

FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
September 13, 2005 – 3:00 PM – 305 FERGUSON

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Mathew Winston, John Vincent, Karen Steckol, Marcia Barrett, Karen Burgess, Priscilla Davis, Margaret Garner, Dee Goldston, Jim Hall, John Mason, Steve Shepard, Bob Sigler, Jeanette Vandermeer

GUESTS: Adam Jones, Tuscaloosa News: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog

The minutes from the Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting of August 23, 2005 were approved with one correction.

President's Report – (Mathew Winston) The **Professional Staff Assembly** will meet on Thursday, September 15 at 3:00 PM in the Ferguson Forum. The Faculty Senate does not have a representative to this group. Susan Lucas is the PSA representative to the Faculty Senate. Mathew will email the Senate to request a volunteer to attend the PSA meetings.

The Faculty Senate is short two senators from Arts and Sciences. **Arts and Sciences** should have a total of eighteen senators. There should be four representatives from Fine Arts and Humanities, four from Social Sciences, four from Natural Sciences and six at large members. President Mathew Winston, Vice President John Vincent and Secretary Karen Steckol met with Tom Wolfe, an Associate Dean from Arts and Sciences, concerning the shortage of senators. They also discussed how to have better Faculty Senate representation from Arts and Sciences. There will be a caucus of Arts and Science senators on October 25 in Shelby Hall to discuss these issues.

The Faculty Senate officers are going to view meeting rooms in Shelby Hall to determine if the **meeting space** would be suitable for the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Steering Committee. This is an issue related to Ferguson Center now charging for meeting space. Suggestions included Room 101 in the Student Services Building, and the possibility of the SGA sponsoring the Faculty Senate for meeting space in Ferguson. If a meeting place proposal is forthcoming, Mathew will email the information to the Steering Committee.

Wythe Holt has retired and John Mason is replacing him on the CUC. Mathew has asked Norm Stein to be the representative to the **Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee**. The officers of the Faculty Senate select representatives to committees. The point was made that it would be difficult to obtain a report from someone that does not regularly attend Senate meetings. There is still a senate representative vacancy on the Media Planning Board.

Vice President's Report – (John Vincent) A Crimson White reporter contacted John with a question about copyright benefits for graduate student teaching assistants mentioned in Appendix H. This inclusion was due to the efforts of John Vincent and Marcia Barrett.

Secretary's Report - (Karen Steckol) No report.

Faculty Life Committee – (*Steve Shepard & Nick Stinnet*) Nick Stinnet is co-chair of this committee. His teaching duties prevent him from attending the Faculty Senate meetings. This committee would like to retain him as co-chair since he can attend the committee meetings. John Patrovic of Education will replace Nick Stinnet for this semester. Conducting another faculty survey will be an issue this committee will determine. There was discussion about the low response from the last survey and methods that would increase the number of responses.

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) This committee has made no decisions concerning the issues they will address this year. One issue could possibly be to assist in the formulation of a policy for students taking time off for academic pursuits. This would be similar to the process used by athletes and band members.

Financial Affairs – (*Jim Hall & Jeanette Vandermeer*) There will be a meeting of this committee with Associate Vice President of Finance, Reba Essary, and Dr. Lynda Gilbert, Vice Chancellor for Financial Affairs, on September 27th in Room 11 at 3:00 PM in Bruno Library. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee is invited to attend.

Research & Service – (*Jenice “Dee” Goldston & Clark Midkiff*) – A meeting of this committee with Marianne Woods, Associate Vice President for Research, will be held. A report will be given to the Steering Committee following the meeting. The IRB would be another issue addressed by this committee.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Kim Andurs*) - The focus of this committee will be on Faculty Senate by-laws. Changing the process of electing an ombudsperson is being considered. There were relatively few votes in the last election, and the Faculty Senate pays the cost of conducting such an election. The ballot calls faculty member attention to the persons in the Ombudsperson positions. Keith Woodbury is filling in for the remainder of retiring Salli Davis’ ombudsperson term of one year. The election in whatever form will be conducted in February/March.

Student Affairs – (*Priscilla Davis & Karen Burgess*) - A meeting was scheduled with the SGA President but had to be cancelled. The meeting will be Thursday, September 15. One item of discussion will be health insurance benefits for graduate students. The Faculty Senate passed a resolution last year concerning this issue. It was suggested that Ron Rogers could provide any information needed. The Viva insurance program is available to graduate students and is a good program, however, money is a problem for those students.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) - There is a need for growth in the HEP. A question was asked concerning the process to increase the amount given to HEP. A form with an original signature taken to the payroll department is the easiest method to use. Discussion included tax reform, constitutional reform, the ACCR (children issues) and the AI Rise program (poverty issues). Elizabeth Hendrix is starting an AI Rise program for this area. An Alabama Tax and Budget Handbook is available by calling 334/832-9060. The State of Alabama operates on sales tax revenue which fluctuates, sometimes dramatically,

year by year. There is no way to determine how much revenue will be available each year. The Alabama 1901 constitution states that taxes will be paid by families of four making approximately \$4,600 a year. Adjoining states have the standard of \$18,000 or \$19,000.

Announcement: “Bubbles for Beginners”, part of Creative Campus will meet Tuesday, September 13 in Mary Burke Hall. Creative Campus is a new joint student-administrative organization with an objective to put an emphasis and spotlight on arts and cultural opportunities in Tuscaloosa, especially on the UA campus. A promotional video will be shown along with live performances of piano, dance and a reading of creative writing. This initiative is student driven.

Everyone was urged to vote in the Tuscaloosa mayoral election.

The Student Recreation Center is no longer a shelter for evacuees of Hurricane Katrina. The people were divided into two groups and taken to other shelters in Tuscaloosa.

Meeting adjourned 4:00 PM