

Minutes
Faculty Council Meeting
Wallace Hall

Date: October 31, 2007

Time: 3:00 pm

Members Present: Dr. Scout Blum (T)
Dr. Cindy McCoy (T)
Dr. Sam Shelton (T)

Dr. Sandra Harris (M)
Dr. Dianne Eppler (UC)
Dr. David Hollingsworth (PC)
Ms. Alyssa Martin (Lib)
Dr. Steven Taylor (T)
Dr. Dick Williams (D)

Dr. Timothy Buckner (T)
Dr. Allen Dennis (T)
Dr. Nirmol Podder (T)

Dr. Bud Borders (D)
Dr. James DeLoach (M)
Dr. Larry Fogelberg (T)
Dr. Jim Ryan (PC)

Dr. Catherine Allard (T)
Dr. Mark Walker (T)

Dr. Andrew Creamer (T)
Dr. Frank Hammonds (T)
Dr. Chan Roark (T)
Dr. Jeanne Wright (T)

Dr. Sue Hayden (T)

Absent: Dr. Jim Davis (T) w/Notice
Dr. Sandra Harris (M)
Dr. Tish Matuszek (M)

1. Roll was called by Sam Shelton

2. Dr. Blum welcomed the new members of the Faculty Council:

Dr. Allen Dennis – College of Arts & Sciences
Dr. Larry Fogelberg – Sorrell College of Business
Dr. David Hollingsworth – Phenix City

3. The minutes from the September meeting were reviewed. Dr. Taylor moved approval; Dr. Dennis seconded; approved.

4. Old Business

a. Dr. Eppler presented the report of the Faculty Welfare Committee.

- i. Americans with Disabilities Act standardized language for the syllabus. Dr. Eppler spoke to Dr. Lee Vardaman and he thought that the faculty had the wrong link. Dr. Vardaman forwarded Dr. Hal Fulmer's latest link, and it takes you directly into the Human Resource home page. There is a contact list including University College.

Dr. Allard suggested to change the word "claims" to "contact list" to make it less confusing for students not making an employment claim.

Dr. Eppler moved acceptance of the standardized language with Dr. Allard's suggestion; seconded by Dr. Allard; approved.

- ii. Textbooks. Dr. Blum emailed Dr. Roach requesting information on exactly what the textbook policy is because she received some information about the distance learning classes requiring one textbook for all classes instead of just general study classes.

Dr. Blum recognized Dr. Roach to discuss the textbook policy. Dr. Roach brought the Deans from all the colleges to address this matter. Dr. Roach spoke about the approved textbook policy that is on the Troy website under Key Documents. There are specific procedures and protocol in the context of the approved textbook policy, where the Deans can delineate ways within each college to recommend textbooks to the respective Dean for approval. That procedure is published within each of the colleges.

Dr. Roach asked Dr. Ingram, Vice Chancellor for University College, to explain the College's procedure. When eCampus was first created under OGU, there were numerous textbook issues that were confusing for the students, especially in the multi-section courses. The people at eCampus who manage the textbook selection and the alignment of faculty with the schedule understand that the University policy is the driving force and that the University policy is exercised through the Deans and that each college has its own way of identifying how a textbook is going to be selected.

Common textbooks are required for undergraduate general education courses. Common textbooks are recommended for upper-level undergraduate courses. Common textbooks are not required for graduate courses. There may be times that it is a challenge in executing the policy, but that is going to happen rarely that it will be handled or negotiated as they come up. The staff at eCampus understands that requiring something different is not their prerogative.

Dr. Taylor asked what exact authority the individual faculty member has. Dr. Jeffrey explained the policy for the College of Arts & Sciences. The multi-section course issue may be the issue that creates some discussion, but he believes that the faculty will use common sense to reach consensus.

Dr. Roach referred to the last sentence in the University policy. The Dean of the college would establish a process and the final approval would be by that Dean, but the conclusion must be consistent with the University policy. He also commented that we are trying to serve students; the policy does not try in any way to violate the prerogatives of the faculty.

One thing that was discovered during the OGU merger was that there are many different policies and practices. The Steering Committee is a group that meets to look at the policies and procedures that need to be developed for consistency. Once they make a decision, Dr. Roach assumes that each of the Deans will go back to the respective college and communicate those policies and procedures to the faculty. If there is an issue within the college or one that goes across college boundaries, the Dean should solicit input from the faculty of that college in order to get to some common ground.

Dr. Roach asked each of the Deans to answer any questions about the procedures within each College:

Dr. Tatum, College of Education: A process was developed so that textbooks would be reviewed regularly and posted in a location where faculty can see what options are available. Any changes to the list of recommended textbooks would go through discipline committees, then up through the governing structure.

Dr. Smith, College of Health and Human Services: The College must adhere to certain standards through accreditation and student learning outcomes. Discipline committees identified however many books were required for a course and the books would be the same every time that course is offered. If a faculty member wants to use something different, the faculty member needs approval from the Dean.

