

## Approved Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting

August 23, 2017

Meeting called to order at 2:01 PM by President Margaret Gnoinska.

**Members Present:** Alberto Arteta, Jennings Byrd, Sherrionda Crawford, Doug Davis, Dianne Eppler, Patrick Faircloth, Trey Fitch, Margaret Gnoinska, Bill Heisler, John Jinright, Kelly Johnson, Rob Kruckeberg, Gina Mariano, Dabney McKenzie, Charles Mitchell, Paige Paquette, John Roufagalas, Carolyn Russell, Jeff Simpson, Michael Slobodichikoff, Joe Teng, Danush Wijekularathna

**Members Absent:** Brittney Armstrong (notice), George Crowley (notice), Gary Manfredy (notice)

**Others Present:** Dean Larry Blocher, Dean Denise Green, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Earl Ingram, Capt. Danielle Pankey, Dean Chris Schaffer, Dean Steven Taylor

Opening Comments by Dr. Margaret Gnoinska.

- a. Notes that the Faculty Senate Minutes are available on the Faculty Senate Web site.
- b. The Senate will support the lowering of overall textbook costs but it must be on a voluntary basis by faculty members.
- c. The Senate will also work to support faculty research and travel.
- d. The Senate will work with the library to support faculty.
- e. The Senate will also work with alumni affairs to support outreach.
- f. The Senate plans to launch the annual faculty survey in the last week of September 2017.
- g. The Senate will also work to build the relationship with Troy for Troops and lend strong support to our military-affiliated students.

Guest Speaker Capt. Danielle Pankey from Troy for Troops (TFT) spoke to the Senate.

- a. She noted that TFT hopes to interact with every military student at Troy University. She also noted that military students include former active duty, reserve, national guard, as well as family members. TFT's job is to help transition all military-affiliated students to university/student life. She noted that one of TFT's jobs is to help faculty and staff better understand the challenges that military-affiliated students face so that they can better serve students. All faculty are encouraged to do Green Zone training, which is self-paced, online training intended to make faculty more aware of the challenges of military-affiliated students. Capt. Pankey encouraged all faculty to reach out to TFT or their college TFT representative if you have any questions.

Guest Speaker Earl Ingram, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, spoke to the Senate.

- a. Question and Answer:
  - a. Q: What about parking problems?

A: All questions about parking should be addressed to Dean Reeves.

b. Q: When is the SACS visit?

A: SACS asked to postpone their visit from 2019 to 2020 and 2018-2019 is our self-study year.

c. Q: What are the changes in the New Development Office?

A: There are considerations taking place about ways for colleges to be more active in fundraising and development. Decentralization is important and being considered.

b. Prepared Remarks

a. The Role of the SVC

i. To advocate and support the faculty of Troy University in order to build the status and prestige of the university and to help prepare students for life opportunities.

ii. Dr. Ingram noted that building that status and prestige depended on maintaining and ensuring the academic integrity of the institution. That includes things like controlling grade inflation. He also noted that upholding academic integrity meant ensuring the highest level of faculty credentials despite constant pressure to make a quick hire. He also noted the importance of due process for both students and faculty alike. And he mentioned the significance of SACS, particularly that we must always be honest to SACS. He also considers it his role to advocate for all stakeholders at the university and especially support the academic freedom of all faculty, though he noted that academic freedom does not mean the right to use the classroom as bully pulpit.

b. Faculty Governance

i. Dr. Ingram noted that institutional governance started with faculty governance. The Tenure and Promotion procedures are a big part of faculty governance. He noted that both the CRC and URC are key components to shaping the direction of T and P. He noted that if the faculty supports a candidate but the dean does not that the candidate still moves forward to the URC. The URC does have administrators and its role is to coordinate standards across the university. When asked why the T and P process doesn't start in the department, Dr. Ingram noted that the departmental chair writes a letter for the T and P dossier and that it should reflect the department's perspective.

c. Open Educational Resources (OER)

i. Dr. Ingram noted that there is legislative pressure to lower the cost of textbooks for students, and that the legislature has every right to mandate that we use OER (as other states have done). Troy is trying to get ahead of this by having the Chancellor's Fellows look at ways to reduce textbook costs. He noted that Drs. Fulmer and Cavin are heading the OER committee. He also offered Dr. Gnoinska a position on the committee as

Faculty Senate President. She accepted. Troy Online currently has 8 courses and 26 sections using OER.

- d. State of the University
  - i. In 2010-2011 AY, we had over 30,000 students. 2017-2018 AY, we have about 16,500.
    - 1. Troy Campus has 7,869 students (a record high).
    - 2. Phenix City is down 4.7% from last year.
    - 3. Dothan is up 0.4%.
    - 4. Montgomery is down 14%.
    - 5. Troy Online is up 1.3%.
    - 6. International sites are up 177%.
  - ii. Credit Hour Production is up 0.6%
    - 1. This is the second fall in a row the CHP is up after 6 consecutive falls when it was down.
    - 2. Only 20% of our funding comes from the state.
    - 3. The budget this year was \$233,000,000.
  - iii. Noted that 71% of our faculty are ranked tenure-track faculty.
  - iv. Diverse Student Body
    - 1. We have 1100 international students from 72 countries
      - a. Dr. Ingram noted that the “Trump Effect” is making it more difficult to recruit international students.
      - b. Last year we had 420 new international students. This year we had about 260 new international students.
    - 2. 41% of our students enroll in online classes
      - a. 11% of our Troy campus students enroll in an online class.
    - 3. 25-30% of our students are military affiliated.
- e. Emphasis for the Year.
  - i. Organizational communication is a major area of focus
  - ii. Continual improvement of curriculum to make it as meaningful to students as possible.
  - iii. Dealing with student readiness is a priority.
    - 1. Retention rates had been about 78-80% which was above national average (around 75%)
    - 2. Troy retention rates are now around 70%
    - 3. In Fall of 2016, 48% of first year students were in a developmental English or Math
      - a. 23% of those were in both developmental classes
    - 4. In Fall of 2017, 51% of first-year students were in a developmental class
      - a. 74% of those in a developmental class placed in the lowest part of the placement scale.
    - 5. Troy needs to find a way to better serve those students to increase retention
- c. Question and Answers
  - a. Q: (Dr. Slobodchikoff) What specifically are we doing about improving communications?

