

MINUTES
TROY UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MEETING
28 September 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
 - Govind Menon
 - Ben Robertson
 - Sam Shelton
 - Lane Eckis
 - Robert Kitahara
 - Richard Voss
 - John Jinright
 - Johanna Alberich
 - Frank Browning
 - Michael Burgan
 - Eddie Clark
 - Mary Battaglia
 - Debra Lett
 - b. Members absent:
 - Zhang Jun
 - Bill Heisler (with notice)
 - John Irwin (with notice)
 - Mary Ann Hooten (with notice)
3. The August minutes were approved as corrected after Mr. Davis stated that he had finally gotten around to proofreading the minutes and made 17 grammatical and typographical corrections. There were no substantive corrections offered by members of the Senate.
4. President's Report
 - A. President's Correspondence
 - i. Dr. Shelton reported that he had sent a letter of appreciation to Chancellor and Mrs. Hawkins thanking them for the luncheon on 25 August.
 - ii. Dr. Shelton stated that at the instruction of, and on behalf of the Senate, he had sent a letter to former Provost and Executive Vice-Chancellor Roach wishing him well in his retirement.
 - iii. Dr. Shelton reported that he had been invited by the development office to write a letter for the faculty/staff campaign in January encouraging faculty and staff to participate in the development fund drive. Whether they use the letter is unknown.

B. Other

- i. Dr. Shelton announced that the finalized roll sheets of the Senate membership, including identification of internal committees, as well as identification of any University or College Standing Committees on which the Senators serve, is included in the meeting packet. It has been updated to include David Hollingsworth on the Personnel Committee and Mary Ann Hooten on the URC, as per the Faculty election earlier in the month.
- ii. Dr. Shelton said that he has been appointed a member of the search committee for the Senior Vice-Chancellor position.

At this point there was a five-minute intermission while the communications technology went out for refreshments.

ii (cont'd). Dr. Shelton continued his discussion of the search committee for a new Senior Vice-Chancellor. He stated that the search committee held their first organizational meeting that morning, 28 September, and that Dr. Doug Patterson, chair of the committee, was in attendance at the Senate meeting. Dr. Patterson took the floor and reported that the committee discussed the qualifications they were looking for beyond the obvious academic ones, including past association and involvement with different accrediting agencies and the ability to work within a traditional environment as well as a non-traditional one. The committee agreed that first priority was finding the *right* person, and if the pool does not contain such a person, the search will be extended. The desired timeline would be to have someone in place by 1 January, but Dr. Patterson admitted that this would be improbable, and the more likely date would be next summer. Dr. Blum asked what the role of the faculty would be in evaluating candidates. Dr. Patterson stated that this had been discussed at the meeting, with input from Dr. Shelton, and they discussed having the final four or five candidates come to campus and do presentations open to faculty and others, and perhaps put these presentations on a webinar so they could be seen throughout the system. They also discussed having the candidates visit the other campuses. Dr. Allard asked how many candidates will be brought to campus, in light of the limit of one or possibly two candidates being brought for interviews for faculty positions. Dr. Patterson replied that he would have no problem bringing four or five candidates, if that many good ones can be found, because of the weight of the position being filled.

Dr. Shelton stated that several other committee members, besides him, were stressing that because this is an academic position the faculty needs to be heavily involved in the selection process, and that this is a good sign.

iii. Dr. Shelton met with Dr. Federinko after the latter announced his retirement plans, asking him what he thought the role of the Faculty Senate should be, and how he thought the Senate could improve its role and participation in the shared governance of the University. Dr. Shelton was encouraged by the conversation, and said that Dr. Federinko provided some good ideas that the Senate could work on during the coming year.

iv. Dr. Shelton had a meeting with Dr. Ingram when he assumed his responsibilities as interim Senior Vice-Chancellor/Provost, to bring him up-to-date on the activities of the Senate, and other projects of the Senate that had been discussed with Dr. Roach, such as providing a budget for the Senate; the idea that the Senate might at some point become an active presenter to the Board of Trustees; and that the request for a committee to study the plus/minus grading system has still not received a reply. Dr. Shelton gave Dr. Ingram some packets of information with regard to the efforts of the Senate on the possible appointment of a joint Administration/Faculty committee to study workload and compensation issues, and some background on the

