

Minutes for the Faculty Senate Meeting

November 15, 2016

Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM by President Margaret Gnoinska.

Members present: Brittany Armstrong, Sherrionda Crawford, Tonya Conner, George Crowley, Dianne Eppler, Margaret Gnoinska, William Heisler, Byrd Jennings, John Jinright, Kelly Johnson, Jacqueline Jones, Robert Kruckeberg, Paige Paquette, Michael Slobodchikoff, Michael Stewart, and Zhiyong Wang.

Members absent: Catherine Allard (no notice), Joel Campbell (notice), Jeffrey Ickes (notice), Gary Manfready (notice), Gina Mariano (notice), Jeff Simpson (notice), and Joe Teng (no notice).

Others present: Ms. Faith Ward and Mr. Tanner Hicks

Guest Speakers: Ms. Faith Ward, Director of Alumni Affairs

Mr. Tanner Hicks, Alumni Affairs Coordinator

- I. Ms. Ward discussed ways in which Alumni Affairs can be an asset to faculty.
 - a. Alumni Affairs has a database of alumni which has as much information about each alumnus as possible.
 - b. It would be beneficial if faculty members encourage alumni and graduating students to contact Mr. Hicks to join the Alumni Association or update information in database.
 - c. Every five years an alumni directory is published. Alumni are allowed to opt out if they don't want one.
 - d. There are approximately 148,000 alumni in the database. However, only about 70,000 emails are current.
 - e. Alumni Affairs is willing to promote events and activities. Faculty members should send flyers and information.
 - f. Alumni Affairs is very active in promoting athletic programs, and they would like to be more involved in supporting academic events and opportunities.
 - g. It is not necessary to be an alumnus to join the Alumni Association. The cost is \$25.00 per year. This membership includes 20% off at the bookstore, other discounts, and FREE tailgates for football, basketball, and baseball games.
 - h. Ms. Ward said Alumni Affairs appreciates all of the support they receive from the faculty.
- II. Mr. Hicks explained information about the alumni membership.
 - a. Members receive an alumni card and an alumni magazine (3 times a year).
 - b. Much of the money from the Alumni Association goes toward student scholarships.
 - c. Ms. Ward shared Alumni Affairs has developed a mentoring program. Last year ten current students were matched with ten alumni. This year they have matched thirty-seven students and alumni together. She shared an example of a student in criminal justice sharing with his mentor that they didn't have any money in their CJ club. The alumnus went to the local FOP and shared this need with them. The FOP donated to the club.
- III. Several questions were asked at the conclusion of the presentation.
 - a. Dr. Gnoinska asked how far back the database goes. Ms. Ward replied the database began in 1975. Alumni Affairs uses Razor's Edge database. She also explained the benefits of social media in reaching out to alumni.

- b. Dr. Slobodchikoff mentioned the MSIR program has developed an Alumni Council. He asked if Alumni Affairs could help. Ms. Ward responded with information about the database in which Alumni Affairs can tease out data in certain areas, so they can help provide a list of current MSIR alumni.
- c. Dr. Heisler asked if Alumni Affairs can break out data by program. Mr. Hicks replied they can break out data any way one would like it. Ms. Ward asked those requesting data be as specific as possible.
- d. Ms. Ward also shared about events with Troy Alumni Associations in states such as New York and Nebraska. She said there are 67 alumni chapters, and there are approximately 50,000 (10,000 in Montgomery and 2500 in Birmingham) alumni in the state of Alabama. Ms. Ward provided information about the three international Troy alumni chapters in Vietnam, Russia, and China. The Troy Alumnus of the year was from Belgium. He hopes to start a chapter there soon.
- e. Dr. Slobodchikoff asked if the MSIR program named an Alumnus of the year, would it be possible for Alumni Affairs to provide a plaque. Ms. Ward explained the Alumni Association gives a certificate, and the template could be modified for the MSIR Alumnus of the Year. This discussion prompted Ms. Ward to tell the senate about the leadership conference Alumni Affairs hosts twice a year. The next conference will be on February 4, 2017. Alumni leadership is given important information about the university and events.
- f. Dr. Gnoinska asked if email was the best way for faculty to connect with Alumni Affairs. She also asked if it was possible to have the Alumni Affairs Facebook page connected to college websites. Ms. Ward said email is a great way for faculty to contact them, and the Facebook/website connection was possible. Mr. Hicks stated everything the Alumni Association does is on the troy.edu website. Maybe that link could be connected with department and college websites. Ms. Ward reminded the senators, because the website cannot be as easily updated, Facebook hosts the most up-to-date alumni information.
- g. Dr. Slobodchikoff asked how often alumni participate in recruiting. Ms. Ward responded alumni often attend career fairs and provide scholarships.
- h. Dr. Gnoinska asked when the best time might be to connect with an alumnus. Ms. Ward explained that all graduates receive a free one-year membership, but some do not activate it. Most people are 40 years old before they reconnect. She also told the senators that Career Services will help alumni find jobs if they need help.
- i. Mr. Hicks reminded the senate that, although many alumni are involved in athletics, there are many who care about academics. Alumni Affairs is looking to provide more activities for non-sports.
- j. Dr. Gnoinska asked if the number of alumni is increasing. Mr. Hicks said the numbers are up and the total number of memberships has increased.
- k. Dr. Gnoinska asked what Alumni Affairs is doing to maintain the momentum it is experiencing now. Ms. Ward said that the organization is trying to provide information to alumni and keep them engaged with the university. Alumni Affairs sends out surveys to determine what most interests alumni.
- l. Ms. Ward concluded with information about alumni giving scholarships. She stated that there are several which are in the process of being endowed. She also shared the new goal of Alumni Affairs, now that funds for the End Zone have been secured, is 5 years of increasing academic scholarships.

