

Minutes for the Faculty Senate Meeting

April 25, 2017

- I. Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM by President Margaret Gnoinska.
- II. **Members present:** Jennings Byrd, Joel Campbell, Tonya Conner, George Crowley, Dianne Eppler, Trey Fitch, Margaret Gnoinska, William Heisler, Jeffrey Ickes, John Jinright, Kelly Johnson, Robert Kruckeberg, Dabney McKenzie, Paige Paquette, Jeff Simpson, Michael Slobodchikoff, Joe Teng, Jonathan Taylor, and Zhiyong Wang.

Members absent: Catherine Allard (no notice), Brittany Armstrong (excused), Sherrionda Crawford (no notice), Jacqueline Jones (excused), and Gary Manfredy (excused), Gina Mariano (excused), and Michael Stewart (excused).

Others present: Dr. Earl Ingram, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
- III. Dr. Gnoinska made note that the minutes from the March meeting have been approved and will be available on the Faculty Senate website.
- IV. **Executive Committee-** Dr. Gnoinska
 - Dr. Gnoinska read an email sent by Malcolm McSwean, the Troy Online Disabilities Services Coordinator, requesting that a faculty member, preferably one from the Faculty Senate join an ADA Administrative panel. She asked if anyone on the senate would like to volunteer. Dr. Wang volunteered his services.
 - Dr. Wang also brought up issues with wheelchair access to some of the buildings on the Troy Campus. One example he gave was in McCall Hall. There are two doors which have ramps for wheelchair access, but there is not a button to open one door and the location of the button at the other door is somewhat hidden. He is awaiting a returned call from the person who handles these types of situation. Dr. Wang also stated he has been working with Auburn on an NSF-funded project to help students with disabilities in STEM fields. The feedback from the students is that our university should develop a campus map showing all disabled access locations.
 - Dr. Gnoinska congratulated Dana Davis, a nursing faculty member on the Montgomery campus, for winning the 2017 Faculty Senate Excellence Award. She also thanked Dr. Eppler and the other committee members for their dedication to the selection process.
 - Dr. Gnoinska thanked Dr. Tonya Conner for her hard work on making the 2017 Student Appreciation Day event a success. The weather did not cooperate, but overall, the event was great. TROY Online held their appreciation day on April 5th. Phenix City/Columbus campuses held an appreciation week. Each campus designated a day to hold the appreciation festivities. The Troy campus held their Student Appreciation Day on April 19th. There was a great response. Dr. Gnoinska thanked Dr. Slobodchikoff for his efforts in organizing the event on the Troy campus. She also acknowledged that this year it was a campus-wide event with Barnes & Noble, the Confucius Institute, and many other organizations participating.
 - Dr. Conner mentioned how much the event has grown in just one year. There were many vendors and volunteers participating, and there were great prizes to give

away. Due to the inclement weather, Troy University celebrated Student Appreciation Day on each Alabama Campus and site location on various dates with great success. We had many volunteers, vendors, events, prizes, and lots of food for the students. The TSAD website lists the twenty essay winners and I have mailed their \$100 scholarships. The Alumni Affairs office will mail out the one-year memberships. Trojan Café' also announced their winners on their website. Many thanks to the Student Appreciation Ad Hoc Committee, the faculty and staff from each campus and site locations, and to the many vendors and businesses that provided food and giveaways to make this a special event for our Troy students. If you have any pictures memorializing this year's event, please email them to me at tconner22269@troy.edu. We look forward to our next Troy Student Appreciation Day celebrated on the first Wednesday of each April. Mark your calendars for next year's event to take place on Wednesday, April 4, 2018. Dr. Conner offered to develop a guide for the senator who handles STAD next year. She volunteered to be a liaison, but she her time on the senate has ended.

- Dr. Slobodchikoff wanted to thank Meredith Welch for all of her hard work on the event. There was an abundance of food and faculty members for the event. He mentioned Dean Taylor came out and served food to the students. Many people worked hard to make the event a success.

V. **Committee on Committees-** Dr. Slobodchikoff

- The student committee met and voted to award Dr. Margaret Gnoinska the Ingalls Award for Excellence in Teaching for 2016-2017. Congratulations Dr. Gnoinska.
- The Faculty Development Committee held a special meeting to discuss options for future funding. Dr. Fulmer discussed how the FDC may need to become more of an organization for papers and travel, and the Deans could provide more funding for research. Dean Taylor is working with Dr. Fulmer to determine the best way moving forward for the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Fulmer has also spoken with the other deans. Those involved have provided several proposals about future FDC funding. The good news is the faculty is doing research, but we must determine the best means of support.
- Dr. Byrd pointed out funding for travel will have to be decreased if the FDC funds research. Dr. Slobodchikoff suggested grant options might have to be changed. Dr. Heisler asked if new approaches might reduce the amount of money for traveling to conferences. Dr. Slobodchikoff explained departments handle the funding differently. Some ask the department first, and others rely on FDC as their initial funding. The process should be unified.
- Dr. Kruckeberg asked if deans had money in their budgets for this type of funding. Dr. Slobodchikoff stated the deans would have to determine the best way of making the funding work. They are definitely aware of the importance of research for tenure and promotion. Ideas are being considered to provide alternatives which still enable faculty to travel and research. Dr. Slobodchikoff asked for any suggestions from the senate to take back to the Faculty Development Committee.
- Dr. Gnoinska asked if there was a chance the funding would increase. Dr. Slobodchikoff shared the funding has stayed almost the same for several years. Dr. Gnoinska mentioned one deadline for paper grants is usually in September and

asked if the new policy will be in place by then. Dr. Slobodchikoff assured the FDC is prioritizing, understanding the importance of research.

