

**Savannah State University Faculty Senate**  
**Minutes for Tuesday, March 4, 2014 4:00 PM Whiting Hall Chan Auditorium**

Senators of 2013-2014 Present: Ouandlous, Bell, Silberg, Jordan, Warren, Brown, Jahmani, Niranjana, Park, Wu, Gardner-Martin, Lewis, Maynor, Tedrick, O'Brien, Rukmana, St. Mark, Walker, Adeyemo, Andreou, Atena, Curran, Johnson, Wyche, Mosley

Ex-officio: Jolley, Verret, R. Smith, Hardy, Holmes, Fayoyin, Lambright, Steward, D. Smith

Senators Absent: Brooks, Franklin, Li, Kim, Taylor

Excused: Kawasha, Harris-Murphy

Visitors: Bentley, Bobby, Schroeder, Metts, K. Walker

I- Call to order- The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Dr. Ouandlous at 4:11 p.m.

II- Approval of Agenda- The agenda was approved.

III- The February 4, 2014 Minutes were approved.

IV- The Senate entertained the President's Report, presented by Dr. Verret, which is incorporated to these minutes by reference. Dr. David Smith offered brief comments about the Strategic Plan Priorities. A document was distributed containing the five priorities, which was provided in prior sessions. The administration is requesting Senate support of the Strategic Planning Priorities. It was moved, second, and agreed by the Senate to support the Strategic Planning Priorities presented by the Office of the President.

Also, it was reported that 300 students have applied for December graduation.

V- Senate Correspondence Secretary Professor Nicholas Silberg reported on correspondence from a faculty member requesting that summer semester follow the same two-year rotation utilized for fall and spring semesters. Discussion underscored that summer can follow the same plan as fall and spring, in general; however, the summer requires deans to have certain flexibility for matters unique to summer. In addition, there are some courses offered every summer rather than every other year. No action was taken on the item; it was presented as an informational matter.

VI- Updating faculty ranks in print—It has come to the attention of the Senate there are instances where updating faculty ranks has not occurred in print material. With respect to the catalog, Dr. Verret said his office will work with chairs and deans to address the matter. This will include promotion and tenure actions. Such catalog errors should be communicated to Amelia Jenkins.

VII- Non-substantial curriculum changes--The Senate considered the matter of a streamlined process to implement non-substantial curriculum changes, such as clerical errors and course title changes. Discussion involved approaches to addressing minor changes and errors, such as approval via the dean's office and provost. Also, the definition of *substantial* was considered. In addition, the role of NPCC in a streamlined process was

discussed, such as veto rights or deciding to review a matter more thoroughly. The need for Graduate Council to consider the issue for graduate curriculum matters was voiced. A motion was made, supported, and passed by the Senate to charge NPCC with drafting policy language in consultation with the Graduate Council.

VIII-E-Core Update—Dr. Hardy reported on the progress-to-date. He explained efforts are currently on hold due to the search for a new registrar. The issue of credit not being transferrable was discussed, specifically referencing the Georgia Tech Regents Engineering transfer program’s web site information. Dr. Hardy will investigate University of Georgia to ascertain if there are E-core course non-transferrable issues.

IX—Independent study—The Senate considered a concern with respect to compensation for independent course instruction. It was explained that independent study courses and other courses with one or a few students are regularly offered without compensation. It was suggested that consideration be given to providing some small level of compensation to express appreciation for the service. After considerable discussion expressing support, provided there is structure to constrain abuse, an ad hoc committee was appointed by Senate Vice Chairman Ouandlous to consider the matter, including investigating the practice at other universities. The members are:

- Professor Teresa-Michelle Walker
- Professor Michael Lewis
- Professor Nicholas Silberg

X—University wide network security—The university is implementing a new protocol to ensure secure access to the wireless network. It was reported in the past such efforts have not considered Apple Mac devices. It was moved, supported, and agreed by the Senate to refer the matter of considering Apple Mac devices to the technology committee.

XI Complete College Georgia Plan—The importance of faculty involvement was underscored in the ongoing SSU efforts with respect to the Complete College Georgia Plan (CCG). Work to progress CGC should include faculty considerations and preserve transparency. Faculty have a stake. Vice Chairman Ouandlous outlined an approach that included faculty preparing papers on issues and practices they deem to be important in advancing CGC efforts at SSU. The idea is such work would be considered a scholarly contribution and be available for colleagues across the university. A committee could be formed to select certain papers for a small monetary award.

Dr. Verret added that the role of individual instructors is integral to CGC, such as how courses are taught and how college completion is advanced.

Dr. Ouandlous took an unofficial vote as an expression of interest to move forward with formulating the idea; faculty were generally in support of moving forward. At the next Senate meeting he will articulate the idea for additional discussion.

