

corrected minutes

Highlights

- [ACHE to consider performance-based funding for state universities](#)
- [CQI Forum 24 September](#)
- [Service/outreach supplement to Faculty Handbook nearly finalized](#)
- [Salary compression to be reviewed again in light of recent raises](#)
- [Greek Diversity Task Force recommendations endorsed](#)
- [Faculty encourage to join Higher Education Partnership](#)
- [Legislative Candidate Forum in Montgomery 1 October](#)

3:30pm --- Mortarboard Room, Ferguson Center

- Senate Roll Call & Quorum Check --- (*Ray White*)
 - Senators Absent: Laszlo Baksay, Harvey Kline, Mindy Taggard, Charles Leathers, Nancy Rubin, David Arnold, Norman Stein, James Adams, Marcia Winter
- Approval/Correction of August Minutes --- (*Ray White*) --- [*e-mailed*]
 - minutes were approved with minor corrections
- **President's Report** --- (*Margaret Garner*)
 - Margaret Garner made reference to her recent reports to the Board of Trustees and to the faculty during President Sorensen's fall faculty meeting. Two major themes were emphasized: 1) attaining effective communication between the administration, alumnae, staff, and our community; 2) citing evidence of excellence at UA -- we are attracting quality students and have excellent faculty, research and outreach. The University of Alabama is a good buy for students. The reports can be found at the Faculty Senate web site at www.ua.edu/facsen/pres.html
 - ACHE (Alabama Commission on Higher Education) has recently formed a faculty advisory panel; Margaret Garner & Rob Ingram are our representatives on this panel. A critical issue is the likely implementation of performance-based funding. It is very important that the different missions of various universities in the state be taken into account when assessing performance. Universities with a research mission, i.e. those with doctoral programs, should be judged with different performance criteria than universities which have no research mission. An upcoming meeting on 1 October will discuss performance measures. Nationally, 26 states have moved to performance based funding and 18 are more considering it. Florida has a creative model for performance, acknowledging the different missions of its universities
 - Forum on Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) 24 September
 - Senators are encouraged to attend to represent faculty interests
 - Outreach document update
 - The senate's proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook regarding service and outreach are on the verge of administrative acceptance
 - the service/outreach document proposed as an appendix to the Faculty Handbook can be found at www.ua.edu/facsen/policies/service.html
 - proposed changes in the body of the Faculty Handbook can be found at www.ua.edu/facsen/policies/outreach2.html
 - Legislative Activities
 - There will be a legislative Candidate Forum in the Montgomery Civic Center on 1 October; sponsored by the Higher Education Partnership (HEP); this is a statewide effort by representatives from all fifteen 4yr institutions to discuss educational issues with candidates for Governor and Lt.

Governor.

- **Vice President's Report** --- (*Rob Ingram*)

- Rob Ingram summarized several meetings related to CQI --- [*see [attachment](#)*]
- Rob also described his assessment that the University Press does not need a Faculty Senate liaison --- [*see [attachment](#)*]

- **Reports from Senate Committees:**

- Academic Affairs --- (*Marvin Johnson & Marion Paris*)
 - Marvin Johnson gave an update on the review of the +/- grading system; the committee hopes to finish their deliberation at their meeting next week
- Financial Affairs --- (*Robert McLeod & David Arnold*)
 - Robert McLeod reported that the Financial Affairs committee will be looking again at salary compression at the University, to see if this year's raises did much to rectify the situation.
 - The committee will also be looking into the methods used by the university in allocating year end funds and making sure that the university Resources & Priorities standing committee has adequate notice
- Planning and Operations --- (*Philip Johnson & Jerry Webster*) --- no report
- Research and Service --- (*Bing Blewitt & Betty Bryce*)
 - Bing Blewitt reported that Research & Service continues to review language in the Faculty Handbook regarding variable teaching load language, to insure that it is properly taken into account in tenure/promotion/salary decisions. The committee remains split on whether existing Handbook language is adequate, so each committee member will confer with their faculty to see if this a significant issue.
- Student Affairs --- (*Bob Sigler & Mike Miller*)
 - Bob Sigler reports that the committee met and discussed the reports of the Task forces on diversity, use of the quad on football weekends, and the SGA. After some discussion the committee decided to prepare a resolution (see below under New Business) supporting the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on Greek Diversity, decided to accept the report of the Task Force on the Use of the Quad without comment, and to table the report from the Task Force on the SGA.
 - The committee anticipates that the report of the Task Force on the SGA will produce a number of specific revisions of the recommendations and will monitor this process and the evolution of the SGA carefully.
 - The committee did not discuss the disintegration of services for international students last spring. It is our understanding that steps have been taken to restore these services. We will monitor this situation in the coming months.
- Senate Operations --- (*Nick Stinnet*)
 - Nick Stinnett alluded to a resolution regarding senator Charles Leathers' absences; Leathers reported to Stinnet that he will not be attending Senate meetings

- **Reports from Senators on University Standing Committees**

- University Awards
 - Carmen Taylor reported that their 1st meeting was yesterday, and several upcoming awards were reviewed
- Student Life
 - Bob Sigler reported that financial affairs (i.e. distribution of student funds) is a hot issue in the Student Life committee; other committee functions include SGA oversight and monitoring academic affairs

- **Reports from other Committees**

- Legislative Agenda --- (*Scott Bridges*)
 - Scott Bridges encouraged faculty involvement in political campaigns and asked that faculty so involved please contact him (fax number is 8-1473).