- Dr. Ingram explained the premise for the FY 18 budget is a flat budget. If there has been a decrease in the FDC budget, it has been small compared to the 30 million dollar decrease in the overall budget. The July Board of Trustees meeting will solidify the budget. The allocation of funds is always a challenge. The impression now is the FDC should lean toward travel to support tenure first and then promotion. The committee should work to support faculty up for tenure. It is important that faculty look for outside funding, external grants to support research agendas.
- Dr. Slobodchikoff shared the URC recently met, and external grants will count higher than they previously have in the tenure and promotion process. They can replace one A publication. Dr. Ingram mentioned that each college had a way to calculate grant submissions and awards that was not consistent. Consistency is key.

VI. **Elections Committee-** Dr. Paquette

Dr. Paquette reminded the senate elections open tomorrow. Please encourage faculty members to vote. She thanked IRPE, especially Mrs. Somer Givens, for setting up and implementing the Qualtrics election ballots. Dr. Paquette mentioned the outstanding turn out for voting in most colleges. A few in-house elections will be required for positions for which no one was nominated.

VII. **Academic Affairs Committee-** Dr. Heisler

- Dr. Heisler reported that Mary Anne Templeton is still awaiting a status update from IT regarding the Senate's request in February to permit students to waive the right to view faculty letters of recommendation for graduate study.
- A request has been made to the Faculty Senate to consider adding additional information about the Americans with Disabilities Act to the Faculty Handbook. Other important legislative requirements are addressed in the Handbook under "Policies Governing the Workplace" but there is no mention in that section of the ADA or the process of accommodation as it relates to both faculty and students. We plan to investigate this matter. Dr. Ingram commented during the meeting that the University's ADA policy is already linked to the Faculty Handbook and should be sufficient.

VIII. **Faculty Welfare Committee-** Dr. Jinright- No Report

IX. **Educational Technology Committee-** Dr. Wang- No further report other than previous comments

X. **Ad Hoc Students Appreciation Day Committee-** Dr. Conner- No further report other than previous comments.

College and Campus Committee Reports

XI. **Dothan-** (Dr. Conner) The SCGA was a huge part of Student Appreciation Day on the Dothan Campus. We are thankful to all who contributed to make the day a success.

XII. **Global Campus-** Dr. Fitch- No report

- The question was raised about the Global Campus name and how these areas might be addressed. The areas open outside of the state of Alabama are called Support Sites, and they are closely connected to Troy Online. Dr. Gnoinska asked how many Support Sites Troy currently has. Dr. Ingram said there are between 12-20.

XIII. **Montgomery-** Dr. Taylor

- Student Appreciation Day went really well on the Montgomery campus. The SGA is still struggling to maintain leadership here. We are hoping that will change soon. Dr. Gnoinska asked if the Institute for East Asian Studies had opened in Montgomery. Dr. Ingram said the University Center for International Language and Culture is on the 3rd floor of the Rosa Parks building. Troy is beginning to look at a partnership with an institute in Korea. So, the 3rd floor would represent China, Korea, and Japan.

XIV. **Phenix City-** (Dr. Paquette)

- The Phenix City 431 campus, Riverfront campus, and Columbus Support Site are hosting Student Appreciation Week. Each evening will have a theme with food and give-aways.

XV. **Troy-** Dr Johnson

- No report

XVI. **Old Business-** None

XVII. **New Business**

- The Executive Committee wrote the following resolution about the use of Open Ended Resources based on faculty comments. Dr. Gnoinska thanks all faculty members who provided feedback.

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 2-2016-2017

WHEREAS lowering the costs of textbooks and other course materials is an important part of making a college education more affordable; and

WHEREAS identifying and implementing pathways to mitigate costs for TROY students, without compromising academic quality, is a priority for all faculty members,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate supports the use of Open Educational Resources (OER) by TROY faculty on a voluntary basis when the faculty member deems such sources to be appropriate for use in his or her courses.

Dr. Wang made a motion to pass the resolution and Dr. Crawley seconded the motion. Dr. Gnoinska asked if there were any questions or suggestions for further amendments. She noted she had contacted all members of the Faculty Senate, and there were no recommended changes. The Faculty Senate voted unanimously to pass this resolution.

- Dr. Gnoinska also further discussed the topic of Faculty Senate and University Standing Committee elections. She reiterated Dr. Paquette's comments about colleges not having candidates nominated for positions. Dr. Gnoinska wants to encourage eligible faculty in all colleges to run for positions. She also reminded the senators to encourage their colleagues to vote. Many of the colleagues who need university service have stepped up to the opportunity and are running for positions.

- Dr. Gnoinska then broached the topic of Faculty Senate elections. The Faculty Senate body elects President, Vice President and Secretary. Dr. Gnoinska asked all interested senators to submit their intentions to Dr. Paquette by the end of May. Elections will be confidential this year, and we are hoping to again enlist IRPE and Qualtrics.
- Dr. Gnoinska reminded senators the vote for the 2017-2018 meetings will be in June. Typically, meetings alternate between Wednesday and Thursdays. Dr. Gnoinska asked if anyone had other suggestions or recommendations.
- Dr. Gnoinska also asked senators to consider the topic of how faculty can help Alumni Affairs. She suggested faculty can feature profiles of alumni within their departments and/or colleges. She also suggested faculty can help students make real connections with people working in their intended majors. She and Dr. Ingram have been discussing ways faculty can help. Dr. Gnoinska feels there are many alumni who miss Troy and want a connection.

No other topics were introduced during the meeting. The meeting was adjourned. There will not be a Faculty Senate meeting in May. The next meeting is June 21, 2017.