Committee Reports

- I. Executive Committee: Dr. Gnoinska shared the committee is still mining the data from the faculty survey. A report should be available by December. She also provided a note from Dr. Ingram about a faculty raise. Dr. Ingram stated that Chancellor Hawkins is analyzing the data from the fall to determine if a raise is possible.
- II. Committee on Committees: Dr. Slobodchikoff shared that the OER textbook committee will have members from the Senate. The graduate and undergraduate councils met.
- III. Elections Committee: No report (Dr. Gnoinska mentioned junior faculty members needing service opportunities should run for Faculty Senate).
- IV. Academic Affairs Committee- No report
- V. Faculty Welfare Committee-
 - a. Dr. Jinright shared the need to clarify the sample size for the faculty survey. The survey went out to faculty members who are not currently teaching. He said the ALL FACULTY list was used. We should be aware of this issue when emailing faculty members for elections.
 - b. Dr. Stewart inquired as to why the faculty survey did not request information above the level of Dean of the college.
 - c. Dr. Jinright also shared an interest in investigating the methods by which caps are changed on courses. He spoke with Dr. Edwards. He said some catalogues have duplicate numbers. Also Lecture Capture is a way of increasing enrollments. If caps are large, they count double in faculty load. The caps decisions are usually made by the associate dean of the college. Many colleges are trying to restructure to prevent large cap sizes. When asked, Dr. Edward said the rules for caps are the same on all ways of presenting courses. The senate discussed how many deans approach caps differently. It is important to look at this seriously because the caps decisions are not uniform. Maybe changes in implementation are needed.
- VI. Educational Technology Committee-
 - a. The Technology Committee has recently worked on issues associated with the Course Substitution Form. As the most recent update, we found out that the form must be directed to the department chair and dean from which the course is offered, but not necessarily the chair/dean associated with the student's major. For example, if a Biology major student took a Psychology course and wants to substitute it, the form needs to be directed to the Division of Psychology under the College of Education.
 - b. Dr. Stewart shared that he met with Ms. Miles after the last Faculty Senate meeting, and she does want to help the faculty members any way she can.
- VII. Ad Hoc Student Appreciation Day Committee- No report

College and Campus Committee Reports

- I. **Dothan**- No report
- II. **Global Campus**- No Report
- III. **Montgomery**- The SGA and Faculty hosted a cookout. A strong sense of community seems to be forming.
- IV. **Phenix City**- On November 17, from 5:30pm - 8:30pm, Troy Phenix City will host an OPEN House: College Affordability Day (101, Lobby, Student Lounge and 301). It is designed to help prospective students learn more about scholarships, financial aid and other ways to make college more affordable. November 18-20, the Phenix City Riverfront Campus will host the River City Foundry's Start Up. People from throughout the region will participate in this

entrepreneurship training and business development event. Finally, it is with a heavy heart that I share Leona Detwiler's passing on Saturday. Funeral services will be held 4:00 pm EST Thursday, November 17, 2016 at Vance Memorial Chapel in Phenix City. The family will receive friends Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 pm EST at the funeral home. Vance Memorial webpage: <http://www.vancememorialchapel.net/notices/Leona-Detwiler>

- V. Troy- The ballgame is big this week. It is on ESPN 2. Parking information has been emailed to everyone.

