

MINUTES
TROY UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MEETING
23 February 2010

1. Dr. Shelton called the meeting to order at 3:12 pm, due to equipment malfunction..
2. Mr. Jim Davis completed the roll call for the meeting. Attendance was as follows:

a. Members present:

- Catherine Allard
- David Hollingsworth
- Tom Kolasa
- Brian Webb
- Jim Davis
- Regina Gaillard
- Allen Jones
- Sam Shelton
- James DeLoach
- Larry Fogelberg
- John Irwin
- Robert Kitahara
- Jim Ryan
- John Jinright
- Johanna Alberich
- Eddie Clark
- Frank Hammonds
- Chan Roark
- Mary Battaglia

b. Members absent:

- Tammy Esteves (with notice)
- Marty Olliff (with notice)
- Scout Blum (with notice)
- Tim Buckner (with notice)
- Zhang Jun
- Frank Browning (with notice)
- Djuana Burns

The agenda was amended to move the discussion of the Dean-Faculty Senate Committees on Compensation from the President's Reports to Old Business.

3. The minutes for the January 27 meeting were amended to show that John Jinright was absent with notice, and that Vice-Chancellor White is Mr. White, not Dr. White. The minutes were approved as amended.

4. President's Report

A. Dr. Shelton expressed the Senate's approval of the adjustment of the adjunct pay schedule so that adjuncts working on the semester system will now be paid twice during the semester.

B. Dr. Shelton reminded the faculty that next Thursday, March 4, is Higher Education Day, and to anticipate student absences. He reminded everyone that in order to receive the excused absence, students must present the excuse slips they receive at the rally in Montgomery.

C. The Senate has received copies of Dr. Shelton's letter to the Deans concerning the Dean-Faculty Senate, a copy of a memo from Dr. Roach concerning the matter.

D. Dr. Shelton reported that the previous week he had attended the Administrative Steering Committee in order to discuss the joint Faculty Senate-Dean responsibilities for the Standing Committee elections and appointment of faculty members from the colleges to the Standing Committees. Senators have received a copy of the relevant section of the e-policy manual that states that emphasizes the fact that the Faculty Senate and the Deans are to work cooperatively in the election process as well as in the identification of faculty members to be recommended for appointment to the colleges. Dr. Shelton suggested to the Deans that because the Senate has an online voting process in operation, that we can assist the Deans in the process by utilizing that online system for all Standing Committee elections, as well as the elections for the Senate. The Deans were generally receptive to the idea, with some questions. There will be a meeting of the Deans with the Elections Committee of the Senate to go over the process to insure that the Deans are comfortable with the process currently in use. At this time the Deans are involved in updating the list of eligible candidates and voters, which must be updated each year.

5. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee—Dr. Shelton reported that the Executive Committee met the previous Wednesday. The committee approved the agenda for today's meeting and went over the progress being made by the matters before the various committees, especially the items from the Academic Affairs and Faculty Welfare Committees that will be discussed under New Business today.

B. Committee on Committees—Dr. Allard reported that she had no report on the Undergraduate Academic Council because the link to UGAC from the new Troy intranet page. The Graduate Academic Council continues to discuss minimum admissions standards, and elections and appointments to the new Research Council are ongoing. The Sorrell College of Business had some changes to curricula, particularly prerequisites, approved. The only two Standing Committees listed on the new intranet page so far are the Faculty Development Committee and the IRB.

C. Elections Committee—Mr. Davis reminded the Senate that spring Senate elections are upon us. We have 9 positions open this year. Normally the call for candidates would go out on March 15, which remains the target date, but the possible changes in the election process being discussed with the Deans could delay that. The election will be held online from 8:00 am CDT on Wednesday 21 April until 8:00 am CDT on Friday 23 April. Senators whose terms end this year include David Hollingsworth (Phenix City), Tim Buckner and Allen Jones (A&S), Jim DeLoach, Larry Fogelberg and Jim Ryan (Business), Frank Hammonds and Chan Roark (Ed), and Djuana Burns (HHS). All are eligible for re-election.

D. Academic Affairs Committee—Dr. Hammonds reported that the AAC has been discussing and voted on two proposals: First, should the AAC recommend that the Faculty Senate request that a joint Senate/Administration committee be formed to further investigate the possibility of Troy University moving to a plus/minus grading system. The proposal was approved by a vote of 5-3. Secondly, the AAC voted on a proposal to recommend that the Senate should add a non-voting delegate lecturer. The proposal was approved by a 5-3 vote.

E. Faculty Welfare Committee—Dr. Roark reported that she had nothing to report.

F. Campus Reports

i. Dothan Campus—Dr. Olliff was absent with notice. There was no report.

ii. Global Campus—Dr. Esteves was absent with notice, and so had no report.

iii. Montgomery Campus—Dr. Kolasa reported on four items: 1) Regarding the formation of an SGA on the Montgomery campus, the Dean of Student Affairs advised Dr. Kolasa that the campus has an Advisory Commission, which allows students to handle similar functions to an SGA. This worked well when Montgomery was a smaller, non-traditional campus, but now that the campus is closer to a traditional model Dr. Kolasa is looking to the Dothan model to get closer to a true SGA. 2) Black History month was a success. 3) Higher Education day is always important to the Montgomery campus, and was a success this year. 4) The new Troy University webpage resulted in an overall overhaul to the Montgomery campus segment of the webpage.

iv. Phenix City Campus—Dr. Hollingsworth had no report.

v. Troy Campus—Dr. Allard reported the beginning of construction of the new 5600-seat arena. There was much good feedback about the change in pay schedule for adjuncts. She also reported much feedback on the report of the Chancellor's initiative to move forward on the college level with an examination of the University's salary structure as compared to other equivalent regional institutions. The new University webpage needs to have a link for faculty to the University intranet, where faculty do most of our business.

vi. Library—Mr. Webb reported that the library has received two large gift collections which have been or are being integrated into the library. A collection from Peter Ephron of Global Campus totals 800 volumes, mostly concerning international relations. The estate of Nathan Alexander totaling 5000 volumes, including 4500 unique titles, is being integrated into the library collection, and duplicate titles are being offered to the Dothan and Montgomery libraries. The faculty was encouraged to urge students to participate in the library survey on March 13-14.

