

FACULTY SENATE  
Minutes  
28 February 2012

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

a. Members present:

Tammy Esteves	Tom Kolasa	Marty Olliff	Treylis Riley
Brian Webb	Jim Davis	Govind Menon	Murray Widener
John Irwin	Debra Lett	Johanna Alberich	Jonathan Harrington
Ben Robertson	Dodie Meier	Lane Eckis	Richard Scott Nokes
Regina Gaillard	Bill Heisler	Bob Kitahara	Charlotte Minnick
Michael Burgan	Cheron Hunter	Tracey Hodges	

b. Members absent:

Kris Ross (absent with notice)      Richard Voss (absent with notice)  
Steven Taylor (absent with notice)

3. President's Report

A. Faculty Senate Excellence Award: Richard Scott Nokes was asked to head this committee. Charlotte Minnick volunteered to help as well.

B. Spring Faculty Senate and Standing Committee elections: This topic will be discussed further down.

4. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee: Jim Davis met last week to discuss this agenda.

B. Committee on Committees: Tom Kolasa reported that the Institutional Review Board met to discuss the fact that students and faculty are doing more research. There was also a discussion on informed consent.

C. Elections Committee: Johanna Alberich reported that elections for Faculty Senate and Standing Committees will be Wednesday, April 25 through Friday, April 27. There will be a call for candidates soon.

D. Academic Affairs Committee: Marty Olliff chose to defer this report to new business.

E. Faculty Welfare Committee: Steven Taylor was not in attendance and therefore unable to report on this committee.

F. Campus Reports

i. Dothan Campus: Marty Olliff congratulated Troy University on its 125<sup>th</sup> birthday. He recognized Dr. Gomba and her colleagues for a successful second round of Math Fest. He also mentioned that construction continues in Malone Hall. Due to a significant donation there will be construction of a fourth building on campus to house the Sorrell College of Business. He thanked Dr. Don Jeffrey, Vice Chancellor, for his efforts in moving this project forward.

ii. Global Campus: Tammy Esteves reported that beginning March 27 all Global Campus student services will migrate to the Troy campus. The

eColloquium will be held on April 17-18. She will discuss course cap issues under new business.

iii. Montgomery Campus: Tom Kolasa reported that the 125<sup>th</sup> celebration went really well. Math Fest was hosted at the Montgomery campus and run by Dothan. The History and Science Association showed the movie The Help last night. They will be going to the Enlisted Airman Museum soon. He noted that there are signs all over campus regarding the new tobacco policy. He asked if site licenses for software were available for faculty. Mr. Agboatwala responded that this could be found in the bookstore.

iv. Phenix City Campus: Trellys Riley also celebrated Troy University's 125<sup>th</sup> birthday party on Friday. She mentioned opportunities for students to pick up food on Friday and that Sigma Alpha Sigma recently obtained medallions to wear at graduation.

v. Troy Campus: Steven Taylor was not in attendance.

vi. Library: Brian Webb reported that they are running a series of writing and plagiarism workshops in Phenix City and Troy. They will be held in Dothan in the near future. The library had been running for a grant for a reading and discussion forum sessions related to the "Making Sense of the American Civil War".

G. SGA-Faculty Senate Liaisons: The Dothan SGA met on February 6. They continue to plan for events for the Spring Semester. They are planning to take a large contingent on March 1 for Higher Ed Day. They are working with the Montgomery SGA. Dr. Kolasa mentioned that he met with the Dean of Student Services to discuss the creation of the SGA and they are aiming for elections in May. There still is no Troy SGA Liaison.

## 5. Old Business

A. Troy University Tobacco-Free Policy: Mr. Davis stated that we are continuing to get comments on this topic. He recommends that if there are any questions or comments to email them to Shane Tatum. He recommended that we not worry about tobacco possession being a violation of the policy it is not just use of tobacco. Questions have been brought up regarding enforcement. Notify the Dean of Student Services (Herb Reeves) at the Troy campus if you see a student using tobacco. Dr. Kolasa asked what the punishment will be for tobacco use. The response was that it would be of an educational type approach.

B. Remote faculty access to University Standing Committees: The Faculty Welfare Committee would be the one to address the issue regarding standing committees with Faculty Senate members on it.

## 6. New Business

A. Possible raising of the enrollment limits for eTroy graduate courses: The eTroy Senate representatives are interested in the effects of raising the enrollments. Dr. Gaillard commented that she is concerned about the ramifications of raising the enrollment in eTroy graduate courses. Dr. Ingram addressed this issue and mentioned that it's not about size, it's about design. The deans are able to limit sizes. Class sizes for online courses have been modified up or down. The deans informed Dr. Ingram that they consult the faculty in the discipline before doing so.