Senates efforts to have joint online elections of all University-wide standing committees at the same time that the Senate holds its elections, under the auspices of the Senate. Dr. Shelton discussed the possibility of having faculty representation on other committees around campus, not just academic committees, but particularly whether there could be a faculty presence on the Academic Steering Committee, and apprised Dr. Ingram that Dr. Roach had approved the possibility of having a luncheon with the executive committee of the Senate to discuss issues. Dr. Shelton expressed his appreciation to Dr. Ingram for spending so much of his time with this meeting.

v. Dr. Shelton said that he had met with Dr. Barron in her role as Vice-Chancellor for Graduate Studies, serving as *Ex Officio* head of the Research Council, concerning getting the Research Council organized, and how we can encourage greater research by the faculty throughout the University. He encouraged all faculty to bring to his attention any ideas they have about this issue.

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 had nothing to report.

C. Elections Committee—Mr. Davis had nothing to report.

D. Academic Affairs Committee—Dr. Olliff had no report.

E. Faculty Welfare Committee—Dr. Kolasa reported that he is studying the notes on the Lecturer Study and doing research into the issues, and will have a full report soon. Issues brought up so far include pay issues, benefits, representation, and the long-term effects of having a higher percentage of lecturers in the faculty. Possible solutions include a three-year review, possible tenure options, and two- to three-year contracts.

F. Campus Reports

i. Dothan Campus—Dr. Olliff reported that the Dothan campus still has no Associate Dean for A&S, and needs an interim as soon as possible.

ii. Global Campus—Dr. Esteves reported that a new unified marketing and scheduling system being developed for the Columbus/Phenix City/Ft. Benning area to provide greater equity in scheduling and programming. The Western Region now covers the Pacific contract in support of international partnerships. A new Global Campus national marketing program has begun with not only the usual media of radio and TV, but expanded into internet and social media. Global Campus and Troy Campus will be hosting officials from China at the annual Confucius Institute meeting at the Board meeting. Similarly, Dr. Esteves is on a team that will be hosting a Japanese delegation with the Hyogo Administrative Policies Studies Association, and together they will be developing a symposium on sustainability that will be conducted in Seattle in March.

iii. Montgomery Campus—Dr. Kolasa reported that Vice-Chancellor Ray White is organizing a Homecoming event for the campus. The History and Social Sciences Association is holding some Halloween events: a movie on campus, and possibly a parking-lot party, with the public invited free of charge. Finally, the campus has recently

expanded its food selection in the cafeteria, which is important for the many non-traditional students who come to class directly after work and eat in the cafeteria.

iv. Phenix City Campus—Dr. Hollingsworth reported that the Education building was dedicated as Pitts Hall, so there is a permanent memorial for the past Vice-Chancellor. William Glaser from Reality Therapy, Choice Therapy, visited campus to do a one-day workshop which was well attended by the community. The faculty and staff are happy about the appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor. This has raised questions about the implications of the merger with the Ft. Benning campus.

v. Troy Campus—Dr. Allard reported that the campus parking problems have been alleviated with the opening of the new parking lot at the north end of campus. Preview Day is upcoming on 16 October, and Homecoming will be 13 November. The Reading Initiative is having very good participation, and the CCFA Frankenstein film festival has had “tremendous” attendance. This week’s film will be *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

vi. Library—Mr. Webb that the Mango language database has been greatly expanded in two areas: foreign languages for English speaking, with 13 new courses for ESL students, both basic and complete. There are many language courses available for English-speaking students, including complete courses in Mandarin, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Portugese, Brazilian Portugese, Russian, and South American Spanish. These programs are all available online, accessed through the online database listings under M for Mango Language Database. About 20 more programs will be added in the coming year. In answer to a question from Dr. Blum, Mr. Webb said that the programs are available to anyone with access to the library system—faculty, staff, and students. Users can create personal accounts and, since it is a self-paced program, pick up where they left off. Dr. Shelton asked if it had been advertised, and was told that it is on the University website, has been announced in email, and was featured in the *Tropolitan* last year when the service was first made available. Dr. Alberich said that it is advertised regularly in language classes.