6. Old Business

A. Quality Enhancement Institute—Dr. Saltiel stated there is a QEI steering committee comprised of six faculty who work with her about every other week, and since the last Senate meeting she has launched the E-advisory Committee, an electronic advisory necessitated by the distance between the five campuses. That group has 63 members, eleven from A&S (8 from Global Campus, 3 from Troy), sixteen from Fine Arts, seventeen from Education (2 from Dothan, 6 from Global, 3 from Montgomery, 3 from Phenix City, 3 from Troy), four from HHS (1 from Montgomery, 3 from Troy), five from Business (2 from Dothan, 2 from Global, 1 from Montgomery), and about ten administrators, IRPE, IT. By rank: two adjuncts, two lecturers, twenty-four assistant professors, eighteen associate professors, seven full professors (all before the last promotion cycle). This is an advisory group to query about faculty orientation and get quick input. Faculty orientation group is in process of determining what the first needs to be met would be. She held a second "let's-talk workshop" on the Phenix City campus; a third is scheduled, and the same type meetings are planned on the other campuses.

Quality Enhancement Program—all four faculty development teams met this week. The first day of the e-colloquium on April 12 will be dedicated to the QEP.

B. Faculty Senate Excellence Award—Dr. Allen Jones reported for Dr. Buckner that some applications have been received, but more are welcomed, for this award given for excellence by non-tenure track faculty. Forms have been sent out by Dr. Buckner, and may be obtained by emailing him.

C. Dean/Faculty Senate committees on compensation—Dr. Shelton yielded the floor to the vice president, Dr. Allard, so that he could comment as a Senate member. Dr. Shelton sent the

best wishes of the Senate to Dr. Roach. Dr. Fulmer was in attendance as proxy for Dr. Roach. Dr. Shelton recounted the history of the subject of evaluating compensation. Chancellor Hawkins suggested joint committees of faculty with each individual dean. The Senate sent letters to individual deans suggesting the creation of these discussion groups. Dr. Roach has subsequently informed Dr. Shelton that the matter would best be handled within each discipline. Dr. Shelton suggested two responses: one is for the Senate executive committee to meet with Dr. Roach, as Dr. Roach's letter suggested. The other is for individual faculty members to meet with their deans about this issue, as is also suggested in Dr. Roach's letter. Dr. Fulmer responded that the suggestions are good ones. He supported Dr. Roach's concern that college-level analysis of salaries covers too broad a spectrum to be meaningful. He stated that Dr. Roach continues to have a genuine concern for this issue.

Dr. Allard yielded power to Dr. Shelton, then asked how the gathering of information from individual disciplines is to be accomplished. Dr. Fulmer stated that Dr. Vardaman is the person with expertise in this field, and will provide guidance in this endeavor.

Dr. Allard asked if there is any timetable in place. Dr. Fulmer said there is no fixed end-point, but assured the Senate that there is urgency on the part of the Provost to deal with compensation. The critical first step is to determine where we are right now.

Dr. Allard asked if there is at least a timetable for the first step of determining where we are.

Dr. Fulmer deferred the question to the meeting between Dr. Roach and the executive committee.

Dr. Shelton reiterated that the concern of the Senate is more than just salaries.

7. New Business

A. +/- Grading System—Dr. Hammonds moved that the Senate approve the letter to the administration suggesting a plus/minus grading system. Dr. Allard asked for some sense of the discussion that went on in the committee. The main good point was greater equity of grades among students. A major concern was that it would increase student complaints about their grades because now every student would be just a point or two from the next grade. Dr. Ryan asked for some examples of peer institutions that use the plus/minus system. Dr. Hammonds said that at SACS level 6 the University of Alabama uses plus/minus grading, and at level 5 Samford and Southern Christian are on plus/minus, the only universities in Alabama. Most Florida universities are on plus/minus. Dr. Kolasa spoke in favor of the system. A question was asked as to what is the difference between this effort and the Senate's previous efforts. Dr. Shelton answered that in 2008 the Senate made a definite proposal, which was rejected by the administration. This time the Senate is asking for a joint study of the issue. A roll-call vote was held: the vote was 10 yes, 7 no, and 1 abstention. The motion was adopted. Dr. Shelton said that the letter would be drafted and sent.

B. Lecturer Representation in the Faculty Senate—Dr. Hammonds made the motion for the AAC that the Senate create a position of a non-voting delegate lecturer. Dr. Allard commented that lecturers are represented by their current Faculty Senate representatives, and that she would vote no. Dr. Gaillard agreed. Dr. Shelton gave the positive view of the motion. Dr. Roark agreed with Dr. Allard. Dr. Kolasa asked if lecturers vote for Faculty Senators; the answer is "yes." Dr. Kolasa agreed, then, that lecturers are fairly represented. Mr. Davis asked if only lecturers would be voting for the lecturer representative. The answer is yes. Therefore, the lecturers would be represented twice, first by being allowed to vote for all the regular Senate positions for which they are eligible to vote, and then by voting for just the lecturer position. Dr. Shelton ruled by "Sense of the Senate" that the motion would fail. The motion was withdrawn.

C. Dr. Shelton announced that next year is the year designated for the Senate to reevaluate its constitution.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 pm.