

Approved Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting February 23, 2016

Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM by President Dionne Rosser-Mims.

Members Present: Gary Manfready, Jonathan Taylor, Trey Fitch, Jeff Simpson, Lane Eckis, Michael Slobodchikoff, Michael Stewart, Vijaya Gompa, Zhiyong Wang, Dianne Eppler, Gina Mariano, Tonya Conner, Margaret Gnoinska, Jeffrey Ickes, Dionne Rosser-Mims, John Jinright, Kerri Outlaw, and Joel Campbell, William Heisler, Ronald Shehane, Paige Paquette

Members Absent: Jason Orrock (no notice), Gina Mariano (notice), Catherine Allard (notice), Kelly Johnson (notice).

Others Present: Earl Ingram

Preliminaries

Reports Committees

I. Executive Committee – Dr. Rosser-Mims:

- a. We are making progress on improving the faculty survey that we conducted last year. The Ad Hoc Committee, which has been tasked with analyzing the survey and finding the appropriate tools to provide constructive feedback from the faculty, meets monthly and has been hard at work. We invite all senators to provide feedback in creating the tool that best serves the University. You can make comments via Faculty Senate Blackboard. If you are not comfortable making comments via Blackboard, please forward them to me via email. I will post them without your name attached.
- b. Dr. Ingram addressed questions regarding the new employee report resulting from the HB 39 Fairness in Salary Act. Annual leave is listed for full-time faculty but we don't actually earn leave hours. According to Dr. Ingram, HR directors among Alabama universities met and discussed the issue. We are required to place a value on all salary and benefits. There are days between semesters that faculty get paid but don't actually work. So we assume that quantity is 12 and add it to the report. Dr. Ingram reiterated that this did not mean anything and had no effect on retirement benefits.

II. Committee on Committees – Dr. Boyte-Eckis:

- a. Trojan Student Appreciation Day (TSAD):
 - i. TSAD will take place on Wednesday, April 6th, 2016. As a reminder this event is slated for the next five years as an initiative we as the faculty senate voted upon last year as a way to thank our students and provide a sense of appreciation and engender positive morale. Please add this to your Digital Measures. We, as faculty, can attest that morale is important for ourselves (given last year's survey results) and it's equally important for our students.
 - ii. This year we will also be offering a scholarship contest where students can enter with an essay or photo on how their activities, major, community activities, etc., have made a difference at Troy. It is through the graciousness of the Troy University Alumni Association and Barnes and Noble that we are able to offer these book scholarships to the winners of the contest. There will be 20 scholarships given at \$100 each. This year, our great team within IT has upgraded the website and entry process to provide the student a

seamless entry form, and a much easier way to judge entries. We will have multiple events with free food, raffles, and such. We will send out an announcement of winners on April 6th at all of our campus sites, our support centers and through Troy online.

- iii. I want to encourage all of you to not only get involved in the events at your local campus site but also to encourage your students to enter the contest. We all teach a very diverse group and have the ability to encourage and provide support for our students to be creative, be rewarded for the community service items, and to show how their lives can impact others. Just to give one example, some of our students within a civic organization at Dothan did a clothing drive last week to raise awareness of those who are of need in our community. It was a large success, and I encouraged them to submit a photo and a description on how giving items you no longer have use for can greatly add to someone else's livelihood. When you (the faculty member) and mentor encourage the student and reinforce the activities they are involved in carry great merit to society and represent Troy in a very positive way, they are more likely to continue those actions. We are a culture of caring, and we ask that you encourage your classes to participate. If you are so inclined, as some have been to provide incentives to enter the contest, that's great as well. We thank you for your support to this initiative as we feel it is a great cause.
- iv. The students will also receive numerous notifications via email, social media, Trojan Today, Trojan TV on how to enter and a special video message will be delivered by Chancellor Hawkins on April 6th. If you have any questions or need more information please feel free to send me an email.
- v. There will not be any substantial changes in the events, prizes, etc., from last year. We want to do our best to get this event established and supported by our faculty, students, and administrators. We are anticipating that potentially on the 5th year of this event, we will be able to produce a much greater celebration, grand prize, etc., but for now our students do enjoy this event as reflected in the comments from last year reiterated.
- b. Our annual Faculty Senate Excellence Award is led by Dr. Dianne Eppler. I will give her a few moments to give us an update on this award and a reminder on its specifications: Nominations will open now (as soon as someone sends out the PDF form) and will close April 1st. Nominees will be considered on basis of Teaching/Research and Service; all non-tenure track faculty are eligible and the winner will be announced @ Honors Convocation.

