

**Approved Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
April 26, 2016**

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

Members Present: Joel Campbell, Tonya Conner, Lane Eckis, Dianne Eppler, Trey Fitch, Vijaya Gomba, Margaret Gnoinska, William Heisler, Jeffrey Ickes, John Jinright, Paige Paquette, Trellys Riley, Dionne Rosser-Mims, Jeff Simpson, Michael Slobodchikoff, Jonathan Taylor, and Zhiyong Wang.

Members Absent: Kelly Johnson (notice), Gary Manfready (notice), Gina Mariano (notice), Michael Stewart (notice), Catherine Allard (no notice), Kerri Outlaw (no notice), Ronald Shehane (no notice).

Others Present: Earl Ingram, Katherine Hildebrand, Richard Scott Nokes, Sohail Agboatwalla.

Reports Committees

I. Executive Committee: Dr. Rosser-Mims

Dr. Dionne Rosser-Mims brought up three items:

1. The Academic Calendar for next year has already been set. Given that there is no break between T3 and T4, all faculty members are encouraged to work closely with their chairs to ensure that the transitional period between terms is as smooth as possible for everyone.
2. Kudos to Dr. Dianne Eppler for chairing the Faculty Senate Award Committee, especially for making changes to allow faculty to vote electronically for the candidate.
3. Beverly Lee from the Art and Design Department has been awarded the Faculty Senate Award at the Honors Convocation this year. Congratulations!

II. Committee on Committees: Dr. Boyte-Eckis

No report.

III. Elections Committee: Dr. Gnoinska

The elections were held for Faculty Senate and Standing Committees. We are currently in the process of conducting run-off elections for contested positions within the College of Education. Once reviewed and approved, the results will be announced in May. This concludes the Elections Committee report.

IV. Academic Affairs Committee: Dr. Riley

No report.

V. Faculty Welfare Committee: Dr. Gomba

No report.

VI. Technology Committee: Dr. Wang

- a. The Technology Committee discussed the idea of recording certain events such as concerts and seminars and making them online. This will allow faculty members from all campuses to check what is going on in a specific campus and stay connected. We are still exploring different ideas with IT as well as Marketing & Communication. We will provide some recommendations to the Faculty Senate at a future meeting.
- b. The Technology Committee has also collected two questions for IT and Dr. Greg Price addressed them.

***Question:** With the old email system there were instances when emails to faculty got blocked and did not show up in their mailbox at all. Does the problem get reduced or eliminated with the current Office 365 email system?*

Response: The issue with blocked messages is reduced tremendously - the mail is now hosted by Microsoft. Microsoft has far greater resources and partnerships with the ISP's, resulting in reduced blocks.

***Question:** IT has a "No Dropbox" policy. Could anyone be granted exemption for legitimate reasons?*

Response: In regards to Dropbox, we block due to its poor security management posture. They will not endorse our security requirements and want to charge us for enhanced security provisions. The product is routinely violated by bad actors and their own employees - recently a Dropbox employee was prosecuted for stealing data from clients. We do not allow Troy employees to store data on Dropbox due to the reasons above. However, I realize that Dropbox access is sometimes needed for access to shared resources for unique situations. We are evaluating a method to allow such accommodations. Please ask the user to send me an email and I will review. This concludes Technology Committee Report.

c. Following Dr. Wang's report a brief discussion took place regarding web streaming of events to Troy faculty members and Dropox:

- i. Dr. Paquette mentioned that newer faculty members on other campuses feel somewhat detached from the Troy campus. Therefore, it makes sense to make things available to distant faculty members to get them more connected. We can do this through streaming some events and lectures.
- ii. Dr. Ingram stressed that faculty members should focus on exploring the type of events and lectures that would be of interest to faculty and the type of events that the faculty would want to see on-line via web streaming. For example, Honors Convocation, which now is streamed live.

- iii. Other faculty members, including Dr. Paquette, mentioned that Trojan TV is also a great means for connecting with faculty, especially since it archives its materials on line.
- iv. Dr. Nokes commented that Dropbox was not allowed in the past but for different reasons, including the high cost. He suggested that if certain software cannot be used due to technological limitations IT should make it clear, because this is a matter of policy vs. availability. Also legitimate exemption requests or special requests which have already been approved by appropriate parties (such as department chair and dean) should be honored by IT. A few such requests have been denied by IT in the past because IT just could not execute them.
- v. Mr. Agboatwalla mentioned that one of such items is collaboration with One Drive, which works well internally, but becomes problematic when one collaborates with other institutions.
- vi. Dr. Wang stated that he would contact Dr. Greg Price in IT to obtain clarification on the above comments. **Below please find an e-mail response from Dr. Price to Dr. Wang (April 29, 2016):**

“Zhiyong, technology changes very frequently; as a result, explanations will evolve as well. Often, our concerns with poorly-designed technology are galvanized months after issues are observed or reported. The helpdesk knowledge base article related to Dropbox is Article number is 5576-311. The article has been updated several times in the past couple of years, as elements have changed. We created the article after an initial request from the Faculty Senate, and, have added additional supported technologies to the list.