Old Business

- I. College-wide elections were held in College of Business for the Graduate Academic Council.
- II. Dr. Gnoinska asked the senate if there were any other online forms with problems?
 - a. One problem mentioned was that it is sometimes difficult to find forms.
 - b. Dr. Stewart suggested someone might revamp the forms' directions.
 - c. Dr. Gnoinska reminded the senate that she has invited Dr. Greg Price to attend a meeting next semester. The faculty can voice concerns they have about forms such as travel approval (example).
 - d. Dr. Wang said it is trying to have to deal with two different websites. One is more for Troy users and the other is more commercial. He stated the technology department is looking at a new system.
 - e. Dr. Jinright expressed concern that the website is not user-friendly. Students and faculty have difficulty finding information, not just forms.
- III. Dr. Gnoinska thanked those who participated in the two events during International Education Week.
 - a. She relayed details about the panel discussion: "Polish, Hungarian, and Suez Crises of 1956: 60 Years On." The attendance was lower, but the participants had a great discussion. There was interdisciplinary participation. Major General Walter D. Givhan brought much insight.
 - b. The Faculty Senate Roundtable had many participants. Participants discussed issues such as language barriers, cultural differences, tools for faculty, and websites for helping faculty teach internationals.
 - c. Through the round table, a participant suggested each college have a liaison between that college and the International program.
 - d. Dr. Ingram recommended problems with international students should be taken to the chair. He also put forth the recommendation that international students with poor writing skills be referred to the writing center.
 - e. During the faculty senate meeting, Dr. Gnoinska asked if we should try to incorporate new tools to help with internationals. Possible recommendations to help with international students' problems.
 - i. Dr. Jinright suggested a Buddy system for International students and native students.
 - ii. Dr. Stewart emphasized the need for a mechanism in place to help them.
 - iii. Dr. Jinright asked if there is a way to get a glimpse of why international students are failing. Is it that they don't understand the concepts or is it more of a language barrier?
 - iv. Dr. Stewart recommended it could be beneficial to have a personal interview with an international student prior to admission in order to determine if he or she has a good understanding of the English language. Dr. Crawley noticed that

most of the experiences sound similar. We must try to help the struggling students.

- v. Dr. Paquette recommended that they not be allowed to take online courses, especially English.
- vi. Dr. Crawley said he feels that sometimes international students are not prepared to succeed.
- vii. Several senators discussed the fact that the writing center is manned by undergraduate students. It could be difficult for them to help with graduate-level writing. Dr. Gnoinska suggested one possibility could be the writing center hiring graduate level workers.
- viii. Dr. Jinright reminded the senators that international students must ask for help. In many cultures it is wrong to ask a question. Maybe international students should be reminded that it is okay to do so. Dr. Jinright also suggested Troy host an orientation for international students to learn more about Troy and the assistance available to them.

New Business

- I. Textbooks/OER (Open Educational Resources) discussion
 - a. Dr. Gnoinska suggested the senate create a team to explore the options about lowering costs of textbooks.
 - b. Dr. Stewart identified the problem many instructors do not even use the required textbooks.
 - c. Dr. Gnoinska relayed there are several teams already working on this issue. OER is the Chancellor's Fellows' project and Dr. Paquette will be teaching an OER course. She reminded we don't want all faculty to be told no textbooks. Dr. Gnoinska then asked for 3 Faculty Senate members to help review this process.
 - d. Dr. Stewart pointed out many times the editions change, but none of the material and very little formatting is different.
 - e. Dr. Gnoinska reminded the senators of a recent statement from Dr. Glynn Cavin. "Our goal is to work with faculty members to review current course materials, explore open resources, and where the academic quality is equal to or better than current material, and the cost is less, to introduce the open source material into the course. Faculty members will not be left to fend for themselves in this program, we will work with them on the material selection and course redesign as necessary."
- II. Library resources
 - a. Dr. Gnoinska asked if there were any additional thoughts after the visit from Dr. Schaffer.
 - i. Dr. Jones explained she had examined the available scientific journals and would still like to see more in the library.
 - ii. Dr. Slobodchikoff mentioned online journals take a year but physical journals are always up-to-date.
 - iii. Dr. Gnoinska suggested we consider journals we would like to request to remain in print.
- III. Advising and Study Abroad
 - a. Dr. Gnoinska suggested that studying abroad might help some students when they are seeking a job. She inquired as to whether this might be incorporated in advising. Advisors could recommend students visit with Ms. Maria Frigge.

- b. Dr. Stewart posited that a study abroad semester, or at least a trip, should be required at Troy, since we are Alabama's International University.
- c. Dr. Gnoinska reminded the senators that all students are not ready to travel abroad early in their college careers. She maintained junior year would be a good time for them to study abroad.

No other topics were introduced during the meeting. It was adjourned at 3:40.