

Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting

December 5, 2000 - 3:30 PM - 309 Ferguson

Those present: Norm Baldwin, Margaret Garner, Rob Ingram, Steven MacCall, Keith Woodbury, Don DeSmet, Bing Blewitt

The minutes of the last meeting of the Steering Committee were approved and accepted. Norm Baldwin conducted the meeting in the absence of Pat Bauch.

President's Report - (Pat Bauch) As reported in the Steering Committee agenda, Pat received a letter from President Sorensen in response to the **Domestic Partnership Benefits resolution** stating that the resolutions need to be approved by the Faculty Staff Benefits Committee. A copy of the Finance Committee's report was sent to President Sorensen also. After points were made about the possible negativity in the media, the timing of the increase in health care costs, and the difficulty of getting some action on this item, the Steering Committee decided that some selected members would meet and determine what strategy should be used to approach this situation. This issue will continue to be on the Faculty Senate agenda in the future.

The **Higher Education Partnership Membership Challenge** is being extended through January. To date approximately 25 faculty and staff have returned completed enrollment forms, however, an accurate count from Gordon Stone will be obtained after the holidays.

Gene Marsh, Athletic Faculty Representative, will address the Faculty Senate at the December 12th meeting concerning the **NCAA inquiry** of the football program.

The Anti-Racism Workshop was held December 3-5 with 18 faculty and two staff participants.

Vice President's Report - (Norm Baldwin) The Provost was receptive to the formation of an ad hoc committee to explore more acceptable alternatives for more frequent faculty feedback for Deans and Department Chairs. Norm is chair of the ad hoc committee and will meet with the Provost to present alternatives determined by his committee. A two step situation will be pursued with determining what the Provost would be receptive to and then the development of an instrument to be used in the evaluation.

Secretary's Report - (Steven MacCall) - Steven reported the collapse of the **dean's search** for the College of Continuing Studies with a new search committee being formed.

Academic Affairs - (Don DeSmet & Steve Miller) - Don reported on the **"forgiveness" policy** of The University of Alabama. In the period of August, 1999 to July 31, 2000 - there were 3,169 applications for "forgiveness" and the total of the courses affected was 4,936. This committee feels this is extravagant and out of control. They are not sure why or how this policy came into being. The committee feels this is certainly a problem and is only one facet

of a larger problem including academic bankruptcy. They will request more data and will report back on further findings.

Faculty Life - (Rob Ingram) Rob reported that David Beito has proposed a lecture series be an alternative for the **diversity workshops**. The Faculty Senate rejected this proposal. The funding allotted by the Provost is committed for the diversity workshop. The **mentoring of new faculty** issue includes discussions with the Provost and any meaningful progress with this project will require funding. The Mediation Document was presented with the changes noted in the document. An objection was registered concerning compensation for one member of the Tribunal and other members not receiving compensation. Further clarification was needed concerning transcripts, funding, distribution of transcripts and other matters. This document will be taken back to the committee for further consideration.

Financial Affairs - (Deborah Martin & Keith Woodbury) No report. The travel reimbursement policies of the University were discussed.

Planning & Operations - (Marcia Barrett & Bill Keel) No one present to give report.

Research & Service - (Bing Blewitt) After requesting several committee members to be the co-chair, no one agreed to fill this position. This committee is considering a single individual's merit and raise complaint. They are doing some research to determine the best place for this individual to register this grievance.

Student Affairs - (Dexter Gordon & Rob Ingram) No report.

Senate Operations - (Norm Baldwin & Jim Taylor) This committee is monitoring senator attendance. Norm inquired as to whether sufficient time had elapsed to determine whether the Faculty Life Committee should be incorporated as a permanent committee of the Faculty Senate. The by-laws will have to be changed to allow this addition. This proposal will be presented at the next Steering Committee meeting by the Senate Operations Committee.

Legislative Agenda Committee - (Margaret Garner) The Chancellor called a meeting last Tuesday to discuss budget strategy and plans. One of the suggestions was to form a pro-active group to meet about eight times a year. A legislative workshop providing pro-active training will be held Saturday, January 13 from 12:00 - 4:00 PM. Location has not been determined. Everyone was encouraged to recruit new members for HEP. February 27 is Higher Education Day.