

CORRECTED

MINUTES

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

December 13, 1994

Ferguson Forum

3:30 p.m.

Members absent and not represented by an alternate: Catherine Davies, Jeff Norrell, Sharon Beatty, Ann Power, David Harrison

The [minutes for November 1994](#) were approved.

President's Report

The copy of the letter from President Sayers referred to in the printed copy of the President's report was inadvertently left out of the packet distributed in campus mail, and so was distributed to the Senators at the meeting. In addition to the printed report, Joe Benson reported that the Board of Trustees would be asked in their December meeting for permission to begin construction on the parking deck next to the Ferguson Center after the first of the year. It is intended that current parking would not be removed until the new parking deck is completed. Chet Alexander has asked that a committee with significant representation by the faculty be appointed to draft a policy for appropriate usage of university computers.

Reports from Senate Committees

The Academic Affairs Committee reported that their recent discussions on the policy for discontinuance or merger of departments and on the proposed computer policy had culminated in two resolutions to be introduced later in the meeting.

The Financial Affairs Committee reported that they would introduce a resolution under "New Business."

The Research & Service Committee has been discussing the evaluation of faculty workload.

The Student Affairs Committee reported work on a new student honor code which should be presented to the Faculty Senate in the near future.

Senate Operations will be polling the colleges for the number of faculty in each.

The Planning & Operations Committee had no report.

Reports from Senators on University Committees

Harry Blewit reported that the Recreation committee discussed the University Golf Course and the Natatorium. There was some controversy about a plan to build new tennis courts south of Student Recreation Center at a cost of half a million dollars. According to one plan, the old tennis courts near the Natatorium would be destroyed for parking, while money will come from student recreation fees for the new tennis courts. The students on the committee did not object to this plan and the meeting ended with the recommendation for building the new tennis courts. Need additional parking for TidePride ticket holders.

Carol Schlichter reported on the meeting of the University Council on Teacher Education December 8. The agenda focused on upcoming teacher preparation accreditation by the State Department of Education. Dean Roth addressed the meeting and the new standards for validating certification programs were explained.

Matt Winston reported that the University-wide committee to oversee the Ferguson expansion has not met this semester, in spite of the movement seen towards that expansion.

Chuck Hobby reported that the Faculty Handbook Committee has begun to meet weekly. Don Crump is no longer the liaison person. The amended sexual harassment policy has been included, and the governance document has been incorporated. The governance document may impose many more duties on the FacSenate: We will have to nominate members for many more committees than has been the case.

Chuck also reported that the document on merger and discontinuance was sent to the Deans. After Taafé gets feedback from them and from the Faculty Senate, he is expected to decide the issue.

Dick Sandford reported that the Health & Safety Committee is planning on moving shops and maintenance to a location near the Recreation Center. There was a report of plans to build a small mall or food court on property on Thomas Circle recently acquired by the University.

The International Studies Committee reported setting up formal "Sister University" linkage with the University of Ghana, and is considering a similar arrangement with the University of Yucatan.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

The first resolution from Academic Affairs Committee: The Faculty Senate recommends the adoption of the 11/09/94 draft of the "Principles and Procedures for Merger or Discontinuance of Academic Units."

It was the sense of the Senate that while the current draft is not everything desired by the faculty, it is better than the current lack of any written policy, and this step would keep the process moving toward finalization.

The resolution passed unanimously.

The second resolution from the Academic Affairs Committee was presented, and the substitute resolution proposed by the Steering Committee was accepted by the Senate in place of the original. The substitute resolution reads as follows: The Faculty Senate finds the draft "Policy on Legal and Ethical Use of Computer Resources and Software" dated 9/22/94 unacceptable. It is inconsistent with the intent of the Faculty Handbook, and raises troubling issues of academic freedom, privacy and due process.

It is the sense of the Faculty Senate that existing Academic Misconduct provisions cover misuse of electronic networks and/or information technology, including illegal copying of software or data, improper use of university property, and violation of applicable federal and state laws. Such violations are subject to the rules appropriate for misconduct as put forth in the Faculty Handbook and the Student Handbook.

Furthermore, the draft policy was formulated without appropriate consultation with the faculty. Any specific University policy regulating the use of electronic networks and/or information technology by faculty, staff, and/or students should be formulated by an appropriate University Committee, a majority of whose members are current full-time faculty, and must be included in the Faculty Handbook.

After some discussion, the resolution passed without dissent.

The Financial Affairs Committee presented its resolution:

Whereas the University of Alabama has no formal policy concerning raises in salary in conjunction with promotion, and

Whereas it is customary within the University community for academic promotions are accompanied by an automatic 10% raise in salary, and

Whereas policies concerning this issue appear to be inconsistent among the divisions of the University of Alabama,

Be it therefore resolved that the Faculty Senate calls on the University administration to establish a formal policy whereby all promotions from assistant professor to associate professor and associate professor to professor are accompanied by a mandatory salary increase of at least 10% in addition to any merit raises that otherwise would be granted in that year.

The resolution passed without dissent.

There being no further business, the Senate adjourned at 4:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcus Brown, Secretary