Dean Rinehart discussed the process that was employed in his college before the decision to increase enrollment caps in graduate online courses. He approached the academic disciplines and there was discussion and analysis for some time. A large number of full time faculty members in his college teach overloads. About 50% of eTroy instructors in the College of Arts and Sciences are adjunct. He only heard positive feedback and the Associate Deans concurred. Effective Term 1 2012 there will be full implementation of enrollment increases in the College of Arts and Sciences. They are going to begin some of the increasing caps in Term 5.

Dean Rinehart also discussed why these changes were occurring. One reason is the quality of the online offerings. He is concerned that we should not rely so much on adjuncts. He stated that this would reduce the possibility of teaching overloads. The other reason for these changes is faculty compensation. In highly subscribed courses it shouldn't be a problem. At the graduate level, CAS has 3 large online graduate programs. He looked at all three programs and provided an example of one of the three programs.

Dr. Ingram also added that across the board our average online graduate course size is 16 students. The mean in the undergraduate course is about 25-27. These changes are meant to address equity of workload and access.

Marty Olliff asked when fewer sections are offered then will the cap and average sizes go up. Dr. Rinehart responded that we are only discussing online courses. He stated that the caps need to be across the board to maintain workload equity. There are some exceptions. He would like to lower the number of adjuncts teaching graduate online courses. Dr. Olliff asked if there is a specific date when this issue will be revisited. Dr. Rinehart responded that he cannot predict the future but will keep an eye on course enrollments. Dr. Ingram said that it will be revisited for quality assurance purposes. Dr. Nokes asked about compensation. He wanted to know if any mechanisms if any are in effect to aid in compensation in the issue of load versus overload and what are we going to do about hybrid classes. Dr. Rinehart responded that the hybrid courses are not handled through eTroy and that there is no policy in place to handle this issue.

Tammy Esteves wanted to discuss the issue of equity because she doesn't think that equity of the workload in an online class is not the same as equity in a traditional classroom. Dr. Ingram responded there will be variations amongst the disciplines and that they will revisit the issue so see if there are any negative impacts. He stated that we have to reallocate the full time faculty resources to get more so that less than 50% of the instructors online in a program are adjuncts. Dr. Ingram mentioned that the course that is considered overload is determined by the chair, the faculty member, and the dean. Dr. Nokes expressed his concerns that faculty may not be consulted as to which course is the overload. There was some discussion on this issue. Dean Cochran responded that English is new to CCFA. After being told that the policy has been passed, Marty Olliff encouraged the administration to consult the Faculty Senate before making such policy decisions.

B. Possible revision of departmental chair structure: Jim Davis asked Dr. Ingram if such policy was under consideration. Dr. Ingram responded yes. He provided background information and gave an example of how the role of a department chair was affected by the One Great University design (2005) that redesigned the structure down to

the dean/associate dean levels but did not address the question of the role of the department chair. Only the College of Business established chairs outside the state of Alabama. This issue may affect tenure and promotion. Dr. Ingram continued by saying that another chair structure is being considered but nothing has been decided. There are some principles that he will insist on to the deans. The new structure has got to have the promise of improving the support of the faculty and students, be able to maintain the quality and value of the curriculum, be affordable, and it cannot be a Troy centric solution.

Jim Davis inquired if all colleges are considering this. Dr. Ingram responded that he did not know. Dr. Kolasa had a lot of questions about this. Jim Davis suggested that you bring this issue up with your dean if you are unhappy with the current situation.

#### C-1. Faculty evaluation process: calendar year vs. academic year

Dr. Ingram stated that up until a few years ago, faculty evaluations were done after the summer was over in at about 2008 it was changed. He did not remember why. He speculated that the last year evaluation was not included in tenure and promotion paperwork. The new calendar year approach affects only the first year tenure track faculty member and benefits tenure track faculty members the year right before tenure and promotion in that that paperwork could be included in their portfolio.

Dr. Tatum responded that he was involved in making the changes to the calendar year. He said that under the old academic year evaluation system, faculty felt that they did not have time to work on the PDP when it was due at the beginning of the school year and that the fifth year evaluation was very important in the tenure and promotion portfolio and wanted to include it. This is why the changes were made from the academic year to the calendar year.

#### C-2. Survey of Faculty tele-teaching practices—Jonathan Harrington/ Marty Olliff

Marty Olliff traveled to Troy to represent Jonathan Harrington to discuss a survey created to gather more information on synchronous distance teaching use and applications. Harrington sent the document to the IRB and the Faculty Senate. Dr. Olliff moved to adopt the survey and have the Academic Affairs Committee report the responses to the Faculty Senate. Nokes seconded the motion. Discussion on this issue ensued. There were some concerns regarding the term “synchronous”. Dr. Olliff said that he would alter the questions for clarity, and then send it out. The Faculty Senate then voted on the motion with the stipulation that a cover letter will be written to clear up any questions that may arise. The motion passed.

#### D. Other new business-none

7. Adjournment: Dr. Kolasa motioned for adjournment. It was seconded by Brian Webb. The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 pm.