

Savannah State University Faculty Senate
Minutes for Tuesday, April 1, 2014 4:00 PM Whiting Hall Chan Auditorium

Senators of 2013-2014 Present: Ouandlous, Bell, Silberg, Jordan, Warren, Harris-Murphy, Brown, Jahmani, Park, Wu, Franklin, Gardner-Martin, Kawasha, Lewis, O'Brien, St. Mark, Adeyemo, Andreou, Atena, Curran, Johnson, Wyche, Mosley

Ex-officio: Dozier, Adams, Barnette, Gentry, Verret, R. Smith, Hardy, Holmes, Fayoyin, Lambright, Steward, D. Smith, Steffen, Yount

Senators Absent: Niranan, Brooks, DeLoach, Maynor, Walker, Li, Taylor

Excused: Rukmana, Tedrick, Kim

Visitors: Metts, Ratcliff, Moore, Humphrey, Cottle, Samms-Brown, Kirkley, Rech, Johnson, Schroeder, Myers, Odom, Brannen, Roberts, Berry

I- Call to order- The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Dr. Ouandlous at 4:12 p.m.

II- Approval of Agenda- The agenda was approved.

III- The March 4, 2014 Minutes were approved.

IV- The Senate entertained the President's Report, which is incorporated into these minutes by reference. In addition, on April 18th there will be an international summit; more information to come. A faculty member from each college is needed to serve on a committee focusing on a smoke free committee.

Mr. Phil Adams discussed the president's gala, including the new Awards of Excellence. Awardees will include Savannah Mayor Jackson, 100 Black Men of Savannah, and Louise Owens, among others.

Dr. Moore explained the university is updating the network to include the application Safe-Connect Network Access Control. She explained there is an authentication application to accommodate most operating systems, including Apple Mac users who have expressed concerns.

V- USG Affordable Learning Georgia (ALG) plan—Dr. Fayoyin reported on the Plan. She described it as a USG initiative, not a mandate, to promote student success by providing affordable textbook alternatives. Information was distributed regarding ALG, including national survey statistics on students' views on the impact of text book cost on course selection and performance. She is requesting faculty input and feedback on open resource text options.

VI- Post-tenure Review Process and Dean's input—Vice Chair Ouandlous underscored that the role of the deans is covered in both the Faculty Handbook and the various college handbooks. The Faculty Handbook specifies the role and input process for deans during post-tenure reviews. Dean Smith indicated his question was resolved, with the focus is now on the CLASS handbook.

VII- Complete College Georgia Plan—Vice Chair Ouandlous outlined an approach and support for continued faculty involvement in the university’s CGC plan. The presentation was intended to stimulate discussion. Important and urgent aspects in CCG include restructuring course delivery, such as online platforms and students working in cohorts. He presented an Input-Output Education Model as tool to convey thoughts to stimulate conversation. The process encourages examining various aspects of learning, by college, and sharing lessons throughout the university.

Dr. Dozier reported the chancellor was concerned about the level of Faculty Senate involvement across USG. CCG developed a plan with campus wide engagement, including updates. The ongoing discussion needs to continue to incorporate faculty.

Dr. Verret expressed a willingness to consider a stipend for best papers prepared to inform the effort by challenging and engaging faculty to improve the advising structure and student retention. Dr. David Smith explained CCG is in Priority One of the SSU Strategic Plan.

VIII—Registrar Update—Dr. Verret reported the position has been posted and a selection committee will be appointed by the end of May.

IX—Committee Reports—Dr. Lewis presented the Parking Committee report. The committee met with SGA and Chatham Area Transit Authority. There will be a slight fee increase for the coming year, in accordance with the existing contract. Parking is going to be more digital across campus, including parking violations, which will streamline collecting fees, and addressing holds. Part-time faculty decal cost was discussed. It was supported in principle, but a graded schedule must be developed for all employees. It was reported a more comprehensive plan is needed to include part-time employees, not just faculty. President Dozier underscored that the part-time designation does not always equate to time on campus for parking.

Dr. Brown reported the Faculty Development Committee developed Distinguished Professor Award criteria, through the work of the Distinguished Professor Subcommittee. The criteria were provided to attendees. The selected professor would receive a one-time \$5,000 increase to base salary. The Committee is seeking approval on the criteria.

Several questions regarding the criteria were asked, including rank, and it was reported that the subcommittee and committee considered the matters and agreed unanimously to the criteria. A friendly amendment was accepted to delete specific reference to undergraduate professors to allow graduate faculty to be considered. Also, a friendly amendment was accepted to add “quality” education.

Dr. Dozier praised the work of the Committee and Subcommittee as a start and expressed a desire to work on it with the provost and others. It is a financial obligation that necessitates compensation issue considerations. She expressed that it is different than full professor rank and should require performance reflecting such. Also, she expressed appreciation for an award recognizing undergraduate faculty, given the university is primarily undergraduate.

A motion to table the matter passed to allow the administration an opportunity to consider the related issues and report back.

The Online Learning Policies and Procedures Committee, the E-learning committee, met and are finalizing a draft policy, which will be presented at the next Senate meeting.

Dr. David Smith reported on behalf of the chair of the Student Affairs Subcommittee. The Subcommittee met and considered several issues including new housing software, security, and SGA elections. Also, they are considering better ways to keep students engaged in response to faculty reports of organizations becoming inactive due to lack of participation. In addition, work is planned for the fall to revise the Student Handbook, including the Code of Conduct.

