

MINUTES
TROY UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MEETING
16 November 2010

1. Dr. Shelton called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.
2. Mr. Jim Davis completed the roll call for the meeting. Attendance was as follows:

a. Members present:

Catherine Allard
Tammy Esteves
David Hollingsworth
Tom Kolasa
Brian Webb
Marty Olliff
Scout Blum
Jim Davis
Regina Gaillard
Ben Robertson
Sam Shelton
Lane Eckis
Bill Heisler
John Irwin
Robert Kitahara
Johanna Alberich
Frank Browning
Michael Burgan
Debra Lett

b. Members absent:

Govind Menon (with notice)
Richard Voss (with notice)
John Jinright (with notice)
Eddie Clark (with notice)
Mary Ann Hooten (with notice)
Mary Battaglia (with notice)

As technological problems prevented the reaching of a quorum, Dr. Shelton proceeded with items on the agenda which were for information purposes only, and delayed anything requiring a vote, including the approval of the October minutes, until after a quorum could be reached.

4. President's Report

A. President's Correspondence

- i. Dr. Shelton reported that pursuant to the actions of the Senate at the last meeting, there is an opening in an unexpired term in the Senate in A&S, and that a call for nominations had been sent out. The deadline for nominations is November 17. Dr. Shelton encouraged A&S faculty to encourage other A&S faculty to put their names in the hat. If sufficient candidates materialize, the hope is to hold the election via email on November 30-December 1, a 48-hour voting period.

B. Other

- i. Dr. Shelton reported that the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academics Search Committee has extended the period for applications until 31 December, so the committee will not begin deliberations until January.

3. A quorum having been reached, the minutes of the October meeting were presented for the Senate's approval. The minutes were approved as corrected after Mr. Davis reported that he had received and included corrections from Ms. Mary Battaglia.

7. New Business—Dr. Shelton asked for, and was granted, permission to adjust the agenda to allow Mr. Gordon Stone to address the Senate out of order.

A. Mr. Stone, head of the Higher Education Partnership, announced that he is addressing grass-roots student groups around the state, called Election Partners, whereby he informs student groups about getting actively involved in letting state government know what they think. He discussed the new all-Republican state government that will take office in January, and the likelihood of ever-lower state education revenues. He also stated that Alabama's university tuition and fee amounts are in line with the regional average, neither on the high nor low sides. However, if state funding for education continues to decline, we could see tuition increases in a range that would seriously limit the ability of students to attend college. Alabama is already well below the national average in percentage of population with a four-year degree (21% to 27%), which in itself hampers the state's per capita income and therefore incoming revenues. He urged the senators to continually remind their colleagues and family members to contact state legislators on a personal level about the importance of education. He reminded the Senate that Higher Ed day is April 17.

5. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee—Dr. Shelton reported that the Executive Committee met the previous Wednesday to approve the agenda for today's meeting, as well as to get committee updates from the committee chairs.

B. Committee on Committees—Dr. Allard reported that the Undergraduate Academic Council was very busy in October and November. The personnel committee announced that beginning in January, all health insurance and prescription coverage will be covered by Blue Cross alone, and that employee premiums will rise by 5%. The University is also increasing its contribution, in order to try to level out the increases in case of a drastic spike in costs.

C. Elections Committee—Mr. Davis had nothing to add to the previous discussion of the special election for the unexpired A&S seat. Dr. Shelton said that the proposal to consolidate all University standing committee election into the Senate's electronic election process is progressing positively, and there appears to be a very strong chance that we will be holding consolidated elections in the spring.

D. Academic Affairs Committee—Dr. Olliff's efforts to communicate using sign language and graphic aids prompted Dr. Shelton to consult those in charge of the technology, who said that a move to the other video-conferencing room would allow two-way conversation with the remote locations. After the migration, Dr. Olliff said that his committee would report in January. He urged senators to read the 2010-2015 Plan and be aware of what the study teams are doing.

E. Faculty Welfare Committee—Dr. Kolasa reported that he has finished a preliminary draft of the Lecturer Study, and will give it to members of his committee and ask them to conduct further study within their departments. He said that the final reports would be ready in January or February.

