Savannah State University Faculty Senate Minutes

Tuesday, March 6, 2012 4 PM Jen Auditorium Whiting Hall

Senators Present: Han, Metts, O’Brien, Silberg, Kawasha, St. Mark, Stewart, McClain, Bentley, Franklin, Arora, Dowling, Yoon, Brown, Andreou, Taylor, Tessema, Sivapatham, Dolo, Singh, Cox, Sajwan, Sarhan, Harris-Murphy, Warren

Senators Absent: Yount, Faries, Jamison, Naniuzeyi, Reddick, Johnson, Smith

Visitors: Dunn, Myers, Wyche, McMillan, Clark, Schroeder, Brannen, Jolley, Delk, Lambright

1. Call to Order- The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Dr. Dowling at 4:05 PM with a quorum present.
2. Approval of Agenda- Add a need for a replacement on the VPAA Search Committee. The replacement Senator must be from CLASS. The agenda was then approved.
3. Approval of Minutes (from Feb. 7, 2012)
4. Under VI 2 B, change the sentence “The Parking Committee members who were appointed have not responded.” The new sentence is: The Parking Committee Chair had not contacted the new members of the committee.
5. Dr. Dozier objected to the following approved motion under V B 3: A: Any faculty member serving in an administrative position with personnel recommendation authority may not serve on faculty search committees or personnel committees, including pre-tenure, tenure, promotion, and post-tenure.
6. Dr. Dowling commented that Dr. Dozier can choose to reject this motion by writing a letter to the Executive Committee.
7. This section of the minutes was not amended.
8. The minutes were then approved as amended.
9. President’s Report
10. There is a system-wide initiative to increase graduation and retention rates. SSU is beginning to identify metrics to address graduation and retention issues. Mr. Cranford, Dr. Leseane, and Dr. Crow. among others, will start to work on these issues on March 19 as part of the system initiative.
11. SSU presented a budget proposal to the Chancellor and his staff in Atlanta. We made an effective budget presentation.
12. The USG system is focusing on online technology and online education. SSU is working on a policy for online programs.
13. SSU currently has an enrollment of 4, 130 students.
14. The Honors Convocation is on March 29 at 10 AM. Dr. Otis Johnson will be the speaker.
15. The ribbon cutting for Morgan Hall will be on March 30.
16. Committee Reports
17. Executive Committee Report
18. Dr. Naniuzeyi has replaced Dr. Ide and needs to be sworn in.
19. Dr. Dowling reported on the Board of Regents University System Faculty Council met at SSU on Feb. 25.

i: There was a call for the BOR to reexamine health care. Many faculty and staff may be unaware that Blue Cross-Blue Shield is not the agency that is paying health claims but is merely the administrator.

ii: There was a discussion of parity and equity between the Teachers’ Retirement System and the Optional Retirement System. There is a funding differential between the two. iii: Consolidations are not over. Faculty have not been included in a significant manner. Faculty should be included in the planning and implementing consolidation.

iv: At a couple of USG institutions, the distribution of the grades of D, F, and W has become an evaluation issue for faculty. Those professors with a high percentage of these grades have been asked to produce a plan to reduce them.

v: Regents’ exam exemptions- Proposals to be exempted from the Regents’ exam were submitted by schools and approved by a Committee of Presidents over a one-year period. The last seven USG system schools have been exempted.

1. The Executive Committee will try to obtain a copy of the report on the Regents’ exam for Dr. Tessema from Dr. Gentry or the VPAA.
2. The Executive Committee discussed how to best use our budget.
3. Dr. Metts reported regarding a meeting she and Dr. Jordan had with Sterling Stewart, the new Director of Athletics. The Executive Committee expressed concerns that students were spending too much time on sports. The AD told Dr. Metts that he wanted control of his own shop and felt an urgency to get his house in order. The Athletic Department does monthly and quarterly academic monitoring. Spot checks are done to ensure compliance with rules on practice time. The AD said that he would speak to the Senate about any concerns.

i: Dr. Myers asked about student-athletes who are missing 7 out of 14 classes in a course that meets once per week.

ii: Dr. Metts responded by saying that this could be an advising problem.

iii: Dr. Dowling said that the Executive Committee would contact the AD about excessive absences.

iv: Each college has been asked to work with athletes to put them into classes which are appropriate for their sports’ season. The classes they are taking should be with a view of minimizing class time missed.

v: Dr. Clark said one of the problems had been not having any baseball or softball games on campus.

