

FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

DECEMBER 13, 2005 – 3:30 PM – FERGUSON FORUM

APPROVED MINUTES

ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE: Brian Bishop, Carolyn Cassady Noel Engebretson, Martin Evans, Kari Frederickson, Jim Hall, Jeff Richetto, Tatiana Tsakiropoulou-Summers, Art Allaway, Harold Elder, John Mason, David Arnold, Norm Stein, Diedre Leaver-Dunn

ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE: Clark Midkiff/Kevin Chou; Lee Pike/Lisa Yuro

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Adam Jones, Tuscaloosa News

Roll call and quorum check by Karen Steckol.

The November 15, 2005 Faculty Senate meeting minutes were approved with corrections.

President's Report – (*Mathew Winston*) The January meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held in Shelby Hall. The meetings will be held there for the entire spring semester. The Steering Committee met last week with the director of the **Initiative for Ethic and Social Responsibility**. This is a center for ethic and social responsibility and is located in Temple-Tutwiler Hall. One of the programs developed by this group is a journalism and film-making class. This project is being used as a recruiting tool for the University.

Vice President's Report – (*John Vincent*) No report.

Secretary's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) Karen presented a **resolution** commending Dr. Guy Caldwell on his accomplishments in biology. He has been named 2005 Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. The Faculty Senate passed the resolution unanimously. The resolution is attached. Copies will be sent to Dr. Guy Caldwell, Dr. Robert Witt, Provost Judy Bonner, Dr. Caldwell's Department Chair and Dean.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Marcia Barrett*) No report.

Faculty Life – (*Steve Shepard/Natalie Adams & Nick Stinnet/Diedre Leaver-Dunn*) The definition of "faculty" is contradictory in the Faculty Handbook. This committee is addressing the grievance and mediation system in Appendix B in the Faculty Handbook. There is a need to establish a definition of faculty to be used in the grievance and mediation system. In this section of the Handbook, faculty is categorized as person with tenure or a probationary appointment. In Chapter I of the Handbook, reference is made to the Faculty Senate. In 1999 the Faculty Senate voted to change the definition of faculty only for the purpose of voting in a faculty campus-wide referendum. The change was made for the faculty campus-wide referendum on the plus/minus issue. This definition included all permanent and temporary full-time faculty members. No definition of the term "permanent" is used in the criteria for employment in Chapter II of the Faculty Handbook. The disparity in the various definitions of faculty is very important now and

will be in the future, particularly since the University is on a course of expansion. The Academic Affairs Committee is currently going through the Handbook in an effort to update the information it contains. Discussion included the points that categories are increasing and more complex, staff does not have professional rank, and the process to be used to correct the handbook. It was suggested that this issue go back to committee for a proposal to be brought before the Steering Committee. It was also suggested to form an ad hoc committee to address this issue. It was also suggested for Mathew Winston to discuss this issue in his meeting with the Provost. This brought about a discussion concerning the procedure to follow in a faculty wide referendum. This was quoted from the Faculty Handbook, "This Handbook will be revised periodically. The revision process will include consultation with the Council of Deans and with the Steering Committee of the Faculty Senate. Suggestions for changes should be addressed to the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs".

Financial Affairs – (*Jeanette Vandermeer & Jim Hall*) No report.

Research & Service – (*Clark Midkiff & Dee Goldston*) No report. This committee is looking into the process used to appoint members to the Research Advisory Committee.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Kim Andrus*) No report.

Student Affairs – (*Priscilla Davis & Karen Burgess*) A memorandum was presented by this committee concerning students traveling to Montgomery, Alabama for Higher Education Day. Faculty members are requested to excuse absences by those students participating in this event. Higher Education Day is supported by UA Chancellor Portera and President Witt as a means of advocating for higher education. This will be sent to the faculty by Mathew Winston this month with a reminder being sent in February before Higher Education Day in March.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) No report.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 PM

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA FACULTY SENATE

RESOLUTION COMMENDING DR. GUY CALDWELL

Whereas, Dr. Guy Caldwell, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at The University of Alabama was recently named the state's 2005 Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education; and

Whereas, Dr. Caldwell has shown excellence in developing multiple biology courses made possible through grants from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to The University of Alabama; and

Whereas, Dr. Caldwell received a National Science Foundation CAREER award to support his teaching and research; and

Whereas, Dr. Caldwell has had a student named to the USA Today All-USA Academic Team for each of the past 4 years; and

Whereas, in addition to 4 of his students receiving a USA Today All-USA Academic Team award, Dr. Caldwell's students in the past five years have won two Goldwater scholarships, a Truman scholarship, a Benjamin Cummings Biology Prize and a Merit Award from the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and

Whereas, Dr. Caldwell includes his students in his laboratory work which has drawn financial support from the March of Dimes, the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, the National Parkinson Foundation, the Bachmann-Strauss Dystonia and the Parkinson Foundation and the National Institutes of Health; and

Whereas, Dr. Caldwell's scientific discoveries have drawn international attention by demonstrating that a specific protein protects against the loss of the brain neurons whose demise leads to Parkinson's disease; therefore,

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of The University of Alabama congratulates Dr. Guy Caldwell for his outstanding achievements in teaching, research and service; and

Be it further resolved that the Faculty Senate of The University of Alabama recognizes and congratulates his outstanding achievement of being named the state of Alabama's 2005 Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

December 13, 2005

MEMO

To: The University of Alabama Faculty

From: The University of Alabama Faculty Senate

Student Affairs Committee

Date: December 13, 2005

RE: Travel for Higher Education Day

March 2, 2006

Students traveling to Montgomery, Alabama on March 2, 2006 for Higher Education Day will be absent from class. Higher Education Day is supported by the UA Chancellor Portera and President Witt as a means of advocating for Higher Education and learning about the role of citizens in government. The cooperation of the faculty would be appreciated. We are asking that students be excused to travel for this event. Each student is responsible for meeting with you prior to the absence to make arrangements for missed assignments. We are not asking for anyone to be exempt from any exam, papers or projects. The names of students participating in this activity will be posted on the Faculty Senate website.

Thanks for your cooperation by allowing these students to represent The University of Alabama for this important event.

