

# FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

## FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

AUGUST 24, 2004 – 307 FERGUSON – 3:00 pm

### UNAPPROVED MINUTES

**ATTENDING:** John Mason, Mathew Winston, John Vincent, Nick Stinnett, Robert Moore, Marcia Barrett, Jerry Weaver, Wythe Holt, Clark Midkiff, Tatiana Takiropoulou-Summers **GUESTS:** Adam Jones, Tuscaloosa News; Marlon Cadell, Crimson White; Joanna Hutt, Dialog

The July 13<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes were approved.

**President's Report** – (*John Mason*) Details of the **Faculty Feedback Survey for Department Chairs** were distributed. This report was the distribution of all responses rather than by means by chair. The ultimate report to the entire faculty will be scanned and sent by email. The format suggested was the simplest form with charts and means. The details of the report indicating approval or disapproval of Department Chair's performances were discussed. More detailed information will be revealed upon the review of the means by chairs. Norm Baldwin headed up this committee and was praised for the work that produced the process of the evaluation of Department Chairs. The **Books for Baghdad** drive is underway. Dialog and the Crimson White have publicized this event. Four hampers with signs will be placed in four locations – two at the Alabama Book Store and two at Ferguson and Tutwiler Supply Stores. There is not a political statement in connection with this drive. It is a humanitarian effort only. The Jacksonville State University Foundation is heading up this drive. A letter stating the monetary amounts will be provided for large cash donations only. Textbooks would represent a minimal monetary amount. The annual **social** with the Steering Committee members and the Deans will be held Tuesday, October 12 following the Steering Committee meeting. The social will be from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Indian Hills Country Club. Invitations will be mailed and Steering Committee members will be emailed a reminder. **Energy management** will be discussed in the next meeting with the Provost. Suggestions have been requested for methods of energy cost-saving measures. **Building construction on campus** will also be discussed with the only construction projected is the Freshman Science Building. Residence halls, athletic construction and Brewer Porch construction funding does not come from academic funds. The Faculty Senate along with the Faculty Life committee has suggested in the past that a **faculty center** be designated. This would be meeting space to hear visiting faculty speak and lunchroom facilities. The Faculty Life report on this issue will be emailed to John Mason for follow up. The priorities of the present administration are faculty salaries, enrollment and deferred building maintenance. Energy savings by cutting off computers was discussed. The most stress on a computer is the turning off and on cycle. The University is expecting 3,400 freshmen this fall bringing enrollment to 20,700. Florida and Georgia have experienced major difficulties with their lottery tuition programs. The lottery scholarships in Tennessee have reduced the number of students from that state enrolling at Alabama.

**Vice President's Report** – (*Mathew Winston*) The **Faculty Senate web page** is need of updating. The photo is two-years old, the title Senate Liaison should be changed to Senate Representatives and the State Legislators is in need of updating. Keith Woodbury is the

web master and will be contacted concerning these and other changes.

**Secretary's Report** – (*John Vincent*) Details concerning the Shelby building were discussed.

### **Committee Reports**

**Faculty Life** – (*Wythe Holt & Nick Stinnett*) This committee is in the process of composing a **resolution** thanking **Norm Baldwin** and the Faculty Feedback committee for their work on the evaluation of Deans and Chairs. They are also working on a resolution recommending the organization of a **Campus Master Plan committee**. This committee would join with the University's Campus Master Plan committee in the role of protecting the natural environment. The composition of the CUC (chaired by Rona Donahue) has been filled with faculty selected by the Faculty Senate. Committee assignments should be in effect August 15. The Faculty Life committee raised the question concerning renewing the **faculty opinion survey**. The points were made that surveys could be overdone and that one question narrative surveys seem to bring more responses.

Faculty raises were discussed.

Meeting adjourned 3:45 PM