III. **Elections Committee – Dr. Gnoinska:**

- a. The Elections Committee is gearing up for Spring Elections. The timeline is as follows:
 - i. A notification for nominations and self-nominations will be sent to faculty on **March 15**.
 - ii. The faculty will have **TWO** weeks to provide Dr. Margaret Gnoinska with their profiles and photos, which will have to be submitted by **March 31**.
 - iii. We are expecting to hold elections in the second week of April.
 - iv. The membership of the Graduate Academic Council expanded from 18 to 19 members by adding an elected representative from the Master's of Social Work Program in the College of Health and Human Services.
 - v. As Faculty Senators, please encourage your colleagues to run for the available positions.
 - vi. If you have any questions, please ask Dr. Gnoinska (the Chair of the Elections Committee) and/or other committee members: Kelly Johnson, Tonya Conner, Paige Paquette, or Joel Campbell.
 - vii. This concludes the Elections Committee Report.

IV. **Academic Affairs Committee – Dr. Riley:**

- a. The Academic Affairs Committee met February 15 to discuss the survey under development in

the senate ad hoc committee. The discussion generated good feedback.

- V. **Faculty Welfare Committee. – Dr. Vijaya Gompa:** The Faculty Welfare Committee was reached via e-mail to discuss the survey under development in the senate ad hoc committee. The discussion generated good feedback, and it was communicated to the committee.
- VI. **Technology Committee – Dr. Wang:** No report

Other Reports:

- VII. **Dothan Campus:** Dr. Manfredo:
 - a. The trip to Higher Education Day Rally in Montgomery will be Thursday the 25th. A total of 50 students have signed up to attend. There are no other items to report.
- VIII. **Global Campus:** Dr. Fitch:
 - a. The Student Planning program is being implemented for the first time for Global Campus graduate programs. At this time enrollments do not seem to be impacted by the change. The Global Campus counseling program is finalizing its partnership with local mental health agencies to provide free or low cost CEUs. The first workshop is planned for April. This concludes the report.
- IX. **Montgomery Campus:** Dr. Taylor:
 - a. Barnes & Noble Bookstore and Café on the Montgomery campus are being currently remodeled. The official opening will take place on March 28. It will serve as a great venue for students and faculty, as well as it will increase the presence of Troy University in Montgomery. In addition, the SGA has a new president. A social function is planned for April.
- X. **Phenix City Campus:** Dr. Paquette:
 - a. Troy Phenix City hosted the Columbus/Phenix city United Way Celebration on 2/16 at our Riverfront Campus with 200 in attendance. For more details please check out this website: <http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/news/article60735616.html>
 - b. Approximately 40 educators from Russell County School District attended a Master Classroom professional development training at the Riverfront Campus on February 17.
 - c. Our February 22 Student Planning Training & Records Information Session was well attended – about 30 students.
 - d. We're hosting TSYS (corporate partner) first consolidated Technology Leadership Summit on February 23 & 24. IT professionals from around the globe will be in attendance.
- XI. **Troy Campus:** Dr. Mariano:
 - a. This is a reminder for the Student Research & Creative Works Showcase. Faculty from each college are asked to nominate outstanding student research projects. This includes both undergraduate and graduate work. Works co-authored by faculty are acceptable, but the first author should be a student. Submissions must be submitted to the website no later than April 1st. Please talk with your department chair for submission information for your college.
- XII. **Old Business – Discussion/Information Items**
 - a. Ad Hoc Committee/Resolution 3-2014-2015 update (please refer to Dr. Rosser-Mims' remarks in Item I Executive Committee Report)
 - b. Student Appreciation Day – April 6, 2016 update (please refer to Dr. Boyte-Eckis' remarks in Item II Committee on Committees Report)
- XIII. **New Business - Discussion Items**
 - a. Faculty Senate Excellence Award (please contact Dr. Dianne Eppler and refer to her remarks in Item II b of the Committee on Committee Report)
 - b. June Senate Meeting will take place via WebEx

Dr. Dionne Rosser-Mims:
Meeting Adjourned @ 2:30PM