

# FACULTY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

## FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

FEBRUARY 14, 2006 – 3:00 PM – 206F SHELBY HALL

### UNAPPROVED MINUTES

**ATTENDING:** Mathew Winston, John Vincent, Karen Steckol, Karen Burgess, Priscilla Davis, Margaret Garner, Jenice "Dee" Goldston, Jim Hall, John Mason, Clark Midkiff, Steve Shepard, Bob Sigler, Jeanette Vandermeer

**GUESTS:** Adam Jones, Tuscaloosa News; Wesley Hallman, Crimson White

The minutes of the January 10, 2006 Faculty Senate Steering Committee were approved with one correction.

**President's Report** – (*Mathew Winston*) The **SGA resolution** requesting prior notification of one day regarding dismissing classes due to bad weather has been addressed by President Witt in a two-page memorandum. A sheet with a memo to the chairs of departments in the College of Arts and Sciences from Mathew Winston was handed out. This memo urged individuals to become involved in the Faculty Senate. It also listed the reasons faculty members should participate in the Senate and listed accomplishments of the Senate. The Steering Committee was urged to draw something along the lines of the memo to hand out to members of their colleges. Prescription drug benefits were discussed. The University is self-insured with Blue Cross-Blue Shield administering the health plan. It was pointed out that the University should notify faculty by October of any increase in **health insurance coverage** costs. This would give an opportunity to make financial decisions concerning BamaFlex. Mathew Winston received an email expressing concern about **cigarette companies** being on campus to recruit future employees. These companies have diversified greatly. Concern was expressed about these companies being an inappropriate partnership with the University. The consensus of the Steering Committee was to take no action on this issue.

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

**Secretary's Report** – (*Karen Steckol*) Karen presented current statistics regarding apportionment of senators for 2006-07. The Faculty Senate Constitution states:

"Each division of the University, including colleges, schools, and the University Libraries, is represented in the Faculty Senate by one senator for each twenty persons, or fraction thereof, serving on the date of the election under a regular appointment as an instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, or professor engaged in teaching or research at least half of a normal load during the regular year, or a librarian having corresponding rank and professional engagement."

The request from Institutional Research should be for half-time, associate, assistant or full

**Blum, Alan**


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**From:** Blum, Alan **Sent:** Sun 2/12/2006 11:34 PM  
**To:** jdew@aalan.ua.edu  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** FW: Smoking committee and tobacco companies on campus  
**Attachments:**

Dear John,

In reviewing our earlier correspondence related to the range of potential recommendations of the Tobacco Working Group, I was struck by a paragraph in my letter to you of November 23:

"I do want to emphasize the importance of the University's addressing the presence of tobacco company recruiters at campus job fairs. The University has an ethical responsibility to exclude tobacco and alcohol companies from a campus at which the majority of the student population is under 21. The reason I would propose addressing this matter now is that I can assure you it will be seen as the height of hypocrisy if the University were to toughen its policy of student and employee tobacco use while condoning the recruitment of University students as salespersons and distributors of cigarettes and spitting tobacco. (I'm sure there are purveyors of other products who have been turned down from the job fairs, so this is not a slippery slope issue.) This would not preclude tobacco companies from recruiting from a sit elsewhere in the city, but it would remove the Univerity's imprimatur from such recruitment."

Although the February UA career day at Bryant Conference Center is over, the spring campus recruiting season by the cigarette companies has just begun. Accordingly, I would request that the Tobacco Task Force reconvene in the very near future in order to explore how the group can become better informed about cigarette company recruitment at UA as well as about the overall relationship between the tobacco industry and the University. Perhaps Dr. King could be invited to attend part of the next meeting to provide details of the University's past, present, and planned relationships with cigarette makers Philip Morris USA and RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company, to present her views on whether or not the presence of the cigarette company recruiters on campus detracts in any way from its mission, and to explain why, unlike in previous years, I was prevented from observing the process of recruitment at the annual Bryant Conference Center event at which other UA faculty members were in attendance.

Thank you again for your interest. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Alan

Alan Blum, MD  
 Professor and Gerald Leon Wallace Endowed Chair in Family Medicine  
 Director, The Univerity of Alabama Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society

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**From:** Blum, Alan  
**Sent:** Thu 2/9/2006 6:08 PM  
**To:** 'John Dew'  
**Cc:** Marsh, Eugene  
**Subject:** RE: Smoking committee and tobacco companies on campus

Thanks, John. Looking more closely today at the Campus Recruiting Calendar on the Philip Morris USA website has been unsettling. UA students, along with those at 34 other universities, are being lured into cigarette sales jobs under the guise of working in the glamorous world of a Fortune 500 company. I appreciate your mentioning Dr. King's sensitivity to this issue. There's no question that this university needs to examine both the ethics of hosting cigarette company recruiters on campus and the barring of a tenured professor and physician from observing this process.

Two years ago, I expressed my disappointment to the faculty overseer of the JJ Doster Café about the number of students working at the café who stood outside the entrance smoking cigarettes. As the result of this single complaint, Dean Boschung contacted me to extend her appreciation for my having spoken up and facilitate the change in policy. She added that my comments also stimulated extensive classroom discussions among students and faculty on the subject of smoking in the hospitality industry.

Recruitment of students to promote cigarettes is a far more serious and significant matter, and I will do whatever I can to influence this university to end the practice of permitting administrators and faculty to assist tobacco companies in obtaining access to UA students. This afternoon I learned that students were in fact urged by at least one faculty member to attend the Philip Morris recruitment session, and I would like to learn the details from Dr. King and other administrators about the University's (and faculty members') transactions with the tobacco companies for the purpose of facilitating access to students.

Thanks again for writing.

Alan Blum, MD

-----Original Message-----

From: John Dew [mailto:jdew@aaan.ua.edu]

Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2006 10:16 AM

To: Blum, Alan

Subject: Re: Smoking committee and tobacco companies on campus

Alan:

Yes, I will share the info with the Tobacco Working Group and hope we can discuss it further in our next meeting.

I did have a follow-up conversation this morning with Dr. King. I think she is sensitive to the dilemma and that she appreciated you sharing your concerns about our situation.

John

## Blum, Alan

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**From:** John Dew [jdew@aalan.ua.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2006 9:22 AM  
**To:** Blum, Alan  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Smoking committee and tobacco companies on campus

Alan:

We definitely need to discuss this at the next Tobacco Working Group meeting.

I'm not at all confident that we can influence the actions that are set in motion for this current semester, but I believe we can make a statement that can influence future plans.

You are also right about how it would appear for us to be more restrictive with our students regarding smoking while encouraging them to go work for tobacco companies!

John