G. Constitution Review—Dr. Allard reported that the Constitution Review Committee will soon receive a list of all Troy University faculty, from which a list of all whose positions are primarily teaching, from which a list will be made from which to reapportion the distribution of Senators, if necessary. Dr. Shelton, as FYI for those new members who might not know, that in every fifth year of the constitution the Senate must review its membership to see whether the distribution by college is still fair and equitable.

Dr. Shelton asked that the agenda be amended to allow Dr. Menon to present to the Senate out of order as he has to leave. There were no objections.

7. New Business.

B. Dr. Menon stated that Troy faculty have always been very creative in trying to find time to do research—between students, between classes, between office hours. But it is time to begin a conversation on proper release time allowances for research. In light of the fact that this could be moderately expensive for the University, both faculty and administration should take this very seriously. It important to anyone going up for promotion or tenure, because both the CRC’s and the URC have started paying attention to not only the number of publications, but also now to the quality of the publication—is the journal good enough.

Dr. Shelton replied that this was a part of the conversation that he had with Dr. Barron about the Research Council and that he, as a member of the Research Council, will continue to bring up.

6. Old Business

A. Quality Enhancement Institute—Dr. Shelton asked Dr. Ingram if a new director of QEI has been appointed, and was told no.

B. Plus/Minus Grading Study—Dr. Shelton said the request for a joint committee to study the matter is still in the hands of the Chancellor, and so will remain a continuing process on future agendas.

C. Faculty Senate Liaison to the SGA—Dr. Blum mentioned at the previous Senate meeting the possibility of creating a liaison from the Senate to the SGA, particularly the Troy campus SGA. Dr. Blum said that she feels it is important that would help both the faculty and the students in joint efforts which we each had help to offer the other. Dr. Dew provided the meeting time of the SGA—6:30 Tuesdays. Mr. Davis volunteered on a “temporary” basis. The call remains out for other volunteers.

D. Campus-to-Campus Shuttle—Dr. Blum made a motion to send a letter to Dean Reeves asking is the idea of a campus-to-campus shuttle would be feasible. Dr. Shelton clarified that the proposal is for a park-and-ride shuttle with fees paid by the users. The motion passed.

7. New Business

A. SACS Review and 2015 Plan—Dr. Dew stated that the 2015 Plan takes effect on Friday, 1 October. For SACS, two things are happening. First is the monitor’s report, for which the University has responded to ten recommendations, five of which deal with institutional effectiveness. He said the University has made significant headway in the past year, with significant input from faculty from every discipline (information that is now available on the Homer website) to be able to provide information related to program-level outcomes and student learning outcomes. The University has also made significant headway in faculty hiring, a major concern that SACS had, and in terms of the oversight, particularly by full-time faculty, of the overseas teaching locations. SACS has received this document, and a committee within SACS will review this in October/November, and will vote in December whether to accept the report. If the report is accepted in its entirety, then “a more reasonable cycle of activity” will be attained in which regular updates of academic activities will be reported beginning next fall. If some items in the report are not deemed acceptable, then the work of gathering data will continue as it has up until now. Our SACS liaison has expressed guarded optimism as to the acceptability of the current report.

Dr. Dew also said that he has received feedback from other institutions expressing admiration for the original compliance report that is posted online, saying that they are impressed with the amount of information and the degree of transparency we have provided. The positive feedback is appreciated.

The second big project for SACS regards the level change, wherein Troy is changing from a level-4 institution to a level 5, which is limited approval to offer doctoral programs, up to three programs. A team came in a few weeks ago to evaluate the institution. They expressed a good overall impression of the University, and were very impressed with our Doctor of Nursing program, especially the way the faculty had developed and designed the program, and also with our ability to deliver the program online. A concern prior to the visit had been how the team members, who come from traditional institutions, would react to the online aspects of the program, but even the dean of a nursing school that offers nothing online was impressed. However, the team did express concern verbally, to be followed by a written report, about the amount of research activity by the faculty who will be teaching the doctoral programs. On the one hand, it is a recommendation that will strengthen the University, but on the other hand we would have been “delighted” if they had made it a suggestion instead of a recommendation. So the University will be doing some work in the near future to strengthen the capabilities and the resources to support the faculty in regards to the type of research they will be doing. Dr. Dew said that the type of research concerned is no that which deals with

publications in journals, but, since it is a practitioners' degree, the research needed is into how the practice is being implemented in the field.