- Scott encouraged faculty to join the Higher Education Partnership (HEP), a PAC organized to encourage legislators (and candidates) to support higher education.
- Scott reported on the upcoming HEP-sponsored Candidate Forum in Montgomery on 1 October; all candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor have been invited; candidates already agreeing to come are Don Siegelman for Governor and Dwayne Freeman for Lt. Governor.
- The Legislative Agenda Committee has met twice since the last senate meeting; they will be distributing maps to faculty which will associate political candidates with legislative districts.
- Scott reminded the senate that three years ago there was apparently no University- or System-wide plan to address state educational funding issues; now there is a plan and the HEP has been created to encourage legislators and legislative candidates to take higher education funding more seriously. Furthermore, three years ago, there was no plan to involve faculty and staff in university efforts; now faculty and staff involvement is part of the plan

- **OLD Business**

- Merger/Discontinuance

- Ray White reported that the senate's proposed modifications to the guidelines for the merger/discontinuance of academic units has been modified: the proposed Task Force is now optional (in the sense that a Task Force will be convened only if one of the affected parties insists upon it) and the proposed timeline has been shortened, so that a merger/discontinuance can be administered within one semester.

- **NEW Business**

- Student Affairs proposed a resolution endorsing the Greek Diversity Task Force report --- [[attachment](#)]
 - there was a proposal from the floor to table the resolution until the next senate meeting, to give more time for senators to review the recommendation report, which was recently placed on the senate web site
 - Bill Gonzenbach asked why we were concerning ourselves with Greek issues; Bob Sigler replied that there are various Greek issues that reflect visibly on the University, so faculty have an interest
 - the proposal to delay a vote on the resolution was rejected and the resolution passed by a majority vote (with several dissenting votes)
- Nick Stinnett (Senate Operations Committee) reported that he sent a letter to Dr. Charles Leathers stating that, due to excessive absences, according to the Senate constitution, his senate seat would be declared vacant. Dr. Leathers apparently disagrees with the "political" activity of the Senate and has boycotted Senate meetings. Leathers stated that he did not intend to attend any future meetings. Stinnett offered a resolution regarding the replacement of senator Charles Leathers [*see* [attachment](#)]. The resolution passed unanimously
- Philip Johnson will be the Faculty Senate representative on a new university committee looking at long range planning for student computer resources
- Jim Taylor will be the senate representative from the student affairs committee on a new diversity oversight committee
- Senators are asked to please send their updated e-mail address to Ray White (white@merkin.astr.ua.edu)
- October 5 is the next meeting of the Senate Steering Committee with a candidate for the directorship of Seebeck Computing Center
- Marguerite Zoghby (SGA executive vice president) invited faculty senators to a reception sponsored by the Student Government Association on 28 October, from 4-5pm in the Anderson Room at the Ferguson Center
- Margaret Garner closed the meeting by encouraging senators to join the Legislative Agenda Committee, which wants to double its membership

Report on Meetings about Continuous Quality Improvement

--- Rob Ingram

The Steering Committee met with Bill Rose on September 3. Bill discussed reasons he believed the University needed to consider the quality issue and why it could be valuable. He then answered questions from faculty. These questions made clear that faculty were concerned about this matter.

Margaret Garner and Rob Ingram met with the Quality Council on September 4. Provost Barrett is in charge of this effort and lead the discussion. Bill Rose summarized the previous efforts of the University to develop a quality initiative. The Council watched a video about how organizations needed to be aware of changes in their environments. The announcement was made that John Dew had been hired as the director of this program. The Forum on September 24th was discussed. The Council discussed the pros and cons of the program and was made aware that there was concern about the need for this program and about how it was being administered.

President Sorensen met with the Steering Committee at its regular meeting on September 15. He noted that he believed there was a need for improvement in some administrative processes on campus and believed the quality program could be a mechanism for solving existing problems. In response to questions, he specifically noted that he did not see the program as a device for cutting staff or faculty positions. Further, he noted that involvement of academic programs would be voluntary. The program is being paid for by savings from reductions in administrative positions. The position of director already exists but has been unfilled since 1996.

Report on Faculty Representation on UA Press

--- *Rob Ingram*

I spoke with Nicole Mitchell, Director of the UA Press. She indicated that the Editorial Review Board is no longer a standing University Committee. The purpose of the Board is to review manuscripts and vote on whether or not to publish them. The Board is composed of eight representatives of the UA faculty (Barbara Chotiner, Cully Clark, Howard Jones, Diane Roberts, Hank Lazer, Barry Mason, Charles Osburn, and Harriett Smith-Somerville are current members) and five representatives of the other doctoral degree institutions in Alabama (UAB, UAH, Auburn, Alabama A&M, and South Alabama). There is only one university press in the State. Members serve a three-year term (and often are reappointed).

Nicole indicated a willingness to report to the Senate on an ongoing basis and a willingness to have a Senate representative on the Board. However, the representative would need to serve in an editorial capacity. The report would consist of information on manuscripts accepted and rejected.

Based on the nature of the Board activities, I see no particular reason for a Senate representative.

RESOLUTION Regarding Greek Diversity Task Force Report --- (see www.ua.edu/facsen/docs/greek.html)

Whereas diversity is essential to the life of the academic community

and

whereas systematic exclusion of any group within any university activities undermines this mission,

be it resolved that the Faculty Senate supports the recommendations of the Greek Diversity Task Force with the understanding that the university administration and representatives of the Faculty Senate will closely monitor the implementation of the regulations stated within the "Plan."

--- *Student Affairs Committee*

RESOLUTION Regarding Senate Attendance

Be it resolved that, in accordance with the Faculty Senate Constitution, the Faculty Senate seat of Dr. Charles Leathers, representing the College of Commerce & Business Administration, be declared vacant due to excessive absences and an expressed intention not to be actively involved in the Faculty Senate in the future.

--- *Senate Operations Committee*