1. NPCC- no report
2. International Programs & Services Committee
3. The SSU President has made available scholarship money for study abroad.

Scholarship applications must be reviewed by this committee to determine which students will get funding and how much each student should receive.

1. The VPAA created a task force which was charged with recommending how we can improve study abroad. The task force explored how to get faculty to lead students abroad. The first obstacle was that we did not have a budget. We now have $50,000 to pay for study abroad faculty expenses and salaries. The committee will have to decide how much compensation they should get based on the number of students travelling in their group.
2. According to the task force report, the study abroad committee will consist of 7 people from CLASS, COBA, COST, Education, and the library to review professors’ applications for trips and scholarships.
3. Dr. Naniuzeyi will talk to the VPAA to see if the International Programs and Services Committee can review the scholarships for now.
4. The Task Force report will not be available until the VPAA approves it.
5. We need to organize events and lectures for international students
6. International week is scheduled for April and will include lectures, cultural food, and other activities. LINK will be on campus to show a film on conditions in North Korea from 11AM to 12:30 PM on March 8 in the Social Sciences Building. We are still working to get programming established for our campus channel (online channel 96).

I; Dr. Clark asked Dr. Han to check on whether the problem with Channel 96 is with Comcast or with the university.

1. Academic Calendar Committee
2. The Academic Calendar Committee met and talked about the calendar for 2013-2014.
3. There should not be so many changes to the calendar because many events are planned according to the calendar.
4. Dr. Sarhan said that part of the problem is that, because we have an Interim Administration this year, changes had to be made to our academic calendar
5. Handbook Committee
6. Dr. Myers met with the President and Executive Committee of the Senate. At this meeting, the President recommended several changes to the Handbook.
7. Ms. Fayoyin has sent out the Handbook with these permanent changes.
8. A motion was approved to approve the faculty handbook with the changes made and, that any future changes will be made on a line-by-line basis rather than bringing the whole document back.
9. Faculty Affairs Committee
10. Dr. Dowling reported that Faculty Affairs passed a recommendation about redistribution of Senate membership. The Library, School of Education, COBA, COST, and CLASS would all have 5 Senate seats which would be elected in the units. This will be brought for a vote at the next Senate meeting.
11. Library and Educational Media Committee
12. Ms. Fayoyin said she will present a library update at the April meeting of the Faculty Senate.
13. The committee will encourage students to make use of library resources and help them become aware of assistance such as the ReWrite Connection.
14. The committee aims to improve information literacy in support of the QEP and will serve as a resource and connection with faculty in the transition to Desire2Learn, the distance learning platform being adopted by the University System of Georgia. SSU will move to Desire2Learn in the spring semester of 2013.
15. Ms. Fayoyin noted that faculty should be reminded to provide periodical and book requests to the library through their department liaison. This year is the year in which the library decides which journal subscriptions to renew or initiate.
16. Faculty Development- Dr. Singh is the temporary Chair. The committee will meet soon.
17. Admissions Committee- The committee met with the VPAA and is working on policy for academic suspension and academic probation.
18. Student Affairs- Dr. St. Mark looked over the material from Dr. McClain about the charge. The committee will try to determine what it really needs to work on.
19. Online Committee- This committee is trying to establish online policy
20. Correspondence- There was no correspondence. Dr. Metts did show Senators the Faculty Senate web site with curriculum proposals, minutes, agenda, executive committee minutes, and various other items. Dr. Dowling commented that Dr. Metts does a lot of work behind the scenes and her work is greatly appreciated.
21. Announcements
22. Many faculty members are presented tomorrow for the QEP.
23. The Golden Key Honor Society is sponsoring a film tonight on AIDS: Out of Control in the Black Community and a film tomorrow: Don’t Have Sex in the Dark.
24. There will be a Student Research Fair on April 10. The abstracts are due on March 9.
25. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 5 PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Kevin O’Brien- Recording Secretary of the Senate