

## Approved Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting

August 31, 2016

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

**Members present:** Brittany Armstrong, Sherrionda Crawford, Tonya Conner, George Crowley, McKenzie Dabney, Trey Fitch, Margaret Gnoinska, William Heisler, Jeffrey Ickes, Byrd Jennings, John Jinright, Kelly Johnson, Robert Kruckeberg, Gina Mariano, Paige Paquette, Jeff Simpson, Michael Slobodchikoff, Michael Stewart, Jonathan Taylor, Joe Teng, and Zhiyong Wang.

**Members absent:** Catherine Allard (no notice), Joel Campbell (notice), Diane Eppler (notice), and Gary Manfready (notice).

**Others present:** Gordon Stone, Brett Johnson, and Dr. Earl Ingram.

**Guest Speaker:** Gordon Stone, Executive Director of the Higher Education Partnership (HEP)

- I. The state of public funding is POOR. HEP serves as an advocate for the universities.
  - a. HEP's number one goal is to protect the university family and the Education Trust Fund.
- II. Membership information is on the website at <http://www.higheredpartners.org/>.
- III. Higher Ed Day is scheduled for February 23, 2017 (see more on website).
- IV. In the state, HEP benefits:
  - b. The 110,000 student members.
  - c. The 1.5 million people in 12 counties who are employed in higher education.
- V. Educators' Professional Liability Insurance is available. Please look at the website and contact Brett Johnson for more details.
- VI. Margaret Gnoinska asked if the HEP reaches out to those who received a degree from an Alabama college but no longer live here. Mr. Stone explained that HEP is working through the alumni associations to reach more graduates.

**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Earl Ingram, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academics

- I. Dr. Ingram thanked senators for serving on the Faculty Senate.
  - a. He thanked everyone for caring about the greater good of the faculty, students, and university.
  - b. He also recognized serving on the Faculty Senate is voluntary, and this group makes a difference in the institution's life.
- II. Dr. Ingram explained his responsibilities:
  - a. Advocate for the faculty, students, and leadership with the administration.
  - b. Strive to provide a positive university educational experience.
- III. Dr. Ingram shared his thoughts on the purpose of a university education.
  - a. Higher education should prepare people to be good in their lives, in addition to their jobs.
  - b. General studies is important because it should encourage students' critical thinking and understanding of humanity in order to better help them in life.
- IV. Dr. Ingram sees his role as being responsible for defending the academic integrity of the institution.
  - a. Advocates for faculty.
  - b. Manages boundaries between academic divisions and other three in the institution.

- c. Advocates from highest standards of academic quality.
  - d. Advocates for freedom vs responsibility.
- V. Dr. Ingram explained that in addition to his role, there are many others responsible for the success of the university.
  - a. There are 15 established councils and standing committees.
  - b. The Board of Trustees is responsible for the mission and direction of the institution.
  - c. The faculty determines how the mission will be carried out.
  - d. Undergraduate and Graduate Academic Councils work with others on curricular issues.
  - e. The CRC and URC determine a faculty member's future. Tenure is the most important decision "we" make about our faculty.
- VI. Dr. Ingram reminded that TROY is a unique institution with many working parts.
  - a. "Many recognize what we do, but they do not know how we do it."
  - b. Even though we are many, we still base our accreditation on SACS.
  - c. TROY has the best collection of faculty members now.
    - i. Better than in the last 30 years.
    - ii. Scholarship generated by faculty.
- VII. Dr. Ingram gave his insights to the current state of TROY.
  - a. The fall head count is down less than 1% over last year.
  - b. There's an increase in total credit hour production of 2%.
  - c. The university it still only receiving 18% to 19% of operating budget from the state. TROY is a tuition-driven institution.
  - d. The total enrollment is a little over 16,000 with more international students coming.
  - e. We have reached over 1000 international students.
  - f. Over the past 12 years, the university has offered some sort of raise and compensation each year.
    - i. No faculty member has lost employment during the downturn.
    - ii. Our bond rating has not been downgraded.
  - g. Troy University is more diverse.
    - i. In 1989 we had approximately 40 international students. Now we have 1000 with approximately 76 countries represented.
    - ii. We probably have more who do not self-identify.
  - h. TROY Online has 70 pathways to credentials.
    - i. 52% of the students are engaged through non-residential or online courses.
    - ii. We must consider this group as we plan programs.
    - iii. Currently 30,000 students in Alabama are taking courses online from other universities.
  - i. Approximately 25-30% of ours students are military.
    - i. We have seen an increase in military spouses and other dependents.
    - ii. We need to consider what programs support a military lifestyle and determine how to offer those programs online.
    - iii. We should contact CPT Danielle Pankey at Troy for Troops with any suggestions or questions.
  - j. There are several areas of focus:
    - i. Organizational communication (including advising)
    - ii. Flexibility and accessibility to serve more students
    - iii. Relevancy
      - 1. Look at electives and requirements in programs.

