

**Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
September 29, 2015**

Meeting called to order at 2:10 PM by President Dionne Rosser-Mims.

Members Present: Joel Campbell, Tonya Conner, Lane Eckis, Dianne Eppler, Trey Fitch, Vijaya Gompa, Margaret Gnoinska, William Heisler, Jeffrey Ickes, John Jinright, Kelly Johnson, Gary Manfready, Jason Orrock, Kerri Outlaw, Paige Paquette, Trellys Riley, Dionne R. Mims, Jeff Simpson, Michael Slobodchikoff, Michael Stewart, Jonathan Taylor, Zhiyong Wang.

Members Absent: Catherine Allard, Gina Mariano (notice), Ronald Shehane (notice).

Others present: John Dew, Glynn Cavin, Debora Fortune, Dianne Barron, Earl Ingram, Richard Nokes, and Sohail Agboatwalla.

I. President introduces guests

- a. John Dew, Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Services and Administration
- b. Deborah Fortune, Director for Quality Assurance, Center For Excellence in eTeaching
- c. Glynn Cavin, Associate Vice Chancellor for Distance Learning, eTROY

Reports Committees

II. Executive Committee – Dr. Rosser-Mims:

- a. We have been hard at work with each committee setting up meetings for the year to define issues, objectives, and goals.
- b. I would like to especially recognize Dr. Wang of the Technology Committee for his hard work.
- c. We will be having Listening Sessions of the Faculty Senate:
 - i. October 5 – Global Campus via Webex
 - ii. October 7 – Troy Campus
 - iii. October 8 – Phenix City
 - iv. October 20 – Dothan
 - v. October 29 – Montgomery

Q: What is the point/purpose of these sessions?

Dr. Rosser-Mims: Great question. The point is for the faculty to see me and for me to see what is going on on each campus and what I can do for you and to serve the university's goals and objectives.

Q: Is this for faculty senators only?

Dr. Rosser-Mims: No. All faculty are welcome.

III. Committee on Committees – Dr. Boyte-Eckis: NO REPORT

IV. Elections Committee – Dr. Gnoinska: NO REPORT

V. Academic Affairs Committee – Dr. Riley:

- a. On September 9, the Center for Excellence in eTeaching in conjunction with Troy Academic Records hosted an online training session for the new online student advising system. Ms. Maggie Uphaus, provided the training which was facilitated by Dr. Waldner and Dr. McDaniel. The webinar was well attended and additional resources such as the student planning manual, PowerPoint slides, step by step course registration instructions, tips and hints for students. Please feel free to reach out to a member of the Academic Affairs Committee if you would like to receive a copy of the resources. You may reach Dr. Riley at tariley@troy.edu. The resources will also be made available on the senate Blackboard page

VI. Faculty Welfare Committee. – Dr. Vijaya Gompa:

- a. We are thankful to Dr. Dew for agreeing to speak on right sizing issues.

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- b. Thank you all for your confidence in passing the resolution brought up by the welfare committee last year and we hope to come up with a fair, objective and valid evaluation to gain constructive feedback from faculty about their academic leadership.
- c. Faculty senate executive committee will hold a special meeting to form an adhoc committee from the senate to recommend evaluation process for department chairs, directors, and academic deans by the faculty.
- d. Dr. Cavin graciously agreed to provide information and answer questions and concerns over early deadlines for submitting syllabi at e -campus.

VII. Technology Committee – Dr. Wang:

- a. We have scheduled two meetings with our committee via Webex
- b. We are working on strengthening the cooperation with the IT Department

Other Reports:

VIII. Dothan Campus: Dr. Manfreedy –

- a. As announced at a press conference this past September 18, Michelin North America has donated \$150,000 to the Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Innovation at the Dothan Campus.
- b. A search continues for two lecturers in the Biology department. It is the hope of Troy and Dothan administration that these positions will be filled by the beginning of T3. CAS faculty have been attending newly formed “task force” group meetings. Vice Chancellor Ames has requested that these groups use a think tank procedure for promoting the Dothan campus to the local community.
- c. Dothan Campus SGA President Alexis Vincent called a meeting of all campus organizations this past September 18 to update club officers and advisors on rules and procedures for managing campus organizations. Upcoming student events announced at the meeting include the Fall Club and Organization Fair on September 30, a campus book drive to support local public schools on October 5, and the Fall Homecoming Picnic on October 14.

IX. Global Campus – Dr. Fitch: NO REPORT

X. Montgomery Campus – Dr. Taylor:

- a. Dr. Tatum (VC) is working to develop a campus retention group that will include members of the Montgomery Campus to continue to fine tune a campus-specific response to student retention.
- b. The plans for redesigning the bookstore are moving forward. This is particularly significant for our campus since the redesign option includes Starbucks, and our campus has been lacking a food/coffee option for a while, much to the frustration of our students.
- c. We are moving forward with plans for our 60th Bus Boycott Anniversary.
- d. Regarding the SGA, after a full year of flux during which the majority of the year was spent attempting to put in place standing officers, this year things are moving forward with the SGA meeting regularly and planning (a) homecoming, and (b) a holiday charity event.

