

MINUTES
TROY UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MEETING
27 January 2010

1. Dr. Shelton called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.
2. Mr. Jim Davis completed the roll call for the meeting. Attendance was as follows:
 - a. Members present:
 - Catherine Allard
 - Tom Kolasa
 - Brian Webb
 - Marty Oliff
 - Scout Blum
 - Jim Davis
 - Regina Gaillard
 - Allen Jones
 - Sam Shelton
 - James DeLoach
 - Larry Fogelberg
 - Robert Kitahara
 - Jim Ryan
 - Johanna Alberich
 - Frank Browning
 - Eddie Clark
 - Frank Hammonds
 - Chan Roark
 - Mary Battaglia
 - Djuana Burns
 - b. Members absent:
 - Tammy Esteves (with notice)
 - David Hollingsworth (with notice)
 - Tim Buckner (with notice)
 - Zhang Jun (with notice)
 - John Irwin (with notice)
 - John Jinright (with notice)
3. The minutes for the November 17 meeting were amended in Section 5A to show that the Executive Committee approved the agenda of the meeting, not the minutes. The minutes were approved as amended.
4. President's Report
 - A. Dr. Shelton reported that, because Board of Trustees meetings are open to the public, he has advised the Chancellor that he will be attending the May meeting of the Board of Trustees.
 - B. Dr. Shelton reported that on November 16, at the invitation of Dean Barron, he attended a teleconference hosted by Scantron on student evaluations, particularly on-line evaluations. From the many comments, Dr. Shelton noted that the common experience is to have a decline in student responses when the move is made to on-line evaluations. Suggestions were made on how to increase student responses. Dean Barron said she is compiling all the comments.
 - C. The Senate is still concerned about the scheduling of adjunct pay

D. The Senate continues to be interested in how contracts between the University and outside vendors that concern the faculty are awarded. Dr. Shelton has sent a letter to Mr. Bookout expressing the Senate's interest in participating in these contract negotiations if they impact the faculty.

E. Higher Education Day is March 4. The faculty should be prepared for the letter from the Provost granting excused absence to those students who attend the rally.

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.

B. Committee on Committees—Dr. Allard reported that there is much activity in the area of new course creation. The UGAC approved new courses in Philosophy, English, Geomatics, and Theater Education. The Geomatics major was increased to a 60-hour major. The LPN major changes in courses and testing. A move is under consideration to expand English remedial course Eng 1100 to two courses. The GAC approved a new slash course in the Bible as Literature. Sorrell College of Business has made major changes in curricula, especially the prerequisites to the MBA, particularly the way that candidates for the MBA without a Bachelor's in business, they can now take the foundational courses online.

C. Elections Committee—Mr. Davis had no report. Dr. Shelton reminded the Senate that the spring elections will be held in April.

D. Academic Affairs Committee—Dr. Hammonds reported that the AAC is continuing to examine the idea of adopting a plus-minus grading system, the role of Lecturers in the system regarding their use and the voice that they have in the academic area, as well as their status and protections. The committee will have reports on both by the next meeting. Asked by Dr. Allard to clarify "the role of Lecturers," Dr. Hammonds said that there is a question as to whether lecturers should have more formal representation on the Senate, and how lecturers are being used and treated by the University.

E. Faculty Welfare Committee—Dr. Roark reported the committee has finalized the draft of the letter to the deans on forming joint faculty-administration committees to look into the salary structure at the University.

F. Campus Reports

i. Dothan Campus—Dr. Oliff had no report..

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

iii. Montgomery Campus—Dr. Kolasa reported that the Montgomery campus has been experimenting with earlier classes, expanding its tradition role as primarily a night school. They have offered 4:00 o'clock classes, and have just started offering 3:00 o'clock classes. He also said that the campus is getting another lecturer and hopefully more lecturers and assistant professors to help with the ratio of adjunct to full-time teachers on the campus. In response to a question by Dr. Shelton, Dr. Kolasa reported that there is an effort to start a SGA for the campus, modeled on the Dothan-campus SGA, but this effort is in the very early stages.

iv. Phenix City Campus—Dr. Hollingsworth was absent and had no report.

v. Troy Campus—Dr. Allard report two concerns communicated to her concerning the Troy campus. First, some people are concerned that named parking spaces may be eliminated. Dr. Fulmer stated that the committee looking into parking had expressed interest in changing the policy on named spaces, but had been told that this was not an issued that needed to be discussed any further at this time. Secondly, concern has been expressed to her about adjuncts being paid only at the end of the term. Also, the hand sanitizer dispensers are still in need of refills in many places on campus.

vi. Library—Mr. Webb had no report.