- b. A: Lack of effectiveness in communications is not intentional. There are two reasons.
  - i. Simple curiosity causes problems when there is no immediate need to know.
  - ii. There are many errors of omission or simply choosing the wrong way to convey information that is less effective.
- c. Q: (Dr. Gnoinska): This was all about communication down, but faculty are also interested in communicating up and playing a larger part in faculty governance.
- d. A: I meet with both the Steering Committee and the Deans once a month to bring information up from the faculty.
- e. Q: (Dr. Gnoinska): How do faculty complaints work?
- f. A: Not all faculty complaints are valid. For example, search committee recommendations don't have to be heeded by departmental chairs. If there is an ethical violation, then complaints should go to deans. If there is a concern about a dean, then complaints should go directly to the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

## Committee Reports

- V. Executive Committee (Dr. Gnoinska)
  - a. Met for the first time in the previous week and introduced new committee chairs.
- VI. Committee on Committees (Dr. Paquette)
  - a. Faculty Development Committee
    - a. The Faculty Development Committee will have its first meeting of the academic year on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Graduate Academic Council
    - a. The graduate met this month to discuss changes and extensions in programs in both Business and Education.
  - c. Institutional Effectiveness Committee
    - a. TROY has purchased new software available for use by all faculty and staff members. This summer we were able to purchase and implement *Qualtrics*, an easy-to-use online survey tool. Faculty and staff have free access to this software and will no longer need to purchase or pay for personal or departmental accounts for other survey software.
    - b. The Office of IRPE has been using this software since 2011, and Somer Givens agreed to serve as the university wide brand administrator. She has already had introductory meetings with several colleges and departments on how they can utilize this software, and she is available to continue meetings and training sessions as requested. Somer recommends we all review the information on our IRPE website at <http://www.troy.edu/irpe/qualtrics.html>.
  - d. Institutional Review Board
    - a. The IRB Board met in August. New Federal regulations involving human subjects take effect in January so the Committee will be working on any

revisions that may be needed to the research application and the certification test. Also, the IRB website now has an Informed Consent Checklist and samples of Informed Consent documents to help make the IRB application process easier for faculty.

e. Undergraduate Academic Council

- a. The Undergraduate Academic Council met in August to discuss changes to the statistics sequence in the mathematics major and both the addition and removal of courses in business

VII. Elections Committee (Dr. Kruckeberg)

- a. The College of Communications and Fine Arts has one open Senate seats and will have in-house elections next week.

VII. Academic Affairs Committee (Dr. Heisler)

- a. They are making progress on students having the ability to waive the right to view faculty letters of recommendation for graduate study. There should be some news in the next few weeks.

IX. Faculty Welfare Committee (Dr. Jinright)

- a. They are working on updating the small version of the faculty survey and ask for any recommendations.

X. Educational Technology Committee (Dr. Arteta)

- a. Met with Greg Price. Also, note that all faculty need to complete the security training by the end of September.

XI. Ad Hoc Student Appreciation Day Committee (Dr. Wijekularathna)

- a. They are just starting the planning process but it is scheduled for April 4, 2018.

XII. Dothan Campus (Dr. Manfready)

- a. No report.

XIII. Global Campus. (Dr. Fitch)

- a. Dr. Fitch will be contacting global campus faculty though email to discuss goals and issues for the year. These will be presented at the next meeting. For our new senators he wanted to clarify that global campus sites are now called service centers and most of them are in Georgia and Florida. The counseling program continues to operate in-person classes at these locations and has hundreds of enrolled students mainly in Florida.

XIV. Montgomery Campus (Dr. Roufagalas)

- a. The Snacks and Facts event was more or less a majors fair.
- b. The SGA in Montgomery is currently not functioning.

XV. Phenix City Campus (Dr. Crawford)

- a. No report.

XVI. Troy Campus (Dr. Faircloth)

- a. The Texas Relief Program for Hurricane Harvey is leaving Friday.

XVII. Old Business

- a. None

XVIII. New Business

a. Library

- a. Dr. Gnoinska met with Dean Chris Shaffer about how to maintain library resources

- i. Encourages everyone to push students to library
- ii. Be sure to use direct links to library databases rather than simply upload things for students
  - 1. This allows library to track usage more accurately
- iii. Schedule library sessions for instruction of how to use library resources
- iv. Hold class in innovation lab
- v. Review databases and other items to see what is most needed

b. International Education Week

- a. The Faculty Senate will sponsor two major events during the week of November 13-17
  - i. A Roundtable Discussion open to students, faculty, and staff on the Centennial of the Russian Revolution
  - ii. Workshop for faculty on study abroad programs

Adjourned at 4:48 pm.