XI. Phenix City Campus – Dr. Paquette:

- a. On September 11, Governor Robert Bentley toured the TROY Riverfront Campus as part of a luncheon visit to see the success and progress in Phenix City.
- b. The TROY Riverfront Campus hosted a luncheon for SGA and Freshman Forum students after they enjoyed a morning of whitewater rafting on Saturday, September 19th.
- c. Troy University will host the 2nd Annual Water Resource Management and Economics Conference October 21-23 at the Phenix City Riverfront Courtyard Marriott. For more information, contact Katelyn Kilpatrick at kkilpatr@troy.edu or 334-448-5137.
- d. The community is embracing opportunities to meet or hold events at the new TROY Riverfront campus. In the month of September, we have hosted 15 meetings/events at the new location.

XII. Troy Campus – Dr. Mariano:

- a. The College of Arts & Sciences would like to let everyone know that the Sorrell wing of the Math & Science building will be renovated in the spring, so faculty members will be temporarily relocated during the renovation.
- b. SGA on the Troy campus is working with students to develop ideas for a new student recreation center and students are very excited about it.

XIII. Dr. John Dew's Presentation

a. Thoughts about right-sizing:

- i. The good news is that we have high enrollments for domestic and international students on the Troy campus; in fact, these are record numbers. The total number of students is 7,400.
- ii. The bad news is that the enrollments at the Dothan, Montgomery, and Phenix City campuses are down. The total drop is 30% in total student enrollment in adult population. We are down to 20,000 students overall.
- iii. At the same time, the numbers of the full-time faculty remained the same.
- iv. We need to be looking at our resources in support of the numbers of students where enrollments had dropped.
- v. Full-time faculty will not be affected. But, we are thinking of ways where costs can be saved. For example, can we replace retirees with adjuncts? Of course, we cannot sacrifice the quality and standards as we must meet the accreditation requirements, so no activity will be pertaining to full-time faculty.
- vi. We will continue to look at enrollment numbers. If we have less than 20,000 students, we will have some access capacity in this respect, but we need to maintain the critical mass.

Q: What do you mean by the "critical mass"?

Dr. Dew: Well, SACS (the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools) actually used this term. We often have academic programs that are small on this campus, so if you have, let's say, 2-3 full-time faculty members and 30 adjuncts that is not quality control. Well, even SACS has not provided us with a clear definition. We often get two different answers.

Q: How would right-sizing activities affect full-time faculty long term?

Dr. Dew: Not at all. If we have growing enrollments, the full-time faculty will not be affected. And, we need everyone's participation to increase enrollments. Thank you for your participation.

b. Strategic Plan

- i. Our Board of Trustees wants to be more involved in the strategic plan than in the previous cycle. Of course, we always ask a variety of questions such as: What's most important to our trustees? What matters most to them? Are they on board with the Alabama's International University concept? We shared the information we gathered with Chancellor Hawkins and other vice chancellors. The Chancellor reviewed the plan.
- ii. We had a meeting on July 10, 2015 with the Board of Trustees. We broke into different groups. On July 11, the Board of Trustees approved the plans and devised action plans for each of the areas, including embracing the concept of being Alabama's International University, the importance of accessibility, making tuition affordable, and maintaining high quality. All of these would focus on traditional students, on-line students, adult learners, and military students.
- iii. Major Goals of the Strategic Plan:
 1. *Grow enrollments from adult students*
 - a. We are looking into specific partnerships with city governments and corporations, e.g. we have a partnership with AFLEC in Columbus, GA.
 - b. We want graduate programs to produce more enrollments
 - c. Our School of Science and Technology should also produce more enrollments.
 - d. We were at 50% of the 6-year graduation rate, we are now at 40%
 - e. We want community college students to produce more enrollments.
 - f. We have been under-recruiting in Mobile and Birmingham areas and we are adding more recruiters to increase enrollments. So far, we have had a great experience in this respect.
 2. *Collegiate Experience*
 - a. We are building a new recreational facility on campus
 - b. We are devising ways how to make our library to be on the cutting edge

- b. We want to increase our stewardship in this respect by being more active in the arts and providing performances.
- c. We want to expand our entrepreneurship in Dothan and Phenix City in order to increase economic growth
- d. In the Mobile area, we want to establish partnerships with Airbus and to get involved in the maritime traffic related to the recent opportunities provided by the expansion of the Panama Canal.
- e. These type of activities, we hope, will also contribute to cross-cultural understanding.

Finally, why do we want to be thought of as Alabama's International University? We want our students to have a global perspective. Our students need to be able to interact with people from different perspectives and around the world. This gives them opportunities to work for international corporations in Alabama, which are from Korea, Mexico, Germany, etc. Parents are convinced that this is important. One of my daughters works for Mercedes in Birmingham.

Thank you for your attention. Do you have any questions?

Q: Do we have any alumni trips internationally?