6. Old Business

A. Dr. Dew updated the Senate on SACS reaccreditation matters. We have been reaffirmed for ten years by SACS. He said that this is especially positive in this case because this is in effect an affirmation of the new, merged Troy University, and is thus a significant milestone. The four areas of concern he had mentioned to the Senate before were addressed. First, the QEP has been accepted. Of the other three areas of concern, one has to do with our assessment of our academic programs, educational support activities, administrative activities, research, and community support. There are five subsections of requirement 3.3.1. The concerns expressed were not so much concerned with the quality of adjuncts' performance, but with ability of the full-time faculty to provide oversight of the academic programs to assure quality at all locations and in all programs. The official letter of response is available on the University's SACS website. There are ten recommendations to which the University will have to provide a monitoring report to SACS in early September. Five deal with the five areas of assessment; SACS has expressed approval of progress made so far, but wants to see continued improvement. In terms of individual faculty members, this boils down to a continued concern with being able to assess each individual program and make improvements. This assessment and improvement is always implied, but the results need to be made as objective and explicit as possible. This assessment objectivity extends to University-provided community service programs, such as the planetarium. Four of the ten concerns relate to issues on Global campus, especially making sure that students on overseas locations have access to needed technology. We also must continue to send faculty teams overseas to do quality assurance audits. The last recommendation concerns faculty hiring and credentials. The need to increase the number of full-time faculty is a major concern with the SACS committee. They looked at the progress we have made, with 487 full-time faculty when they started looking 3 years ago, to 525 this past fall term to a projected 550+ in the next six months, and decided to give the University the benefit of the doubt. The primary area of concern is in Global campus, where the balance of full-time to part-time faculty is not as healthy as at the other campuses. The response to the SACS recommendations is very important. The report is due in early September, and will include thousands of pages.

Strategic planning has started smoothly. So far the strategic planning consultant is looking at identifying the major areas of concern. All ideas are submitted to the Chancellor individually for further suggestions and clarification. The final say for the strategic plan rests with the Board of Trustees.

B. Quality Enhancement Institute—Dr. Saltiel stated she has assembled a small group of faculty as a steering committee, including Dr. Allard, who are looking at short- and long-term goals. There will also be a day of faculty orientation each year devoted to faculty development. The QEI is dedicated to the idea that everything that can be done by faculty, for faculty, will be done. A pilot seminar was held in Phenix City last week. She is also looking at forming an electronic advisory board to gather input from across all campuses. There has been great interest from across all campuses. One idea is to establish a faculty mentoring group for new faculty members. Dr. Shelton said that Dr. Saltiel has graciously agreed to become a regular attendee of Senate meetings, and that we should encourage participation in QEI projects by faculty in our departments and colleges.

C. Joint Administration-Faculty Senate Committees on Compensation—Dr. Roark presented the draft letter to the Senate for approval. Dr. Allard suggested the addition of commas around the words “as Senate President” in the first line of the second paragraph. The draft was approved as amended to be sent to the various deans.

7. New Business

A. 2010-2011 Common Calendar—Vice Chancellor Ray White of the Montgomery Campus, who is in charge of the Common Calendar, has invited Dr. Shelton, as president of the Senate, to participate in process, and that the relationship with the Senate will continue in the future. The process of producing a calendar is more complex than most people realize, and Mr. White has been asked to address the Senate in the future to help clarify.

B. Djuana Burns handed the floor over to Doc Anderson, who voiced concerns over the quality of academic admissions standards at Troy University. He maintains that we are forced by the global competition with other universities to raise our standards in order to produce more competitive graduates. Dr. Federinko stated that the issue is a concern for the administration, and that Dr. Anderson has been asked to form a committee to look into admissions standards, and that results will be related to the Senate in the future. Dr. Shelton stated the Senate’s support, and said that in light of Dr. Federinko’s response no further action was necessary on the Senate’s part at this time.

C. Dr. Buckner was not present, but Dr. Shelton urged everyone to nominate strong non-tenure track faculty for the Faculty Senate Excellence Award. Also, remember this is open to all campuses.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.