



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
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MINUTES
SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
October 5, 2010

Members present: Yarbrough, Wyatt, Jordan, Gardner-Martin, Schroeder, S. Johnson, Alemayehu, Oundlous, Stewart, Ide, Park, Curran, Marriott, O'Brien, Taylor, Andreou, Metts, Dowling, Silberg, Jamison, Warren, Berry, Maynor, St. Mark, Singh, Yount, Hardy, Oh

Visitors: Stokes, Dunn, Gates, Barnette, Crawford, Myers, Bailey, Harris-Murphy

I. The meeting was called to order at 4:08 with a quorum present.

II. Agenda: It was requested that two issues be added to the agenda: concerns about the state law allowing guns on campus and a question about whether SSU has a range of designated salaries for positions. Dr. Jordan said he would ask Dr. Yarbrough to address those issues in his report. Dr. Alemayehu pointed out that the Senate had previously decided that committee reports should precede new business on the agenda. Dr. Silberg asked that the suspension of the Urban Studies and Planning program be added to the agenda, but withdrew his request when it was pointed out that graduate program concerns are not within the purview of the Senate. The agenda was approved with committee reports immediately following old business.

III. Minutes: Dr. Alemayehu noted an omission from the minutes. He would like to add a statement about comments made at the September 7 meeting referencing his racial identity. Dr. Schroeder, corresponding secretary, explained that the statements were omitted because they were not directly relevant to the issue under discussion. It was agreed that the following statement would be added to the September minutes: "While Dr. Alemayehu was referencing the Civil Rights Act, which afforded the minority African American population the right to vote, Drs. Dorothy Gardner-Martin and Lillian Reddick interrupted his comments to ask whether he was an African American." The minutes were approved with the addition.

IV. General Faculty Meetings: Dr. Wyatt asked for results to her request at the September meeting that Senators solicit opinions from faculty in their areas concerning the continuance of general faculty meetings. Dr. Gates reported that online responses to the question showed that CLASS faculty overwhelmingly want to continue with the meetings. Dr. Singh reported that COST faculty generally favor meeting at least at Fall

Faculty Institute and at the beginning of spring semester. Dr. Alemayehu reported his unofficial impression that most COBA faculty want to retain the meetings, and he added, as Parliamentarian, that the Bylaws require at least two meetings a year, and that FFI does not count as a faculty meeting. Changing the Bylaws requires a two-thirds vote of the faculty. Dr. Wyatt announced that she would not make a motion to change the policy because it appears not to be favored. After she announced a time for the fall meeting, Dr. Myers pointed out that the university calendar already has a time set for 4:00 on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

V. Core Curriculum Learning Outcomes: Dr. Schroeder presented the learning outcomes for the new core curriculum to be submitted to the USG General Education Council. The outcomes were approved.

Dr. Gardner-Martin said that while the Senate was on old business, she wanted to return to an issue. She offered her apology to Dr. Alemayehu for comments she made in the excitement of the discussion at the previous meeting. Dr. Alemayehu accepted, adding that he hopes to also receive an apology from Dr. Reddick and from the Chair and the Senate as a whole for permitting such comments. Dr. Yarbrough then apologized in his role as Chair and for the Senate.

VI. NPCC Report:

A. Dr. Wyatt announced several courses that had been previously approved in Business Administration (BUSA 410: Leadership and Professional Development III); Political Science (POLS 381: Urban Politics and Contemporary Cities and POLS 381: Introduction to Urban Planning); and Forensic Science (FSCI 3001: Computer Forensics, FSCI 3401: Forensic Science Research/ Internship, FSCI 4401: Crime Scene I, FSCI 4402: Crime Scene II, FSCI 4501: Forensic Science—Case Studies, and FSCI 4901: Forensic Science Seminar).

B. She announced NPCC approval of Bachelor of Applied Science degrees with concentrations in Facilities and Construction Management, Electrical Power Technology Management, and Renewable Energy and Environmental Management.

C. She presented a proposal to bring requirements for graduation with honors into line with the requirements at most institutions. Under the new plan, Cum Laude would require a gpa of 3.40-3.59, Magna Cum Laude would require 3.60-3.79, and Summa Cum Laude would require 3.80-4.00. The adjusted gpa would be used for students who had repeated courses.

The question was raised about what action to take on the items. Dr. Alemayehu asserted that it is difficult to vote without copies of the proposals. Dr. Dowling pointed out that some of these items are carried over from last year, that they have been approved at many stages, and that we should approve them so they can progress. The items were approved.