I’ve worked with Scott in the past regarding Dropbox and other items; the overriding issue with Dropbox is security. We do not allow storage of Troy University information to Dropbox. We employ Microsoft OneDrive for sharing/collaborative efforts and transfer of large files. However, from time to time, an external entity employs tools such as Dropbox and a member of the Troy community needs to access from within our network spaces – if possible, we make those accommodations. The Troy network landscape is not simple; it is diverse and has interplay from scores of telecommunications providers. Often, our ability to offer temporary exceptions is based on geography – who provides the network service. At the Troy, AL campus, we employ the Alabama Supercomputer network. The service is very strict; we have sought and received permission to allow certain content through the state network, when presented with such requests.

Please ask Scott or others to send to me any requests that we have

honored previously, but, now have retreated from. I am not aware of any. I will happily review.

IT's ability to accommodate all requests is a challenge. We have a finite number of resources and many regulatory requirements. However, we are always willing to review requests and work with our available resources to offer requested services. Lack of execution is not a simple matter of lack of desire or lack of expertise. Please feel free to present additional questions or concerns. Presentation of requests through desired interaction may work best for all – we support many solutions, and, often employees are unaware of the wide-variety of currently deployed tools. **Below, I've inserted the current text of the Dropbox knowledgeable article. The article was first created in 2011 and last modified in early April 2016.** It's important to mention that Dropbox is riddled with security issues. We've sought a partnership with Dropbox in the past; they refuse to comply with basic security features in their "free" product. However, they have annually offered a secured version for a per user fee.

Why can I not connect to, or use DropBox? If so, what are the alternatives? Troy University presently has Dropbox disallowed due to high security concerns.”

Alternatives to DropBox:

1. (Preferred) Microsoft OneDrive formally known as SkyDrive (Hosted by Microsoft.) <https://login.microsoftonline.com>
2. Blackboard. (Each professor has storage space they can host files in, especially for files they share with students) <http://troy.blackboard.com>
3. Sugar Sync (offers 2 Gig free) <https://www.sugarsync.com/free/>
4. Box (offers 5GB free storage) <https://www.box.com>
5. LiveDrive (Hosted by LiveDrive. Offers different space packages, but is not free) <http://www.livedrive.com/ForHome>
6. Amazon Cloud Drive (Unlimited Photo Storage, plus 5GB for Videos and Files for \$11.99 per year) https://www.amazon.com/clouddrive/home/ref=cd_lg_sn_in
7. TeamDrive (offers 2 GB of free storage) <http://www.teamdrive.com>
8. Wuala (Linux based alternative to Dropbox with 2 GB free and users can buy most space if desired. This service is hosted by a well known

Storage Provider LaCie) <http://wuala.com/>

VII. Dothan Campus: Dr. Manfredy

No report.

VIII. Global Campus: Dr. Fitch

Global campus faculty and staff will be active with the open house for potential students this week. Two large global programs, counseling and MPA, are in the middle of accreditation reviews. The MPA program is near completion of the review while the counseling program is preparing for site visits for accreditation in the near future. Initial proposals to become one large program have been accepted. Global campus faculty have reported a need for more local support as this transition occurs. This concludes the report.

IX. Montgomery Campus: Dr. Taylor

- a. Barnes & Noble Café opening April 28th!
- b. New partnerships developing with Montgomery Public Schools
- c. College of Communication & Fine Arts offering a youth Summer Spotlight Campus in MGM in June (Drama campus)
- d. SGA
 - i. SGA was actively providing information to students during student appreciation day activities
 - ii. SGA will host a sock hop event open to the campus on Thursday, 28 April
 - iii. SGA elections will be held on 9-10 May

X. Phenix City Campus: Dr. Paquette

- a. April 4-7: Student Appreciation Week: Troy, Phenix City/Columbus extended the appreciation day to a week to ensure that our nontraditional students all received a chance to participate. There were sponsors for each evening and raffle give-a-ways. TSYS sponsored the actual Student Appreciation day and provided each student with Chick-Fil-A sandwiches, chips and a cookie.
- b. April 7: Creative South: Troy, Riverfront campus hosted a weekend event of creative thinking, collaboration and workshops to bring together folks in the creative industry and design community. All the classrooms on the second floor were occupied and the tickets to attend the conference were sold out. Workshops consisted of digital painting, introduction to sports design and screen-printing.
- c. April 9: ISCO: We introduced the international students from our Troy Campus to our Phenix City/Columbus community. These students are the Executive Committee of Troy's ISCO Chapter. They participated in the Whitewater Express experience and toured our Riverfront facility.
- d. April 16: Phenix City Schools: Teachers recruitment: Showcased the community (both Columbus and Phenix City) and then followed with a lunch and interviews here at Troy, Riverfront.