Dr. Hines, Sorrell College of Business: All textbook recommendations go through the discipline committees. Every faculty member would then vote on the textbook for the discipline. If any faculty member wants to use a new text, that contact would be made to the chair of the committee and then the committee would make the decision.

Dr. Cochran, College of Communication and Fine Arts: The departments do not have a specific textbook committee; it is embedded into the regular department meetings.

Dr Ingram proposed an eCampus academic advisory committee to enhance the communication on these kinds of issues. There would be representation from each of the respective colleges. How this is going to be implemented is still being worked out.

Dr. Blum suggested that she contact the discipline committee chairs of each college and ask them to relay the information out to their faculty so that everyone can at least have a chance to read and comment on the policy. She also asked each of the Deans to send her any updated implementation policy. Dr. Blum thanked Dr. Roach, Dr. Ingram, Dr. Jeffrey, and the Deans for attending the meeting and helping to clarify the textbook policy.

- b. Dr. Allard presented the report of the Academic Affairs Committee.
 - i. Faculty Needs by College. Dr. Allard is still seeking responses from three of the colleges concerning the faculty needs survey.
 - ii. Dr. did not receive any comments on the Year End Evaluation of Professional Development Plan presented by Dr. Barron at the September meeting. Dr. Taylor moved acceptance; Dr. McCoy seconded; approved.

Motion to adopt the Year End Evaluation Development Plan as is.
Motion passed.

- c. Dr. Shelton presented the report of the Election Committee.
 - i. The three vacancies have been filled. He thanked the administrative officials of Phenix City, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Sorrell College of Business for their cooperation in conducting the elections.
- d. Dr. McCoy presented the report of the Committee on Committee.

There is nothing to report, but Dr. McCoy reminded Council members who serve on University committees to keep her advised of the committee's activities.

5. New Business

a. Vision 2010

The Vision 2010 plan can be found at the University website under Key Documents. This strategic plan has a number of incentives including the vision of the Chancellor and university mission statement.

1. Student Centeredness – The strategic plan is literally worked on daily and through the Academic Steering Committee. It is highly focused on the respective objectives that are assigned to key people throughout the division of academics. All that obviously has to do with the concerns of the students and student centeredness.
2. Quality Academic Program – One of the things that the Chancellor is interested and concerned with is adding new, needed academic programs. There have been two new vice chancellors named – Dr. Jeffrey at the Dothan Campus and Dr. White at the Montgomery Campus. Each campus of Troy University has a unique place in the delivery of a quality academic program: Troy is the traditional campus; Montgomery, Dothan, and Phenix City are the non-traditional campuses, serving, not exclusively but largely, the adult student; University College is considered as a campus to deliver programs to students beyond Alabama.
3. Internationalization – The Chancellor has a passion for internationalization. He was recently in Beijing with Governor Riley where Troy was awarded the one Confucius Institute for the State of Alabama. We also have a new 3+1 program with Dr. Danyushenkov of Russia in environment science and business.
4. Faculty and Staff Development – The Chancellor is committed to achieving the salary increase to the southeast average. There is a phrase-in beginning in the 2008-2009 budget; there are dollars earmarked, and the Chancellor is committed to make strides in the area of salaries. The college Deans will be heavily involved. There are many disciplines and market issues involved. They are looking at the equity and merit, and there is also the assumption that we will have the continued help from the economy and good state funding. The last session of the Alabama Legislature and the one before that provided a record funding on the part of the state for higher education.

Over the past two years, the University has increased its contribution to the health insurance program by \$1.25 million; as a result, the employees' premium for health insurance decreased from \$431 a month to \$235 a

month for family coverage. Our premiums are now way below the state average of other universities.

5. Troy University Story—There were 13 separate ad agencies that we used and now that has been cut to one. Troy is making an impact in the state, region and across the world. Governor Riley is a fan of Troy University; he is committed that this is the University that should have the Confucius Institute.

Dr. Blum thanked Dr. Roach for his update.

- b. Social Security Number/Privacy Issue. Dr. McCoy expressed a concern that the University is still using social security number on documents that might become public. There was an employee that had her number compromised and it is believed it was from Datatel. Dr. McCoy understands that there is another system coming to the University that will have the employees' vitae and transcripts scanned into a public system. Dr. Smith assured her that all the personal information will be blacked out at the College of Health and Human Services before a document is scanned.

Dr. Allard suggested the use of employee identification numbers instead of social security numbers for internal activities.

- c. Town Hall Meetings. Dr. Blum noted that one of the biggest issues that came across at to Dr. Blum at her Town Hall meetings was the concern of shared governance and the roll of the faculty in making policies. She noted that Dr. Roach invited her to attend the next Academic Steering Committee meeting. Dr. Blum hopes that this will help with some of the communication problems that occur from time to time.

5. The meeting adjourned at 4:42 pm.