

FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting

January 14, 2003 – 3:00 pm – Ferguson

Minutes

Attending: Steve Miller, John Mason, Keith Woodbury, Norman Baldwin, Wythe Holt, Frannie James, Catherine Davies, Margaret Garner, Nick Stinnett, Jim Eddy, Beth Macauley, Mathew Winston, Garry Warren, Subhabrata Chakraborti, Bob Sigler, Harry Price, Clark Midkiff

Guests: Steve Reeves, *Tuscaloosa News*, Joanna Hutt, *Dialog*, David Beito and Charles Nuckolls

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes of November 12 and December 3 were approved.

President's Report – (*Steve Miller*) John Mason will preside over the Provost meeting and next week's Faculty Senate meeting in the absence of the President. The letter to Dr. Mason regarding **budget reallocation** was presented for the approval of the Steering Committee. Some comments concerned the length and the negative slant of the letter. The committee wanted the focus to be on a few issues for more impact. The supported issues will be combined into one paragraph. The Reallocation Committee meets January 30 and February 4. The Faculty Senate has two weeks to consider the budget reallocation proposal and the deadline for response to Dr. Mason is January 22. The suggestion to canvas the entire faculty was not supported due to lack of time for implementation. The budget reallocation letter to Dr. Mason will be presented to the full Faculty Senate with a thirty-minute time limit placed on an item-by-item discussion. Suggestions to alter the letter included: deleting "Steering Committee" in the first paragraph, rewording Item #15 into one sentence, supporting "scholarship enhancement fees", combining 6b, 8a and 13 into one paragraph, and deleting the "faculty workload issue" sentence in Item #12. Discussion included pros and cons of the early retirement proposal and the CQI office. The letter, with the approved suggestions included, will be emailed to the Senate members with notice of the discussion time limit and informing them that the Budget Reallocation report is on the Faculty Senate website.

The feedback from the Steering Committee concerning the **five-day testing period** was completely positive.

Information concerning "*Selected Employee and Headcount Enrollment Data at Southern University Group Institution-Fall 2001*", "*The University of Alabama-2001-1996 EEO Count Summary*" and "*Recap of Possible Funds Available*" were handed out to the Steering Committee members. This information reveals the funds that go into other units. Details are not available for the Montgomery or Systems Offices. Increases in professional non-faculty are also shown.

There is an event planned June 9, 10 and 11 honoring the responsible people for progress made since the **40-year anniversary of the "Stand in the School House Door"**. Students will not be on campus on those dates but those are the anniversary dates of the event. Spin-off events will be held in the fall. The suggestions made to contribute to this event

included encouraging faculty members to attend and that a resolution composed by the Faculty Life Committee be framed and presented at the event.

The issue of the association of **student photos** with the roster is now a question of money to install software for two systems to talk to each other. Some printers would not make the connection would possibly be a problem and the freshmen photos would still be in place when the student is a senior which might not portray the actual appearance of the student. It does fit well with the current emphasis on class attendance. There is not a confidentiality problem with publishing the photos. There was a suggestion that there are more important issues to consider at this time and that requesting additional monies at this time would not be good fiscal responsibility. It was decided to have the Academic Affairs committee propose a motion for the Faculty Senate to support the implementation of the photos when the new system becomes operational in 2005.

The proposed **“Resolution Supporting the Regulation of Hours that Alcohol can be Sold On Premises in the Local Community”** was discussed with suggestions including some re-wording and re-organization of the resolution. The point was made that most students should not be in bars since they are under-age. It was proposed to change the wording to “substantially reduce the hours” rather than state the actual time of closing. One Steering Committee member disagreed with the resolution stating that in his opinion it was “bad public health practice” and that it is a complex social issue with the problem of excessive alcohol consumption being blamed on the bar hours when the University has not taken action on campus to deter this environment. Some social organizations support the “party” image with the University not offering alternative activities, changing library hours, doing something about dormitory drinking and making other positive decisions to correct this environment. It was also stated that reducing bar hours would possibly move those students to “party houses” off campus. The problem of community reaction and the process followed by the University taking the issue to the Chamber of Commerce without the inclusion of others affected by this policy was also discussed. The Steering Committee voted to move this resolution, as amended, to the Senate for discussion with a ten- minute time limit.

“Resolution on Electing Members to Reallocation Committees” was proposed with the intent to establish that faculty members should be elected to committees to advise the Deans if divisional resources are reallocated. It was suggested to change the wording to, “Be it resolved that if reallocation be referred in any way to academic divisions, the allocation be dealt with by committees with a majority of faculty elected by faculty of that division”. This was approved by the Steering Committee.

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs – (*Beth Macauley & Garry Warren*) The committee will meet next week and Jim Otteson will present a proposal concerning grade inflation.

Faculty Life – (*Wythe Holt & Nick Stinnett*) The first in a series of questions has been sent to the faculty to ascertain their main concerns about faculty life at UA.

Financial Affairs – (*Catherine Davies & Keith Woodbury*) No report.

Planning & Operations – (*John Mason & Mathew Winston*) In a meeting with Roger Thompson, Registrar, conducting **two four-week summer terms** was discussed with a favorable response. The response of the Planning and Operations Committee was not as positive. Feedback from the Steering Committee as to their interest in pursuing this issue was requested. One member expressed the concern that it would cause problems with analytical type courses and another member expressed the opinion that if the spring

semester began late and the fall semester began early, this could possibly be outside the nine-month period over which faculty earn their salaries. If the spring semester of 2005 started one week late, exams and graduation would be after May 15. One week early in the fall, classes would begin before August 16. The four-week schedule would work with 18 - 2 hour & 5 minute classes with 8-10 minute break and would finish the course. A suggestion was made to look into the option of having a 4-week session for the courses that lend themselves to that schedule. The question was would that defeat the purpose of having flex on either side of the summer schedule. Also, the question of housing for students was brought forward. The Steering Committee voted to continue to pursue this issue.

It has been suggested to change the Planning and Operations Committee to University Resources and Priorities Committee. This would combine some duties since there are existing duplications and this would be a Senate committee. This will be discussed with the Provost in the meeting on Friday.

Research & Service – (*Subhabrata Chakraborti & Jim Eddy*) This committee continues to address the library fine issue and are waiting for a reply from the Library Committee. A proposal for enhancing salaries from soft money will be sent to Steve.

Senate Operations – (*Frannie James & Harry Price*) This committee also is addressing the change of **Planning & Operations to University Resources and Priorities Committee**. The apportionment of Senate seats prior to spring elections is being reviewed and everyone was asked to recruit candidates from their areas to serve in the Senate.

Student Affairs – (*Clark Midkiff & Jeff Richetto*) No report.

Norm Baldwin gave a preliminary report on the faculty survey on **Feedback for Deans and Chairs**. Much data has been gathered and the committee is proceeding. Deans and Department Chairs will be asked for their feedback into the formation of the survey instrument.

Legislative Agenda - (*Margaret Garner*) **Higher Education Day** will be March 13 and the goal is to have 3,000 travel to Montgomery to support efforts for increased funding and tax and constitutional reform for Higher Education. Support for the UA System PAC is encouraged and plans are being formed for a Legislative Forum on campus. Special speakers would be asked to speak and answer questions concerning tax reforms, funding and other issues. Legislative Breakfasts will continue with the date and other information forthcoming. There was discussion to have Susan Hamil as a speaker.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 PM