

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 12, 2005 – 3:00 PM – 301 MORGAN HALL**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Mathew Winston, John Vincent, Kim Andrus, Marcia Barrett, Karen Burgess, Priscilla Davis, Jim Hall, John Mason, Clark Midkiff, Steve Shepard

GUESTS: Adam Jones, Tuscaloosa News; Joanna Hutt, Dialog

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee minutes of May 10, 2005 were approved. The June meeting of the Steering Committee was cancelled.

Mathew Winston, President of the Faculty Senate, received an email from Lynda Gilbert, Vice President of Financial Affairs, concerning the **Campus Master Plan**. The group retained to oversee the Campus Master Plan (Ayers/Saint/Gross) has been replaced due to the lack of the development of a working partnership. The KPS Group, Inc. of Birmingham will be the replacement for leadership in the implementation of the Campus Master Plan. The Faculty Senate will be monitoring the progress.

Mathew announced that he is receiving multiple requests to use the Faculty Senate listserv to forward messages to the entire faculty. As of today, all requests will be deleted with only legitimate requests from the University receiving attention.

The University survived Hurricane Dennis with minor water damage to a few buildings.

The Faculty Leadership Review Committee's analysis of the aggregate data from the **Faculty Feedback Survey on Deans** was reviewed. Very seldom did the means exceed 4.0 on a 5.0 scale. The report stated in Recommendation 1 and 2 -- "There was concern over the paucity of means above 4.00 and feel that the deans should be particularly attentive to faculty responses to the questions associated with the category of openness and responsiveness to faculty". Observation 4 and 5 stated that women, minorities, and non-tenure-track faculty evaluated UA deans more positively than men, non-minorities, tenure-track/untentured faculty, and tenured faculty. Observation 6 points out that 254 faculty members responded last year to the chairs survey with 285 faculty members responding to the deans survey. With approximately 1,000 faculty members at UA, a response rate increase is needed. It was not known if the vacant positions of deans had an impact on the response rate. The composition of the Faculty Leadership Review Committee was discussed with points being made concerning teaching loads, acquiring tenure, and increasing productivity. Recommendation 8 states the FLRB needs at least one, if not two, members of the Faculty Senate to serve on the committee in order to act as an effective liaison to the Senate. It also recommends that new members should be brought into the FLRB committee. It was suggested to invite Norm Baldwin to the Senate meeting to answer any inquiries concerning the report.

In a meeting with Provost Bonner, Mathew asked about the student enrollment for this coming fall. A great increase is not expected with a little more than a 300 total increase of graduate and

undergraduate students. The discussion included the usage and construction of dorms and the design of existing and new buildings conforming to the architectural style and integrity of the University.

The Provost was asked for the number of **newly hired faculty members** and a comparison to the number of retiring and resigning faculty members. It was suggested to request the number of tenure-track, non-tenured track, adjunct and part-time faculty members that have departed and the comparable number of faculty members hired. This information will be supplied in the next few weeks.

Provost Bonner and Hank Lazer have requested the Senate consider the issue of a possible **educational leave for students**. A National Merit Scholar undergraduate student had the opportunity to do research in the Rain Forrest for a week. All but one professor gave permission but the one professor would give the student a zero on a test given during the absence. There is a policy for a student studying abroad but there is not a policy in place applying to this student's situation. The discussion included the absences of athletes, the possible removal of faculty control and, the broadness and extreme difficulty of establishing such an educational leave policy. Mathew will discuss this issue with Hank Lazer before the next Steering Committee meeting. It was suggested that the Senate could take the course of affirming the importance of extracurricular educational opportunities of the undergraduate student's experience.

The revised Appendix H of the Faculty Handbook has been approved by the Faculty Senate and forwarded to Dean Carolyn Dahl. Provost Judy Bonner has accepted the document approved by the Faculty Senate with possible input from Marianne Woods of the Office of Research. The entire faculty must approve any major revision to the Faculty Handbook. This will be pursued further to determine if a faculty-wide vote is needed.

Louis Pitschmann, Dean of University Libraries, will address the Steering Committee meeting in August.

The **Professional Staff Association** will have their next meeting in August. Sunee Lavender, Director of Advancement Services, is the president. The Faculty Senate should have a liaison appointed.

The **Institutional Review for Human Subjects** has been split into medical and non-medical committees. A Faculty Senate representative to the medical committee is needed with Ken Wright continuing on the non-medical committee. A medical background is not necessarily needed for the medical committee. Mathew will review the Faculty Senate list and email suggested names to the Steering Committee for consideration.

Mathew Winston has requested an increase for the **Faculty Senate budget**. It has not been increased in six years.

John Mason is the Faculty Senate representative to the **Coalition on Academic Integrity**. The Provost's office will pay for the expenses for his trip to the meeting.

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

Faculty Senate Governance – *(John Mason & Kim Andrus)* There will be an **election** next year for four positions – one on the Mediation Committee, two recommendations to serve on the University Committee on Committees and one for the Merger or Discontinuance of Academic Units committee.

New Business – There was discussion of safety issues in a building on campus. It was suggested to put those issues in a document in order by priority.

The possible impact on enrollment the new mandatory requirement for freshmen to live in dorms was discussed. It was suggested to ask the Provost about the policies concerning housing for students.

The next **Steering Committee meeting** will be August 23 in the Dean's Conference Room in Alston at 3:00 PM. Dean Pitschmann will address and answer questions from the Steering Committee. The **Faculty Senate meeting** will be August 30 at 3:30 PM. Reservations in Ferguson cannot be requested until August 1.

Meeting adjourned 4:15 PM