The SACS team was also very curious as to the University's future plans as to research activities. They appeared to be concerned that we would be launching Ph.d programs in major research areas; the University's response was that the area we are interested in entering in the near future is mainly the areas of practice, where we can best serve our area, a message that pleased the visitors.

As regards the 2015 Strategic Plan, there was a meeting with the Board of Trustees to brief them and the Long-Range Planning Committee. From the meeting with the L-RPC came the addition of one more objective: a plan for enhancing student leadership development. As a reminder, there are three broad objectives for the Strategic Plan: first, to increase engagement with the stakeholders, which includes in many cases our students; to enhance the academic quality and institutional effectiveness of the University; and finally, to continue to build for the future, even given the current economic climate. The budget year 2012 looks very grim for all universities throughout the state. This plan was reviewed by the board at their meeting on 23 July, and approved. The plan has been posted on the website. Dr. Dew said that the plan has been bold because by making bold plans, we are more likely to make bold progress than we would be with more modest goals. Implementation of some items of the plan is contingent on the 2012 budget, and some things might have to be postponed. As of 1 October, the teams are in place and the Plan is approved.

Dr. Shelton asked if we know already who those teams are. Dr. Dew replied that yes, the teams are posted on the web, as well as the senior administrators in charge, and the team leaders. Care is being taken to assure representation from every campus.

Dr. Shelton thanked Dr. Dew, and mentioned that Dr. Dew was assuming some new responsibilities, which Dr. Dew identified and taking over the administrative areas of Student Services.

Dr. Shelton urged Senators to study the new strategic plan and to participate in the conversation. He told Dr. Oliff that he would like to have the Academic Affairs Committee study the plan to recommend how the Senate might best make contributions.

C. Fraternity Grade Reporting—Dr. Blum briefed the Senate on grade reports received by faculty members from the Student Involvement office, asking faculty members to report the grades of fraternity members. She said that faculty members who had talked to her were not pleased with the extra work and time being asked of them, when this situation, unlike the grade reports for athletes where NCAA requirements are involved, seems to be selective. She asked for information on how this process evolved.

Mr. Joe Hutto addressed the Senate to explain the situation. He said that the administration, mainly as a portion of studying the impact of the large investment in the fraternity village, asked for a snapshot of fraternity grades so that they could have a better idea of the status of the academic standing of the greek system. Mr. Hutto says that he should have done a better job of approaching the faculty with the idea before implementing it. Since the University no longer reports mid-term grades, he had no way of acquiring the information himself. The past practice of having the students carry around from class to class a grade report sheet, which tended to result in inflated grade reports for various reasons, which did not hold up to the end-of-semester grades. Dr. Blum said that she still gets many grade sheets to sign at every class, and suggested that grades posted on Blackboard could be printed off by the students. Mr. Hutto replied that five sororities do not fall under his jurisdiction, and according to Barbara Patterson (Director of Student Involvement) the sororities still use the grade report sheets. In answer to an idea brought up by Dr. Blum, he answered that the students in sororities and fraternities do sign release forms allowing the examination of their academic records by the University. He said he is trying to get funding for the Grades First system used by the Athletic Department in order to get grades in a form that will serve the needs of his office. Dr.

Alberich asked if she could just print their grades off Blackboard and send them to Mr. Hutto's office. He said yes, this would be very good.

Dr. Kolasa asked what the overall purpose of gathering this information is. Mr. Hutto said that there is a need to get solid statistical data about the greek student's grade in order to evaluate

where they stand academically. Although the greek students are ahead of the student body at large in GPA, there has been a slight decline in greek GPA recently, and he needs to get solid information as to why so that he can conduct a more thorough overhaul and study of the greek scholarship system. The Senate thanked Mr. Hutto for coming to address us on the problem. After Mr. Hutto had left, Dr. Shelton thanked the Senate for not throwing things at Mr. Hutto. Dr. Shelton added that this is yet another example of things being sprung on the faculty with no prior notice, and reiterated that things that impact the faculty need to be discussed with the faculty beforehand.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 pm.