UAB Faculty Senate Report  
February 11, 2003

Dr. Carol Garrison presented her PowerPoint presentation of the Strategic Planning Process in its present form. This presentation was the same presentation that was given at the first town meeting. Dr. Garrison stressed that this is a work in progress and is a very dynamic document.

This document can be accessed by going to the UAB Web site at www.uab.edu. Click on “Where do we go from here?” Then click on the heading “Review Draft Plan” and choose either HTML or the PowerPoint option.

There are five goals, which have been identified. These goals are: undergraduate education, graduate and professional education, research and scholarship, service to the community and state, and community/financial support. Under each category there are detailed objections and the scorecards proposed to measure each objective. Also, located on this site is Dr. Garrison’s videotaped Feb.11th, presentation of UAB’s Plan for the future.

Because of the length of the presentations at this Faculty Senate meeting, the presentation and discussion of possible changes in the academic calendar was not accomplished. Instead Senator Falany, Chairman of the Curriculum and Research Committee, emailed the proposal to the Faculty Senate Listserv for distribution to the faculty and to obtain comments and suggestions. (See attached)
Proposal to the Faculty Senate Concerning Changes in the Academic Calendar

Due to the lengths of the presentations in the Faculty Senate meeting, the presentation and discussion of possible changes in the academic calendar was not accomplished. It has become apparent that time constraints on planning and publication of the calendar for the Summer and Fall semesters have made it necessary that any ideas, suggestions or proposals for modifying the academic calendar be pursued by e-mail.

Concerns were expressed in the Faculty Senate that the UAB Fall and Spring semester lengths were at the high end compared to similar state and regional institutions. Data on contact days per semester and variations in academic calendars at schools comparable to UAB have been presented to the Faculty Senate. The Curriculum and Research Committee has taken suggestions on possible modifications in the academic calendar.

The Curriculum and Research Committee has received suggestions from the faculty and proposes to the Faculty Senate for consideration and discussion several changes in the UAB academic calendar. The changes that are approved will be recommended to the Provost’s Office for consideration in development of future academic calendars. The purpose of these changes is to improve the learning process, decrease the number of class days per semester and adapt to student attendance patterns. The following recommendations are proposed:

1. That the number of faculty/student contact days in the Fall and Spring semesters be decreased from 75 days per semester to 70 days per semester.

2. That two study days be inserted in the academic calendar between the end of formal classes and the beginning of semester exams.

3. That classes not be held on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

4. That classes not be held on two days in the Fall semester as part of the reduction in the number of contact days. These days would be designated to generate a dour day weekend break.