F. Campus Reports

- i. Dothan Campus—Dr. Olliff reported that the Dothan campus still has no interim Associate Dean of A&S, and hopes the problem will be rectified soon.
- ii. Global Campus—Dr. Esteves had no report.
- iii. Montgomery Campus—Dr. Kolasa said that homecoming at the campus went well, with larger attendance than ever before. Some progress has been made on the establishment of a Montgomery campus SGA. The discussion right now regards whether Montgomery wants its own SGA or would be better off with representation on the main campus SGA. Finally, the History and Social Sciences Association is going to Tuskegee for their field trip.
- iv. Phenix City Campus—Dr. Hollingsworth reported that things are going well, so he had no report.
- v. Troy Campus—Dr. Allard reported that Troy campus homecoming was also a big success, the results of the football game notwithstanding. The symphony band was to perform its Veterans' Day concert at the Davis Theater that night, November 16. Smith Hall parking lot repairs are reported to be imminent. Dr. Allard also offered a suggestion, growing from the comments of a faculty member who had contacted her as Senate representative, about the procedures for student protests about grades other than final course grades. She asked that perhaps the Academic Affairs Committee could look into the language in the Faculty Handbook concerning procedures and responsibilities in such cases.
- vi. Library—Mr. Webb reported that the Troy campus library would have extended hours—open until 1 am—on Dead Day and the following Saturday, Sunday, and Monday.

G. Constitution Review—Dr. Allard reported that a preliminary finding appears to show that no adjustment of representation will be called for.

H. SGA-Faculty Senate Liaisons—Mr. Davis said that the Troy campus SGA is planning to propose to the administration that the areas of the Troy campus that are not wired for Wi-Fi be so wired. Mr. Davis said that he would make a motion in New Business that the Senate write a letter in support of the SGA's efforts.

Dr. Shelton added that the SGA had expressed concern about the freeze-ups of the registration system during pre-registration, and said that IT is working on fixing the problem.

Dr. Olliff reported that he would be meeting with the Dothan SGA the next day to propose a liaisonship with the Senate.

I. Chronicle Survey Review Committee—Dr. Blum reported that the committee to evaluate the article in the Chronicle, is attempting to obtain from the Chronicle the questions that were asked in each category, and pose those questions to the entire Troy faculty and staff community, to see if the results agreed with the smaller sample (approximately 25%) that was questioned by the Chronicle. This will occur in January or February. The committee will also visit some other universities, including Western Kentucky, which did better in this survey than Troy, to gather information. The final result will probably be finished in May.

6. Old Business

A. Plus/Minus Grading Study—Dr. Shelton read a letter he had received from Dr. Ingram, stating that he agreed with Dr. Roach’s conclusion that a plus/minus grading system would not be cost effective for the University, but that he stood ready to work with the Senate “to search for alternative ways to improve and reflect student achievement.” Dr. Shelton returned the matter to the Academic Affairs Committee for future study.

B. Campus-to-Campus Shuttle—Dr. Shelton stated that Dean Reeves is moving forward on the feasibility study on such a system.

C. Consolidated Elections Proposal—Dr. Shelton repeated his earlier statement that the proposal appears to be moving along in a positive direction. It has been discussed by the Academic Steering Committee, and we should hear the results soon. He stated that he hopes it is approved and that we can make it a success, because it should help everyone concerned, including the standing committees and the Senate.

7. New Business

B. Mr. Davis made a motion that the Senate authorize Dr. Shelton to draft a letter in support of the Troy campus SGA in its efforts to urge the administration to wire the entire Troy campus for Wi-Fi. In response to Dr. Shelton’s question to other campus representatives, it was discovered that on all other campuses, all the buildings are wired for Wi-Fi, but not necessarily the outdoor areas. Mr. Davis said that the Troy SGA was meeting that night, at which time he would clarify with President Filmore if the SGA would be asking for outdoor coverage also. The motion was approved.

C. Dr. Shelton suggested that faculty members making contributions to the University Foundation might consider designating a portion of their contributions specifically for the Faculty Senate.

D. Mr. Agboatwala announced that the exit gate of the Smith Hall parking lot would be repaired on the upcoming Friday, November 19.

E. Dr. Allard urged Senators to attend the Sounds of the Season concert on the Troy campus on 2 December and at the Davis Theater on 9 December.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 pm, although Dr. Shelton neglected to call for a motion to adjourn, and tried to enlist the secretary in a collusive effort to falsify the minutes to reflect that such a motion had indeed been called for. Happy holidays were wished to all.