

Approved November 3, 2015

**Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
October 28, 2015**

Meeting called to order at 2:30 PM by President Dionne Rosser-Mims.

Members Present: Catherine Allard, Joel Campbell, Tonya Conner, Lane Eckis, Dianne Eppler, Trey Fitch, Vijaya Gompa, Margaret Gnoinska, Jeffrey Ickes, John Jinright, Kelly Johnson, Gina Mariano, Kerri Outlaw, Paige Paquette, Trelys Riley, Dionne R. Mims, Ronald Shehane, Jeff Simpson, Michael Slobodchikoff, Jonathan Taylor, Zhiyong Wang.

Members Absent: Gary Manfready, William Heisler, Kerri Outlaw, Jason Orrock (notice), Michael Stewart (notice).

- I. President** states that Mr. Andy Ellis – Director of University Relations, who was invited to speak to the Faculty Senate, unfortunately has not been able to do so due to a family matter. He would like to share, however, his thoughts on communication and challenges to communication as pertains to his new role at the University whose goal is to improve communication between faculty and administration:
1. We have been implementing new things on our end. We will be sending an e-mail regarding activities, events, news, etc. that employees need to know about. This will be done in the form of an e-letter/e-news letter. This will also create opportunities for faculty to promote their teaching, service, and research.
 2. We will be sending out a survey to obtain faculty feedback.
 3. We have several exciting developments in the works that we will be communicating with the faculty in the near future.

Dr. Rosser-Mims: I would like to applaud administrators of the University for doing all of this.

Reports Committees

- II. Executive Committee – Dr. Rosser-Mims:**
- a. We have completed most of the faculty listening sessions. I would like to thank the faculty who were involved in making these sessions possible, including Dr. Eckis, Dr. Gompa, Dr. Riley, Dr. Taylor, and Dr. Gnoinska.
 - b. I want to share with you today what I have heard from the faculty during these sessions:
 - i. We as the Faculty Senate need to better communicate to the faculty at large as to what it is that we are doing, because some faculty may not be clear regarding our mission. In this vein, each senator is encouraged to communicate with their department, college, etc. regarding the issues and topics that have come up during our meetings and issues that faculty want to discuss. Some faculty have already been doing this and I applaud them for doing so. We should all communicate with colleagues in our disciplines via e-mail to improve communication.
 - ii. We also need to think about the following questions: How can the Faculty Senate support the faculty at large? What is the Senate's job?
 - iii. We have phenomenal faculty who are already reporting to their departments and colleges. This, in turn, shows how dedicated our faculty is to the University.
 - iv. We need to have more conversation about and take additional action regarding providing more clarification on the Tenure and Promotion process at the University, including expectations in the area of research given the cuts in funding, unchanged requirements regarding service, and undiminished teaching loads.
 - c. The Second Annual Troy Student Appreciation Day will take place on April 6, 2016.
 - i. This event was initiated by the Faculty Senate and much effort went into organizing the inaugural event.
 - ii. This year, we also have a wonderful committee of many individuals, including the Alumni Relations and site directors from the Global Campus such as Alicia Bookout who have already presented great ideas.

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- iii. We really need more faculty support and involvement, so please mark your calendars and get involved as much as you can in the upcoming event.

Q: What do you mean by “more conversation” about the Tenure and Promotion process? What kind of conversation? Each college has published its own guidelines, so what conversation are we talking about here?

Dr. Rosser-Mims: The Senate needs to convey to the Vice-chancellors and deans that some faculty are not clear on the guidelines and the process of Tenure and Promotion. As far as requirements, for example, research expectations, this is a different issue and is not something that we could address at this time. If the faculty are not clear on requirements, they should see their chairs.

- III. **Committee on Committees – Dr. Boyte-Eckis:** NO REPORT, but Dr. Eckis encouraged all faculty senators to take advantage of Blackboard session boards and to include one’s threads in the ongoing conversations in committees to improve communication and the work of the committees.
- IV. **Elections Committee – Dr. Gnoinska:** NO REPORT at this time, but the Committee is making preparations for Spring Elections 2016 for Standing Committees.
- V. **Academic Affairs Committee – Dr. Riley:**
 - a. The Academic Affairs Committee met October 19. It was very exciting to see a great turnout from returning members as well as new members at the meeting. The committee reviewed the eTroy Design Champion Program presented at our September senate meeting. The committee agreed to support the program and drafted a resolution in support that was sent forward to the Senate Executive Committee.
- VI. **Faculty Welfare Committee. – Dr. Vijaya Gompa:** NO REPORT
- VII. **Technology Committee – Dr. Wang:**
 - a. The Technology Committee met on October 12, 2015 via WebEx. We identified two tasks to work on. The first task is to improve the website of the Faculty Senate to make it more user friendly and more accessible. We will work on this together with the Troy IT Department. The second task is to improve the temporary parking permit issuing process at Troy campus. We are currently working with the Faculty Welfare Committee on this task.

