



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
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MINUTES
SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
February 1, 2011

Members present: Yarbrough, Wyatt, Gardner-Martin, Schroeder, S. Johnson, Alemayehu, Andreou, Berry, Brown, Curran, Dowling, Hardy, Ide, Maynor, Metts, Murphy, O'Brien, Ouandlous, Oh, Pride, Reddick, Silberg, Singh, Stewart, Taylor, Warren, Yount, Zeng

Visitors: Stokes, Gates, Myers, Delaney, McCoy

I. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 with a quorum present. Dr. Yarbrough presided.

II. The agenda was approved.

III. The minutes from the January 18, 2011 meeting were approved.

IV. Revised Withdrawal Policy: Dr. Wyatt brought a policy approved by the NPCC that would set guidelines with different types of withdrawal—hardship withdrawals (WH), military withdrawals (WM), and non-academic withdrawal for administrative cause (AW)—and that would limit to six the number of withdrawals to be allowed without counting as a WF. The policy does provide a mechanism for shifting the W from one class to another after the maximum has been reached. Dr. Wyatt said the new policy is consistent with that of other institutions. Dr. Dowling said that the new policy would restrict an instructor's right to give grades and that if a student has a passing average at the time of the withdrawal, the withdrawal should not count as an F. Dr. Stokes said that a correlation exists between the number of withdrawals and graduation rates and that the new policy should alleviate some problems with financial aid. Dr. Metts suggested that limiting the number might discourage students from making frivolous withdrawals. Dr. Stokes pointed out that this is the first time for a policy on military and hardship withdrawals, that Academic Affairs makes the determination on hardship withdrawals based on documentation from disability services, psychologists, or other sources, and that the withdrawal for administrative cause results from a disciplinary hearing. The proposal was approved with one no vote.

V. IT Issues: In response to concerns from Dr. Alemayehu about the new e-mail system being housed off campus, Mr. Delaney explained that SSU is migrating the system and that it will be cloud-based. Student e-mail migrated about two years ago, but other campus services were delayed due to concerns about security and legal discovery issues. The Board of Regents studied the issue and UGA negotiated conditions with Microsoft to satisfy concerns. Among the advantages are that Microsoft provides virtually unlimited mailbox space, three servers on campus are freed up for other uses, we do not have to fix problems that arise, e-mail service is still available if the local system goes down, and the service is free. In response to questions about security with confidential information sent through messages and Google's ability to target ads based on e-mail content, Mr. Delaney said that no one should send credit card numbers or other confidential information through e-mail anyway and that Google was not approved for the service but Microsoft was because it will adequately protect information. In addition, while the system is cloud-based, it will not go international. He also explained that the system works fine with Macs and that the decision was not mandated, but made locally.

VI. Meetings schedule: Dr. Wyatt distributed a proposed monthly schedule for meetings of departments, colleges, and committees that meet regularly 4:00 on Tuesday or Thursday. More people should be able to attend meetings if there are fewer conflicts. The proposed schedule leaves Fridays open for faculty development activities. After adjustments, the schedule would be in place for the fall.

Dr. Wyatt also expressed appreciation for all the things that faculty members do to help students and for participating in workshops at the Spring Faculty Institute.

VII. Committee Reports: Dr. Dowling presented recommendations from the Faculty Affairs Committee. (1) The Senate should post its actions and recommendations on the web site along with administrative responses to allow people to more easily see what had been done. Dr. Yarbrough expressed his willingness to post responses. (2) The Executive Committee should appoint the Committee on Committees earlier in the spring so committees could be established to begin work earlier. (3) The Senate should adhere to its regular schedule to reduce confusion over meeting times. Dr. Ide pointed out that changing the time for establishing the Committee on Committees would require a change in the Handbook. Dr. Reddick added that the Committee on Committees is currently reviewing committee structures at other institutions for ideas on how to streamline ours. Dr. Gardner-Martin said that selecting membership for committees takes weeks. It was also pointed out that the Committee on Committees should have the list of the next year's Senators to work with. The proposals to post Senate actions and to meet at scheduled times were approved. The proposal about the Committee on Committees was postponed. (4) Supplemental retirement contributions for some faculty members had not been received or reported by the retirement funds. Dr. Yarbrough said the problem was being handled, that Dr. Best is working with the companies to guarantee that no money is lost, and that the glitches with ADP that caused the problem have been corrected.

Dr. Ide presented a report from the Budget and Planning Committee. He said that the budget is an ongoing process, but that at this point the committee was considering an

increase in parking fees and a doubling of fines, along with increases in various fees for students. Furloughs are a possibility. Dr. Myers stated that the Senate should give Dr. Ide a charge to express faculty displeasure with any attempt to raise fees when faculty have received no raises for years. Dr. Dowling questioned the point of having guards at the gate at one end of campus when the other end is left open. Dr. Yarbrough explained that the goal was to have a more open campus. Dr. Alemayehu moved to send a resolution to the budget committee opposing any increase in parking fees. The proposal was approved.

Dr. Myers reported for the Handbook Committee, saying that the committee will attempt to distribute electronically the revised Handbook by February 15, with changes marked, to be considered as the first read.

VIII. Dr. Wyatt encouraged faculty to read the SACS and QEP documents on the IRPA page. Dr. Gates asked faculty to encourage students to respond to a survey for IRPA. Dr. Dowling questioned whether the survey had been approved by the IRB Committee, but Dr. Marriott responded that the IRB Committee had determined that Institutional Research surveys do not require IRB approval.

X. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Dr. Michael Schroeder, Recording Secretary