The subcommittee needs 3-4 members. Vice Chairman Ouandlous directed the Dr. Gardner, chair of Committee on Committees, to take steps to move toward removal of inactive members and recruit members for the subcommittee.

X—Open Forum—Attendees were given an opportunity to address the Senate. There being no comments the meeting moved to the next agenda item, Announcements.

XI—Announcements—Dr. Fayoyin announced that hours will be extended to serve students the week before final exams, as well as during finals' week. The Athletic Department requested both the assistance of the Senate to help push Ultimate Fan pass for next academic year and attendance at the banquet April 17. Dr. Dozier introduced the new executive assistant to the president, Gaye Humphrey. Dr. Dozier encouraged faculty to utilize the cafeteria for lunch and seize it as an opportunity to network. First Friday of each month lunch is \$5, faculty appreciation day.

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

Respectfully submitted,
David A. Bell- Recording Secretary

Faculty Senate – April 1, 2014
Whiting Hall Auditorium, 4 p.m.
President’s Report

Good afternoon and thank you for all that you do for our students and for Savannah State University. Visitors to the Savannah State website can view a photo of Governor Nathan Deal during his first visit to the Savannah State campus. The governor met with students, faculty and staff during his on Sunday, March 16th visit, which provided us with a great opportunity to share key programs and projects that are underway and to ask for his continued support.

Board of Regents

- In March, the board voted unanimously to ban all tobacco use on public college campuses, beginning Oct. 1st. The policy applies to all employees, students, contractors, subcontractors and visitors and is applicable 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All events hosted by a USG-entity or on behalf of the USG shall be tobacco and smoke free. Under the ban, all forms of tobacco, including smokeless tobacco and electronic cigarettes will be prohibited.

I will be charging a committee made up of faculty, staff and students to discuss implementation issues. Please see the handout.

Legislative

Thank you for your support in the recent legislative session.

- The General Assembly has approved \$ 2.5 million in planning and development funds for a new Marine Science Building. This is great victory as a crucial first step. We will seek project revenue of approximately \$ 18 million in next legislative budget.

- HB 875. Gun laws remain unchanged for college campuses. Guns are now allowed in churches unless they opt out.
- The House Education Committee voted down both committee substitutes to the “Common Core” bill that the system had been closely monitoring. Dead for this session.
- Legislators passed HB 788. This is the property tax exemption legislation for the USG P3 concept. { Jolley can explain }
- Medical Marijuana did not make it. Governor Deal plans on creating some executive level narrow research based exceptions under existing law.

Administrative Issues

- On March 27th, the President convened a Campus Safety Task Force composed of members of the campus community, as well as civic, government and corporate leaders. McMillan and Associates, a Savannah-based consulting firm, will facilitate the work of the task force. The task force will operate independently and present its findings and recommendations in approximately three months. The safety and security of our students and campus is our top priority. We have

Academic Affairs

- Spring Commencement

To date, 335 are scheduled to participate in Spring Commencement.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of African Affairs, has accepted our invitation to be the commencement speaker

- Admissions

The number of applications submitted for Fall 2014 is 5,596.

Cumulative Number of Students Offered Admission is 1,014 (of that number 487 have accepted so far)

- Because of your dedicated teaching and mentoring, more than 600 students were honored March 27th during the 55th Annual Honors Convocation. Thank you also for participating in Open Campus Day. More than 600 students attended the March 29th event.
- The Faculty Mini-Grant Program has funded 40 faculty projects in the amount of \$66,000 this semester. That is a record number of grants for this administration.
- Interdisciplinary Bachelors has been submitted to University System of Georgia
- Working to establish the Honors College to respond to our talented students
- Housing has received almost 1,300 application via our new online housing application program. We will start assigning housing in the near future based upon Satisfactory Academic Progress and other eligibility requirements. Many of you may have notice the enhanced security equipment that has been placed at the entrance to the Commons. A security arm and card reader is currently being installed to control the access of vehicles into the Commons. Only authorized vehicles will be provided access into the Commons. Guests visiting the Commons and driving vehicles will be required to park their vehicles in the parking lot of the Student Union. The Commons will be closed this summer for the opportunity to complete much needed maintenance to many of buildings within the complex.

Student Affairs

- As you know, Student Government Association elections are underway. Election results are expected later this month.
- Housing update:

Technology

- As you have already received SSU has implemented Safe Connect a new Network Access Control security system to secure the campus wired and wireless networks. Dr. Mabel Moore has handouts today and is here to answer any questions.

Events

- SSU will host a Secondary Schools Honors Convocation on Wednesday, April 2nd at 10 a.m. The 232 students receiving recognition represent 12 high schools from the Chatham, Bryan, Effingham and Liberty county school systems. The event is being organized by the School of Teacher Education.
- The Presidential Scholarship Gala will be held Saturday, April 26th in the SSU Student Union Ballroom. The gala is our largest scholarship fundraiser.
- The 4th Annual Research Conference and RIMI Symposium will be held April 7th and 8th in Tiger Arena.
- The annual Urban Planning Conference will be held Wednesday, April 16th in the new Student Union. The theme of the conference is “Resilience Planning for Historic and Vulnerable Communities.”

As we wrap up this academic year, we must remain focused on helping our students reach their full potential. If they face challenges, encourage them. If they need a helping hand, extend it. Let’s finish the year strong. I look forward to celebrating their accomplishments and yours in May 2014!