

Savannah State University Faculty Senate
Minutes for Tuesday, September 3, 2013 4:00 PM Whiting Hall Chan Auditorium

Senators of 2013-2014 Present: Ouandlous, Bell, Silberg, Jordan, Franklin, Lewis, Kawasha, Metts, O'Brien, Wyche, Brown, Warren, Walker, Harris-Murphy, Andreou, Park, Atena, Maynor, DeLoach, Curran, Niranjana, Gardner-Martin

Ex-officio: Verret, Jolley, Sarhan, Lambright, Yount,

Senators Absent: Adeyemo, Agegnehu, Taylor, Li, Johnson, Sujin

Excused: Rukmana, Wu, Jahmani

Visitors: Myers, Seabrooks, Mustafa, Brannen, Odom, Iancu

I- Call to order- The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Dr. Ouandlous at 4:05 p.m.

II- Approval of Agenda- The agenda was approved with changes to certain names.

III- The August 3, 2013 Minutes were approved.

IV- The Senate considered golf cart safety.

1. Dr. Metts addressed the Senate, explaining the safety concern of golf cart traffic practices.
2. Various faculty provided additional insight into the concern and suggested various approaches to resolution.
3. A motion was made, supported, and approved to contact the campus traffic and safety committee expressing the concern and requesting action.

V- The Senate considered concerns about the due date for graduation applications.

1. Dr. Myers addressed the Senate, explaining the complications and issues associated with students submitting applications for graduation during the semester when important requirements are expected to be satisfied.
2. She and other faculty provided numerous examples of difficulties, including students being allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony, not fulfilling all requirements for graduation during the semester, and not returning to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Various approaches to address the concern were offered by both faculty and administration.
4. A motion was made, supported, and passed to change the application due dates, upon study by academic affairs, to allow for adequate assessment of applications to determine eligibility for graduation prior to the commencement ceremony. In addition, that the application fee be waived for one semester in the event it is not approved for graduation for the commencement specified on the application.

VI- The Senate considered the concern of students added to closed sections of classes.

1. Dr. Myers addressed the Senate, reporting that students have been added to sections of courses without approval of faculty.
2. Faculty illustrated numerous difficulties with this practice, including excessive class size and enrollments late in the semester.

3. Various explanations were offered for the problem, including forgery of faculty signatures.
4. A motion was made, supported, and passed requesting a study by the Provost to develop a secure electronic process to replace the paper system for add/drops and courses requiring prior approval for enrollment.

VII- The Senate considered a concern with the payment of compensation for overload service.

1. Dr. Iancu expressed concern with the timing of payment relevant to when services are provided. A description of the problem and proposed resolutions was projected for Senate consideration.
2. Faculty and administrative staff agreed that the timing of payment should be more aligned with when services were provided and various administrative approaches were discussed.
3. A motion was made, supported, and passed to request 50% of the compensation be paid at the mid-term point of the semester service is provided and the balance paid by the end of the month regular classes are completed.

VIII- The Senate considered eligibility requirements rules with respect to the election of Dr. Bell to the Senate and the Executive Committee.

1. Dr. Ouandlous explained that Faculty Handbook rules specify that faculty must have served two years to be eligible to serve as a Senator. A similar rule applies for election to serve as an Officer. Dr. Bell does not satisfy these requirements, though elected to serve by the Department of Political Science and Public Affairs and the Senate.
2. Faculty discussed various aspects of the rules at issue.
3. A motion was made and supported to suspend the rules and allow Dr. Bell to serve. A discussion ensued regarding various aspects of such an action, including the intent for it not to be a precedent.
4. The question was called, voted taken, and the motion was passed.

IX- The Senate entertained the President's Report and announcements.

1. Dr. Verret offered the President's Report in the absence of President Dozier, which is incorporated into these minutes by reference.
2. Mr. Jolley reported that a budgeting meeting will be convened at 2:00 p.m. on September 23 and that two Senators have attended in the past.

X- Adjournment- the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
David A. Bell- Recording Secretary



President's Report

Faculty Senate – September 3, 2013

Good Afternoon and Welcome again to a new and exciting year!!! In keeping with our 2013-2014 theme of Responsibility + Results = Rewards, Let's focus this year to getting it Right!!! Getting it right in academic advisement and helping our students get it right so that they can graduate on time. We also will work on some institutional initiatives of getting it right in housing, financial aid, and other student support services.

Currently we have 4764 students registered for Fall 2013 and 1282 new freshman- the largest freshman class in the history of SSU. As you probably heard, we had record numbers of students who requested housing this fall semester and a number of alternative housing arrangements were made to accommodate more students.

Our May commencement included more than 288 graduates. Thank you for working with our students to increase the number of students graduating each semester.

Next week, the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) will visit SSU and the School of Teacher Education. We are very excited and fully anticipate approval. With State approval from the GaPSC, we will offer the Bachelor of Science in Biology or Mathematics with a Concentration in Secondary Education and a Bachelor of Science in Civil or Electronic Engineering Technology Program with a Technology Education Track. These programs prepare our teacher candidates to teach grades 6-12.

We thank the SSUNAA & SSUF for their stellar efforts in raising funds for student scholarships to include the Tom Joyner Campaign which assisted in helping some students who were in danger of not being able to attend classes this semester.

SSU's Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree is our first to be offered online beginning this fall. The University System of Georgia Board of Regents approved the action today at its August meeting. The online degree in management targets military personnel and other non-traditional students who have some college credit or an associate's degree and want to earn a four-year business degree. SSU's online BBA degree will offer the upper level 60 credit hours required for the management major.

Open enrollment for benefits will be in November. At the October meeting, VP Jolley will provide a summary of benefit changes.

We are in the second year of our Complete College Plan and our goal is on retention and timely completion. These goals require attention to the quality of advising, not only in the early years, but throughout the program of study. It requires that students not change major without a thoughtful discussion with the advisor. It requires that we utilize the early alert effectively.

Let us work to move our students from matriculation to graduation.

Thank you!