- e. April 21: Career Fair: 8 Employers attended Troy, Phenix City's first Career fair with approximately 65 students in attendance. Career Services brought students from the Troy, AL campus to explore career opportunities in the Chattahoochee Valley community.

XI. Troy Campus: Dr. Mariano

No report.

XII. Old Business

Discussion/Information Items

- a. Resolution 1-2015-2016 update (Survey)

Dr. Rosser-Mims: We have obtained feedback from faculty and worked within the Executive Committee and Ad Hoc Committee on the survey. The survey included questions that may have been either confusing or not relevant to adjunct faculty. Therefore, we may need to create TWO surveys for full-time faculty and for adjuncts. So far, we have received good feedback from faculty, but the response has been rather low. The official launch of the survey will take place in the fall to reassess feedback that we received in the spring.

XIII. New Business

Discussion/Information Items

a. Faculty Handbook Changes – College Review Committee

- i. *Dr. Rosser-Mims: We have received good feedback electronically from the Faculty Senate members and we will be collecting more feedback by this Friday. We have shared the initial feedback with Dr. Ingram. Are there any additional comments, suggestions, observations that you want to bring up? Well, to reiterate we have received rather positive feedback so far.*

b. Faculty Handbook Changes – Professor Emeritus

- i. *Dr. Rosser-Mims: This is rather a straightforward process.*
- ii. *Dr. Vijaya Gomba: It is interesting that in order to obtain the rank of Professor Emeritus, the candidate has to go through both the CRC and the URC, as the process seems different at other institutions. In fact, this is the first time that I have seen something like this.*
- iii. *Question: Do we have retired faculty who are not Professor Emeritus?*
- iv. *Answer: Not many*

Dr. Rosser-Mims: Once we collect feedback, we will draft a resolution and we will vote on both items a. and b. electronically within two weeks. And, as a reminder, our next scheduled meeting will take place in June via Webex. The meeting will involve elections of next slate of officers: President, Vice President, and Secretary, so if you are interested, please contact me electronically or by phone. Are there any questions?

Dr. Vijaya Gompa: *Yes. Can Dr. Ingram elaborate on the CRC composition and give his brief summary of what he can share with us, including things like the timeline of events, what changes have been made, and so on? In other words, what is Dr. Ingram expecting from the Faculty Senate? What proposal are we supporting? Is he expecting our recommendation? Is he expecting that we will vote on it? What timeline are we looking at? How will we implement the changes?*

Dr. Rosser-Mims: *Our charge is to take two documents and vote on whether we approve and support the changes, as well as provide recommendation about the language of clarity. Dr. Ingram, would you like to speak to this, please?*

Dr. Ingram: *The question was raised about the composition of the College Review Committee for providing adequate support of portfolios without the representative of the discipline being evaluated. In the College of Arts & Sciences, where sciences and social sciences have a strong presence, the adequate representation of all disciplines was not there. We have learned this from the URC post-mortem discussion. I asked Dr. Lee Vardaman (the Associate Provost for Academic Support), the Academic Steering Committee, and the College Deans for support in drafting the changes (we have changed the word or so, but we didn't have an English major on board – hahaha). The changes will be proposed to the Chancellor's Cabinet and they will be voted on.*

What we are seeking from the Faculty Senate is to provide feedback at the stage between the Academic Steering Committee and the Chancellor's Cabinet meeting. Indeed, the Board of Trustees is responsible for making policy. So, for example, we can make changes regarding Professor Emeritus status without going to the Board of Trustees. But, when we are changing benchmarks, we need to go to the Board of Trustees meeting in July, anticipating that it will have to go through the process. The new Faculty Handbook will go into effect on August 1, 2016. This will give enough time for colleges to conduct elections for the CRC in time for the Tenure and Promotion process.

As far as my opinion is concerned, having equivalent representation of academic disciplines outweighs the benefit of having actual campus locations represented. Back in 2005, I was an advocate of the location position of the CRC. At that point, it made sense as we had just created a merger of one university and we wanted to think in integrated way. We have been in this state, that is, as one university, for over ten years now. And, for the past five years, there have been complaints regarding the fact that the equivalent representation of the disciplines was not there. The Chancellor's Cabinet meeting is on May 18.

Dionne Rosser-Mims: *Thank you Dr. Ingram for this information and clarification. We will have an electronic vote on Items a. and b. by May 6.*

Meeting Adjourned @ 2:50PM