

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**January 11, 2000 - 309 Ferguson - 3:30 PM**

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting was held January 11, 2000 at 3:30 PM with the following in attendance: Rob Ingram, Margaret Garner, Don DeSmet, Carmen Johnson, Jerry Webster, Bill Andreen, Norm Stein, Pat Bauch, Marcia Evans, Bing Blewitt, Jim Taylor, Norman Baldwin and Bob Sigler.

The President, Rob Ingram began the meeting with the announcement of a meeting with the Provost on Thursday, January 14 in 254 Rose at 3:30 PM and asked for agenda items be sent to him.

The Human Relations Council has Sheri Causey as the new Chairperson.

**Faculty Voting Policy** - There seems to be a problem with the wording in this document and questions concerning the Graduate Council include: What is the relationship of the Graduate Council and Faculty Senate? Are there concerns that the Senate should have? Are there concerns that the Senate should have? Should graduates and undergraduates vote on the same issues? Should the Faculty Senate be instructed as to the issues they should address? It was unanimous that the Steering Committee members felt that the Faculty Senate should be free to consider any issue. Where is the accountability of the Graduate Council? There was extended discussion of these questions with the Faculty Handbook and Standing Committee booklet being consulted. Rob will meet with Ron Rogers to clarify some of these concerns. If this is not adequate, Rob will invite Ron to meet with the Steering Committee.

**Distinguished Service Award** - Norm Stein wants to nominate Chuck Hobby for this award. The Faculty Senate guidelines specify that a committee of five representatives from the five large standing committees be appointed. They would screen the nominations and recommend none, one or two to be considered. The rules governing this award are attached and will be posted on the Senate web page. The discussion was whether to follow these procedures, put them in the by-laws or change them. Retired faculty could be included in this committee. A general announcement to all faculty concerning making nominates will be made.

**Reimbursement Policy** - Reba Essary sent a memo regarding the University policy reimbursing travel expenses. Norm notes that a change in the policy indicated reimbursements would not be made after 60 days following the travel. Norm volunteered to head up an ad hoc committee to review these guidelines and made recommendations for revision. Bill Andreen is also on this committee.

**Vice President Report** - Peggy Jesse is now Chairman of \_\_\_\_\_ Pat is now the ombudsman and asked for suggestions on how to put this information before the faculty. The tradition of the Senate is for the Vice President to serve in this role. It was decided that a description of the duties of the ombudsman be determined. Pat will look at other institutions and their information about this position. This will be brought back to the Steering Committee.

**Academic Affairs** - *(Carmen Johnson & Don DeSmet)* No Report

**Financial Affairs** - *(Norman Baldwin & Bob McLeod)* No Report

**Planning & Operations** - *(Marcia Evans & Jerry Webster)* Jerry Webster reported a complaint referred to him by a faculty member. The faculty member reported that the faculty would be teaching 16 weeks in the spring and 15 weeks in the fall. Accordingly, this would affect making up any missed time. It was also suggested by this faculty member that the 8:00 and 9:00 AM classes on Honors Day be cancelled since most of the students skipped those classes. It was agreed by the members of the Steering Committee that neither of these issues should be pursued.

**Research & Service** - *(Steven MacCall & Bing Blewitt)* ACHE has not collected any additional data since their last meeting. Their efforts have been turned toward the budget and a meeting will be scheduled in the next week or so.

**Student Affairs - (Jim Taylor & Dexter Gordon)** No report.

**Senate Operations - (William Andreen & Bill Motes)** An attempt has been made to notify the deans about upcoming elections and the importance of a speedy election of senators. A list of those whose terms are expiring will be made and will be available. An additional explanation needs to be made concerning those who serve only one of a two year term.

A committee of five members of the five largest committees will be formed to identify one or more candidates willing to serve as officers of the Senate. Each committee will determine their representative.

Another request was made by Bill Andreen for each committee to turn in a brief description of the committee's duties and charge.

**Legislative Committee - (Margaret Garner & Scott Bridges)** This committee met last week and reported that this is a crisis week regarding the budget. With great urgency everyone was encouraged to write to the Governor and make a plea for funding for The University of Alabama and for a two to one split. These letters should be on personal stationary. The Governor said last year that he supported the two to one split but there is great pressure from Paul Hubbard for salary increases for K-12. The budget could be in the range of 6% down to a 3% cut. The written letters should be forwarded to Marion Loftin's office in turn will overnight them to Montgomery. A list server for staff is needed by this committee and hopefully it will be provided by Bill Jones. The Governor will present the budget on February 1.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.