MEMORANDUM

TO: Professor T. Newman, President Faculty Senate

Cc: Professor R. Miller, President-Elect Faculty Senate
    Professor B. Wren, Associate Provost
    Ms. J. Waller, University Registrar
    Ms. W. Leonard, Bursar
    Mr. R. Pinner, Vice-President for Finance and Administration

FROM: Dr. Vistasp M. Karbhari, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Senate Resolution 11-2-1 (Senate Bill #354): “Full Refunds for Students in the Military who are Deployed”

DATE: October 10, 2011

The University of Alabama in Huntsville is grateful to our students who are members of the active duty military, military reserves and National Guard, and appreciates their service to the nation.

While campus counsel has advised that the Service members Civil Relief Act does not provide a legal basis upon which a student may demand a tuition refund when ordered to active duty status, the University has since 9/17/2001 provided full refunds to all students who have provided a copy of their orders to the Registrar. In addition to the refund the courses are excluded from satisfactory academic progress analysis and institution-based financial awards are deferred. This was in fact conveyed at that time by email by the then Registrar, Scott Verzyl, to administration, college deans, advisors, the Bursar’s Office and Enrollment Services staff. I should note that at times students do request that they be withdrawn from only some courses since they reach an understanding with faculty regarding completion (e.g. they may have completed enough material for a grade) and the Registrar’s office works with them to enable this.

Since the resolution appears to request what is already in place no further action appears to be necessary. I do, however, appreciate the thought of the Faculty Senate in support of our students on active duty. If there are specific instances that the Senate is aware of where students may have faced difficulty I would appreciate this being brought to my attention.