2. There is too much detail included in classes; we need more focus on developing skills such as critical thinking and writing
3. Humanities courses are important.
4. Faculty makes a difference- drivers of quality in the institution.
5. Comprehensive internationalization for faculty

- VIII. Dr. Ingram shared 5 reasons students leave the institution
  - a. Money
  - b. Personal
  - c. Advising
  - d. Frustration with faculty and staff
  - e. Course Availability
- IX. Dr. Ingram recommended four ways to succeed as advisors.
  - a. Know our programs.
  - b. Know our students (many are unique).
  - c. Be empathetic.
  - d. Be available.
- X. Margaret Gnoinska asked Dr. Ingram how faculty should balance availability, downtime, and research. Dr. Ingram stated that it is all do-able. Time management is the key.

## Reports Committees

- I. Executive Committee
  - a. Dr. Gnoinska thanked all of the returning and new senators for attending.
  - b. She reviewed her main points from her convocation speech.
    - i. Faculty survey is very important. The survey should be available in late September or October.
    - ii. An ad-hoc committee for Student Appreciation Day will meet and plan the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual event. Tonya Conner will head that committee.
    - iii. The senate will advocate and determine ways to have a “paperless” environment that is user friendly.
    - iv. Faculty internationalization is key. Maria Frigge will join us in October to share more about study abroad opportunities for students and faculty.
    - v. The senate will determine ways to strengthen communication between the faculty and the library. Dr. Chris Schaffer will attend in October also to share more insights as to how the library can be beneficial to faculty.
    - vi. The senate will also work to cultivate relationships with TROY alumni.
- II. Committee on Committees
  - a. Dr. Slobodchikoff introduced himself as the vice president of the Faculty Senate and the chair of this committee.
  - b. His role is to help other committees when needed.
- III. Elections Committee
  - a. Dr. Paquette is the chair of this committee.
  - b. Dr. Gnoinska stated there are still positions needing to be filled on councils and committees. There will be college specific elections in the College of Education and the College of Business.
- IV. Faculty Welfare

- a. Dr. Jinright is the chair of this committee.
  - b. There are several opportunities that are coming soon such as the faculty survey.
- V. Academic Affairs
  - a. Dr. Heisler is the chair of this committee.
  - b. He explained this committee will focus on maintaining the academic quality and integrity of the university.
- VI. Technology
  - a. Dr. Wang is the chair of this committee.
  - b. He stated the committee aims to provide support and training to faculty members, solicits feedback and concerns from the faculty members, and also addresses budgetary issues regarding advances in technology.
- VII. Ad Hoc Student Appreciation Day
  - a. Dr. Conner is working closely with Dr. Eckis who chaired the committee last year.
  - b. She stressed that this is an important event because it is happening at all campuses on the same day.
  - c. The event is typically in April.

### **Reports College & Campus**

- I. Dothan- none
- II. Global Campus- Shared and discussed the current name, title, and representation of what was previously known as Global Campus. The locations outside of Alabama that are open are called TROY Online Support Centers.
- III. Montgomery- Dr. Jonathan Taylor shared that the energy and atmosphere is noticeably better at the campus. Dr. Taylor also discussed several ways in which TROY Montgomery is bringing activity to the campus such as the Center for Public Service and the Alabama World Affairs Council.
- IV. Phenix City- none
- V. Troy- Dr. Johnson shared that College Colors Day is Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. She also relayed that several departments were collecting supplies for Louisiana flood victims (Troy Athletics, and School of Nursing. The first football game of the season is Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> against Austin Peay- GO TROY!

### **Old Business-none**

**New Business-** Faculty senate members were notified of the committees to which they were appointed. Dr. Gnoinska asked any members with concerns about the committees on which they would serve to contact her. She explained that most work gets done in committees, so each member should be available. She also suggested committee members listen closely to faculty and staff for insight.

Dr. Slobodchikoff expressed the importance of communication within the university. He suggested that representatives provide minutes to their colleges in order to allow dialogue, try to open links of communication, and refer to the official minutes posted on the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59.