XII—Committee Reports—Dr. Brown presented the Faculty Development Committee report. The Distinguished Professor Subcommittee is preparing a report on the criteria, duties, length of appointment, and compensation. That information will be presented at the next Faculty Senate meeting. Also, it was reported that the School of Teacher Education was not represented on the Faculty Development Committee. Action was taken to reapportion the committees' 12 seats with four seats to CLASS, three to both COBA and COSTS and 2 to SOTE, with Dr. Mosley serving as representative. The Teaching/Learning subcommittee reported 15 faculty members received grants the Summer of 2013 totaling \$24,800. He reported the Patent/Copyright subcommittee indicated that the current practices would be maintained regarding patents and copyrights. Dr. Brown also discussed the problem of having sufficient attendance for a quorum and requests the Senate, via the Committee on Committees, to consider downsizing the committees.

Dr. Brown reported the committee also agreed to request the Senate amend the faculty handbook to remove the responsibility of planning the Fall Institute: "The committee shall plan for and facilitate the annual Fall Institute (Section 1.8.2.5). In practice, these duties are handled by the Office of Academic Affairs.

It was moved, supported, and passed by the Senate to remove the language from the handbook requiring the Faculty Development Committee to plan and facilitate the Fall Institute, with the explicit expectation college deans will obtain faculty input to be included in their Fall Institute input provided to Academic Affairs.

The matter of library representation on the Faculty Development Committee was discussed, as well as the question of the proper size of the committee. Vice Chairman Ouandlous reaffirmed the faculty handbook language on committee size and current composition in accordance to the existing terms and vacancy elections.

The Committee on Committees reported that the Board of Review needs two members. It only meets only when a matter is brought for consideration. A Chair and Co-Chair must be elected from faculty. Dr. Kalantari was nominated for chair, nominations were closed, and he was elected by the Senate. Dr. Spyros was nominated for co-chair, nominations were closed, and he was elected by the Senate.

Dr. Gardner-Martin reported the chairs of the various committees.

There were no other committee reports.

XIII- Announcements—Information was distributed providing dates the library will be at various locations across campus to enhance students access. SSU will be hosting the Urban Planning Conference on April 16 and faculty were encouraged to bring classes to the event. It was announced the Georgia House of Representatives approved over \$14 million for merit based pay increase.

XIV-Adjournment-The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
David A. Bell- Recording Secretary

# Faculty Senate – March 4th, 2014

## President's Report

*Good afternoon and thank you for all you do for our students and for Savannah State University.*

### Key Initiatives

- The Georgia House has included \$2.5 million dollars for planning of the Science facility. All indications suggest that the Senate will act favorably toward this funding.
- SSU day at the Capitol has been rescheduled to March 11, 12:45-2:45 p.m.
- Legislation permitting gun carrying has passed the Georgia House. It will be considered by the Georgia Senate this week.
- President Dozier is visiting three institutions in West Africa to establish research, study abroad and exchange program opportunities and will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with President Emmet Dennis. The SSU delegation includes Professors Roenia Deloach of Social Work; Terri Clay and Norbert Chandler, assistant professors of Homeland Security and Emergency Management; and Samuel Dolo, professor of Mathematics.
- SSU received a commendation from the governor in recognition of its contributions to the advancement of the State of Georgia and for expanding the understanding of Black history among the people of the State.
- **The new SSU Strategic Plan for 2014-2020 was approved by the Presidential Cabinet last week. This is the final step of the plan approval process. We are distributing the University Strategic Planning Priorities for consideration of the Senate. These are results of a university wide conversation during the past year.**

### State of Georgia Highlights

- The Georgia House has included \$2.5 million dollars for planning of the Science facility. All indications suggest that the Senate will act favorably toward this funding. The plan calls for constructing new instructional, research and office space for Marine Sciences, Engineering Technology and Mathematics.
- The House added language in the budget telling the Department of Community Health to offer 650,000 state employees, retirees and their dependents on the State Health Benefit Plan a choice of health care providers.

### Board of Regents

- Update – New director of International Education appointed at USG

## **Academic Affairs**

- Discussions underway with Skidaway Institute on collaboration with our Marine Science Program.
- Mr. Francisco Duque and Dr. April Gentry have submitted a grant to USG to enhance enrollment and success of Latino students at SSU.
- A committee is at work on the shape of an Honors College at SSU.

## **Student Affairs**

- The Division of Student Affairs will be hosting its Spring 2014 Career Fair on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> in the Student Union Ballroom from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We have more than 30 employers registered for the Career Fair and 10 graduate schools will also be onsite. Please stop by if time permits.
- Veterans Affairs has certified a record number of Military Learners for Spring Semester 2014 – 173 total.
- Student Conduct: We have had more than 300 student conduct violations for the first two months of the Spring Semester with the majority of the violations being Residential Hall related.
- We have had more than 1,140 current students register for fall housing using our new automated housing software, Residents by Simplicity. Freshmen applicants for the fall are already inquiring about on-campus housing, and they can also apply for housing using Residents by Simplicity.

## **Events**

- On March 23, Domingo Universitario is hosting a free daylong workshop that helps high school Hispanic and Latino students prepare to enter university or technical college. The program is open to students currently enrolled in grades 10 through 12. Domingo Universitario will provide information sessions to help families gain the skills and knowledge that will prepare them for college admissions, financial aid applications and

scholarship research. Information on private scholarships will also be made available to students, regardless of their residency status.

- SSU will have a float at the St. Patrick's Day parade.

*Thank you for your continued efforts towards excellence  
during Spring Semester 2014.*