

## **Report of the Faculty Life Committee**

University of Alabama Senate Standing Committee

October 24 and 30, 2000 Meetings

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The Committee considered the following matters at a meeting on October 24:

1. Wythe Holt provided a written summary of the Mediation document issues and proposed changes to the document. The Committee agreed to meet October 30 to discuss this matter.
2. The Committee considered the Domestic Partner Benefit proposal and agreed in principle to support the proposal. We were uncomfortable with how the proposal would be implemented and agreed to obtain additional information about what other universities were doing. We will report on our findings to the Senate.
3. Rob Ingram provided a list of suggestions from the Diversity Think Tank. The Committee agreed to review the suggestions and to consider how to pursue these issues in the future.
4. Mentoring of new faculty was a primary topic of discussion. The Committee believes that mentoring efforts are valuable and would like the University to support these efforts. However, we are concerned that these efforts be bottom-up efforts that meet the needs of individual faculty rather than being institutional efforts that may be well-intentioned but not applicable to the needs of individuals. Cornelius Carter and Jerry Rosiek have had experience with informal efforts to involve new faculty in networking and agreed to provide some ideas that would be the basis for a proposal to the Office of Academic Affairs for support of mentoring efforts. This proposal will be provided to the Senate for discussion as soon as it is available.

The Committee considered the following matters at a meeting on October 30:

1. The Committee approved a resolution supporting domestic partner benefits that will be presented at the next meeting of the Steering Committee.
  2. The Committee approved recommendations related to mediation and grievance procedures. These recommendations will be presented at the next meeting of the Steering Committee.
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