D. Dr. Wyatt introduced the proposal to establish a School of Education. She then introduced Dr. Elazar Barnette, the interim director of the Education program, who explained the importance of having a structure in place before pursuing accreditation. A consultant recommended establishing the program as a School rather than a separate

college or a unit within an existing college. The School would be structured with a director, an assistant director, and coordinators. The proposals are available on the USG website, as are all proposals sent to the Board of Regents. Dr. Alemayehu raised a question about the cost of the startup and wanted assurance that the program would not exacerbate the problem of administrative costs being disproportionate to instructional expenses. Dr. Wyatt said funds would be allocated internally. The proposal to establish a School of Education was approved.

E. Dr. Wyatt announced NPCC approval for associate of science degrees with options for engineering studies, health science, aquarium science, general technology, and pre-physics. The new degrees should allow SSU to count students as graduates who transfer after completing two years, and it would help prepare students who do want to transfer into programs not offered at SSU. The proposal was approved.

F. Dr. Gates explained a proposal to streamline the process for approving curriculum changes by revising section 1.9.3.3 in the Handbook. The revision would correct the name to New Programs and Curriculum Committee, reduce four items to two, and remove the requirement that the NPCC actions be “acted upon by the university Faculty Senate.” Instead, the NPCC would report actions to the Senate. Proposals already move through many stages, starting on the department committee level, and are subject to faculty review at all stages. Dr. Gardner-Martin asked to see the specific wording. It was suggested that the proposal be posted on the Senate website. Dr. Dowling moved to defer the matter to the Faculty Affairs Committee, under its role to make suggestions to facilitate the business of the Senate. The motion died for lack of a second. Dr. Alemayehu argued that because it is a proposal that would reduce the role of the Senate, the matter requires proper debate. He requested that the proposal be considered a first read and taken up again at the next meeting. After Dr. Metts noted that the Handbook has nothing about first or second reads and Dr. Myers noted that changes in the Handbook should go through the Handbook committee, the motion to take up the issue at the next meeting was approved.

VII. Faculty Affairs Committee Report:

A. Dr. Dowling was elected as chair for this year. The Program Review Committee has been established and will proceed with its duties.

B. The FAC will make suggestions to clarify the Senate election procedures.

C. The FAC questioned the institution of an ethics policy without faculty input. Dr. Dowling moved that the President suspend the policy until it has been reviewed and approved. He withdrew the motion after being informed that the policy was established and mandated by the USG.

D. Parking: The FAC asked for a review of parking policies, including fees that are high compared with other universities, the rationale for the new traffic pattern, and the use of only one gate after 6 p.m. It asks for a report from the Parking Committee. Dr. Yarbrough pointed out that the gates are for safety and to keep a second gate open would add costs. Dr. Dowling replied that the current situation creates potential safety issues as well as inconvenience because traffic is so backed up.

E. The FAC continues to have questions about the allocation of funds, particularly in light of salary increases for administrators. Dr. Yarbrough replied that no administrators

have been added, and that small increases were provided to administrators who took on additional responsibilities after the position of VP for Administration was ended. The rest of the funds went to Academic Affairs.

F. Credit was given to Dr. Gardner-Martin for her previous apology, but the FAC proposes to have the Senate censure Dr. Reddick for her comments at the previous meeting. Dr. Jordan asked if a public apology would suffice. Action on the matter was tabled until the next meeting.

G. During this year the FAC plans to review and clarify the processes for electing Senate officers and establishing committees, to revisit the budget study, to review the post-tenure review process and the role of faculty members who have not passed the review, to consider the issue of hiring individuals with advanced degrees from questionable programs, and to seek consistency in the restrictions on faculty to participate in outside activities.

The report was accepted by the Senate, and Dr. Yarbrough said he would provide a written report on the parking and traffic issues.

VIII. New Business: Digital Measures: Dr. Wyatt explained that the use of Digital Measures was approved by the Dean's Council. It will facilitate the SACS review process.

IX. Overload pay for full-time temporary faculty: Dr. Wyatt explained that faculty hired into full-time temporary positions are required by their contracts to teach 15-hour loads.

X. Dr. Jordan pointed out that the committee list has been distributed, but that there are openings for volunteers for some committees, and some faculty members are still on more than two committees.

XI. Task Force for redistributing Senate representation: Dr. Jordan suggested that a task force be established to ensure that all units are proportionally represented on the Senate. Dr. Alemayehu said that the FAC is responsible for the proper functioning of the Senate, so it should deal with the issue. Dr. Dowling said the FAC will have a response after it receives the list of full-time, tenure-track faculty.

XII. President's Report: Dr. Yarbrough started by addressing issues raised earlier: SSU does not have a set pay scale for faculty salaries; market value for different fields is considered. The state law allowing guns on campus must be followed, but reasonable restrictions are established, so one needs a permit to have a gun on campus and it must remain locked in the vehicle. He also responded to questions and comments about parking, traffic flow, and speed breakers.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55.

Submitted by Michael Schroeder, Recording Secretary