

# FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

## FACULTY SENATE MEETING

MARCH 28, 2006 – 3:30 PM – 150 SHELBY HALL

### UNAPPROVED MINUTES

**ABSENT WITHOUT ALTERNATE:** Brian Bishop, Noel Engebretson, Brian Evans, Martin Evans, Art Allaway, Karen Burgess, Tonyia Tidline, Natalie Adams, Allen Wilcoxin, Allen Parrish, Norm Stein

**ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE:** Vivian Wright/Madeleine Gregg, Lee Pike/Lisa Yuro, Barbara Chandler/Gordon MacNeil

**GUESTS:** Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Susan Lucas & Lynn Tobola, Professional Staff Assembly; Wesley Hallman, Crimson White

Roll call and quorum check by Karen Steckol.

The February 21, 2006 Faculty Senate minutes were approved with the addition of a Legislative Agenda report.

The election of **Faculty Senate officers** resulted in the following: John Vincent, President; Karen Steckol, Vice President; Clark Midkiff, Secretary. All were elected unanimously.

**President's Report** – (*Mathew Winston*) Nominees for **officers of the Senate** were emailed to the Senate with the reminder that nominations could be made from the floor in the meeting. Mathew expressed his thanks and appreciation to Karen Steckol, John Vincent, Bob Sigler and Linda Knowles for assistance provided during his term as President of the Faculty Senate. A presentation by the **Campus Master Plan** committee will be made at meetings this Wednesday and Thursday. If anyone is unable to attend those meetings, the information is available on a website. The Student Government Association passed a resolution supporting the **reform of the constitution of the State of Alabama**.

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

**Secretary's Report** – (*Karen Steckol*) In the last Senate Steering Committee meeting, Karen was given the charge to pursue more information concerning the rental fees now charged by Ferguson Center. The Modern Language Day activity would cost the group a **Ferguson rental fee** of \$3,000. This activity brings in hundreds of high school students to the University of Alabama campus. It is considered a great recruiting event for the University. The cost would be passed along to the students attending this event. It has been free in the past. A certain percentage of University students have to attend/participate in an event to have free use of Ferguson space. There is some discussion of moving the Modern Language event to another institution and other options. It was suggested that the group could pursue the availability of other funding or sponsorships. The cost is an undue hardship on individual departments. Participation in this event has been built into the curriculum of some high schools and would impact this

area. The anticipated enrollment from this recruiting event helps maintain the viability of the language courses. It is also an opportunity for those students that do not pursue the language courses to get a sense and impression of the University and perhaps enroll with another major. Mathew Winston added that the University this year began charging the Pet Paws group for use of the Quad. They have used the space in the past without complaints. The reason for fees now being charged by Ferguson is that administration has mandated that they become self-sustaining. Ferguson Center is a student center. Faculty members do not have a designed space for conferences, seminars, meetings, etc. Foster Auditorium, following renovation, could possibly be used for faculty activities. It was suggested that the Faculty Senate officers have dialog with the Provost concerning Ferguson fees. A suggestion was made that data regarding the number of students choosing the University from the language event would be helpful in the meeting with the Provost.

**Academic Affairs** – (*John Vincent & Marcia Barrett*) The committee will review Chapter 5 of the Faculty Handbook at its next meeting in April. Recommended changes in Chapters 3 and 4 have been forwarded to the provost.

**Faculty Life** – (*Steve Shepard & Nick Stinnet*) No report.

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

**Research & Service** – (*Clark Midkiff & Dee Goldston*) This committee met with Dr. Marianne Woods, Associate Vice President of Research. The issues concerned the status of the Research Advisory Committee, Marianne Wood's failure to return to faculty to being chairperson of the IRB's and IACUC, and the general need for increased faculty member involvement in policy decisions by the Office for Research. It is the sense of the Research and Service Committee and the Faculty Senate Steering Committee that a standing committee should be established to overview the activities of the Office for Research.

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

**Student Affairs** – (*Priscilla Davis & Karen Burgess*) No report.

**Legislative Agenda** – (*Margaret Garner*) The suggestion was made that the Steering Committee or Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate follow up on the SGA's resolution concerning **constitutional reform**. The Faculty Senate has sponsored seminars on campus regarding constitutional reform. There is long-standing interest in this reform.

**New Business** – The **Student Health Center and Healthy Campus** will be bringing two representatives on April 14 to present programs on prevention of alcohol abuse. On April 19, "My Student Body" will also present a session concerning student health.

There are three candidates for the position of Director of the **Wellness Program**. They have excellent backgrounds and a selection will be made in the next few weeks.

Meeting adjourned 4:15 PM