Other Reports:

- VIII. **Dothan Campus:** Dr. Manfready – NO REPORT
- IX. **Global Campus – Dr. Fitch:**
 - a. Two listening sessions were conducted with Global Campus faculty to identify issues for faculty senate. Sixteen people participated. Concerns that were identified included technology and email changes, updates in tenure guidelines, challenges in communication with leadership, intellectual property issues, and class size for online classes.
 - b. Global campus sites have several community and student outreach activities being developed. The Orlando site is conducting a workshop for Chi Sigma Iota, a counseling honor society, and Global Campus counseling has gained approval to offer CEUs that are recognized nationally. Multiple workshops are being developed for local counselors.
- X. **Montgomery Campus – Dr. Taylor:**
 - a. The Adult Education Program Faculty at the Montgomery campus hosted a first Annual Adult Education Fair this past week. There were about 25 Adult Education organizations present at the event and the total number of participants was approximately 65. This was an important event because it was one of many initiatives to increase enrollments and a general level of energy at the Montgomery Campus. Both the COE Dean and the Chair of the Department traveled from Troy to attend and participate in the event.
 - b. Design and Construction Plans for the B&N bookstore and Starbucks Café are continuing to progress for the Spring.
 - c. A Retention Committee has been officially formed and is working on the campus.
 - d. The Montgomery SGA did provide service and support for the campus homecoming event this month but after a very short time of stability they have again lost their president and other leadership. They are working to find a replacement.
- XI. **Phenix City Campus – Dr. Paquette:**

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- a. We hosted an IT event, SQL Saturday, at the Riverfront Campus on Saturday, October 3rd. Over 100 participants attended the various workshops.
- b. The 2nd annual Water Resource Management and Economics Conference, October 21-23, was a success. Approximately 100 people attended the conference and reception. Allen Owens received the Don C. Hines Award for his contributions to water resource issues.
- c. The Riverfront Campus will welcome 20 trick-or-treaters from the Phenix City Housing Authority After-school Program on Thursday afternoon, October 29th.

XII. Troy Campus – Dr. Mariano: NO REPORT

XIII. Old Business – Information Items

- a. Resolution 3-2014-2015
- b. The Resolution was passed on April 28, 2015 and is available on the Faculty Senate Standing Committee website (<http://trojan.troy.edu/employees/standingcommittees/resolutions/FS/Resolution-3-Formal-Evaluation-2014-2015.pdf>). The Resolution reads as follows:
 - i. WHEREAS the faculty expressed the need for a formal evaluation process whereby faculty evaluate their respective college deans, division leaders, and department chairs,
 - ii. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Faculty Senate will establish an ad hoc committee to recommend an evaluation process to be used.
- c. In order to move this action forward, Dr. Rosser-Mims extended an invitation to all Faculty Senators to participate in a WebEx meeting on November 12 between 3:00pm and 4:00pm CST to form an ad hoc committee.
- d. Dr. Rosser-Mims presented the conceptualization and the goal of this ad hoc committee:
 - i. The goal is not to be “the dartboard used to shoot the chairs and the deans;” on the contrary, the purpose is to find a common ground approach in order to provide constructive feedback in the process in developing recommendations.
 - ii. We encourage faculty senators to serve as volunteers in this ad hoc committee. At this point we are extending an invitation only to senators and not to the faculty at large.
 - iii. We welcome, however, feedback from individuals, including deans, chairs, etc. who have experience in evaluation process. I have dealt with a similar situation and when you have folks who have a stake in this, it makes sense to have the leadership representation in advising capacity.

XIV. New Business - Discussion Items

- a. Resolution 1-2015-2016
 - i. The Resolution regarding the eTROY Instructional Design Champion program was prepared by the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee and reads as follows:
 1. WHEREAS the Faculty Senate acknowledges a need for a well-designed and prepared course that contributes to student success, persistence and retention,
 2. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Troy University Faculty Senate supports the eTROY Instructional Design Champion program to recognize and award faculty members for their courses that incorporate material and approaches addressing the design goals and needs of today’s online students and prepare them for future employment opportunities.
 - ii. Discussion on the Resolution included questions related to the selection and nomination of faculty for this award and the inability of faculty to see each other’s course designs.
 - iii. Dr. Rosser-Mims provided answers to the above questions by clarifying that faculty can nominate themselves or other faculty members for the award and the instructional design team will select winners with the assistance of a faculty feedback group. The overall decision process will involve the faculty in some capacity.
 - iv. The Resolution was passed by the Faculty Senate during the October 28, 2015 meeting.

Dr. Dionne Rosser-Mims:

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Meeting Adjourned @ 3:10PM