Dr. Dew: No, we don't.

Dr. Ingram: We used to have such trips several years back, 2 or 4 years ago. But, this is a good idea.

Q: Can you comment on what areas will get more emphasis with the recent appointment of Earl Johnson to the Board of Trustees? In other words, with Earl Johnson replacing Doug Hawkins, do we anticipate any changes?

Dr. Dew: Andalusia's Mayor, Earl Johnson, loves this University. He is one of the prime movers and will be actively engaged.

Q: Economic growth: how do we promote that growth? Do we have any agreements with corporations in the area of science and social sciences?

Dr. Ingram: We don't have any agreements that are in place as of now. But given the upcoming School of Science and Technology, we will engage in grants and other opportunities.

Q: Has there been any mention of additional parking facilities, especially on the Troy campus, in the Strategic Plan?

Dr. Ingram: We have had a discussion on parking. Currently we have 7,000 students on campus. There are a lot of parking spaces on the Trojan Arena. If our enrollments continue to grow and reach 8,000, we will take the stair step approach.

Q: As far as facilities on campus, are there any plans to try to match up offices for departments to be together?

Dr. Ingram: Officing is not unimportant and placing professors close to classrooms is important, but we need classroom space and laboratories.

Dr. Rosser-Mims: Well, thank you Dr. Dew for your time. Now we have Dr. Fortune and Dr. Cavin to talk about the Design Champion Program and to answer your questions, hear your feedback, and to provide support for the faculty.

XIV. Dr. Fortune's Presentation

- a. Thank you, Dr. Mims. We made a few organizational changes in eTROY. If you have any instructional design questions, please refer them to me by e-mail or call me and I will answer them as soon as possible.
- b. It was the Design Champion sub-committee which designed this program. It is still in its draft copy, so if you have any questions, please e-mail me directly.
- c. The main purpose of the Champion Program is how to advance our student courses. We need your input and your feedback. Once we have those, we will get back with you at the next senate meeting for a resolution.
- d. Dr. Rosser-Mims: This is indeed a great program to teach on-line and on campus, as well as to be used in blended courses. Dr. Cavin will also answer your questions and Dr. Riley will work through on the resolution to pass this program.

XV. Q & A with Dr. Cavin

- a. *Dr. Rosser-Mims:* Dr. Cavin, can you please speak on the Master Syllabi? What is the policy or expectations on the issue? What is the process?
- b. *Dr. Cavin:* This is a voluntary program. We have had a very good response so far of close to 50%. We want the syllabi to be available to students earlier. Many faculty were concerned that this approach will encourage students to shop for classes. Well, we did an experiment by watching student activities during the Drop/Add week. We observed that many of the upper class students were constantly dropping and adding, and checking the classes. So, the shopping concept will clearly not go away. Think about, for example, shopping on the Amazon.com We could allow students to pick a class and show them what will be done in the class. We should let them buy upfront and we believe that this approach will help build better quality classes. You can always put "subject to change" on your master syllabi, as is customary anyway. You will still have the right to change what you are doing. Please be advised that the submission of master syllabi is voluntary. We only provide a master template. *Your content is your content.* We believe that having a template is important, because new students are typically non-traditional students and they are often intimidated by the new environment. Some of them have been out of school for a long time and having the same template for their class syllabi will ease their transitional process to the academic environment.

Q: So, faculty are encouraged to contact Dr. Cavin if they have any questions?

Dr. Cavin: Yes, they are. Just to mention briefly syllabi are getting too long; in fact they are getting longer and longer. We want to address this issue, as well.

Q: But, things like the technology component still have to be part of the syllabi right? For example, the browser compatibility, etc.

Dr. Cavin: Yes, it does. It needs to be there and must be included.

Dr. Fortune: We will create side buttons and we can take some components out of the Master Syllabi to shorten the syllabi and facilitate student expectations.

Q: But, if we take out some components from the syllabi, wouldn't SACS have something to say about that?

Dr. Fortune: No. SACS does not care about that. If we move different components into buttons, so the information is not in a single, long document.

Q: What would you recommend doing or not doing?

Dr. Fortune: Certain academic components and area such as, for example the Adaptive Needs Statements, Plagiarism, and so on, must be in the syllabus, as do other academic operating procedures.

Dr. Ingram: The Faculty Handbook creates the academic operating procedure. So, taking out buttons could perhaps be hyperlinked. In some fashion, there needs to be great appeal. You need to be able to recover the syllabus. Buttons may not be as relatable.

Dr. Fortune: We have an announcement: We confirmed lunch on 10/28 at 12:00 noon in our Faculty Dining Hall. The guest speaker will be Steve Flowers. He will also sign his books during the lunch.

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Dr. Rosser-Mims: Thank you, Dr. Fortune and Dr. Cavin for your time.

XVI. **Old Business – none**

XVII. **New Business - Discussion Items**

- a. Design Champion Program
- b. eTROY Master Syllabi

Dr. Dionne Rosser-Mims:

Meeting Adjourned @ 3:35PM