Term shall remain structured exactly as it is now.
- There shall be twenty-two class days in each Summer Term. Classes shall begin at 8, 10, 12, 2, 4 or later. For a three credit hour course, each class period shall be 105 minutes long.
- The Monday following the completion of Interim Term and the Monday following the completion of first Summer Term shall be reserved for Testing and Orientation/Late Registration/Drop-Add.
- The classes of each Summer Term shall begin the next day, Tuesday.
- July 4 shall be a holiday.
- Final examinations shall begin on the day following the twenty-second class day (unless, in first term, that day is July 4, in which case examinations will be July 5 and 6) and shall be scheduled over 6 examination periods in two days. If July 4 does not fall on a Saturday, the second examination day of first term will be a Saturday. Final examinations for second term will fall on a Thursday and a Friday.

The proposal passed unanimously.

The rules were suspended to vote on the four proposed changes to Academic Policy that were supported and discussed in the Academic Affairs report.

Minimum Scholastic Standards Policy: Passed unanimously.

Academic Second Opportunity Policy: Passed unanimously.

Failing and Incomplete Grades Policy: Passed by a 28 to 9 vote.

Withdraw Policy: Passed unanimously.

The senate adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Novak, Secretary

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