



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
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MINUTES SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE January 18, 2011

Members present: Wyatt, Jordan, Gardner-Martin, Schroeder, S. Johnson, Alemayehu, Ouandlous, Stewart, O'Brien, Andreou, Metts, Dowling, Silberg, Jamison, Warren, Berry, Maynor, Yount, Hardy, Oh, Pride, Murphy, Franklin, Reddick, Ide; Excused: Singh
Visitors: Stokes, Steffen, Crawford, McClain

I. The meeting was called to order at 4:07 with a quorum present. Dr. Jordan presided.

II. The agenda was approved after the item for the report from the Evaluation Committee was moved to Old Business.

III. The minutes from the November 16, 2010 meeting were approved.

IV. Call for Commitment: Dr. Jordan reminded the Senate of its functions as the representative body for the faculty and its legislative responsibilities to the university. He emphasized that much of the functioning of the Senate is dependent upon the effective functioning of the committee system. Currently, the body as a whole spends time debating issues such as parking, which should be resolved in the Parking and Traffic Committee, with recommendations brought to the Senate for approval. Committees should meet and report back to the Senate as scheduled. Dr. Reddick said that many of the functions of standing committees have been usurped by administrative offices. For example, the current calendar was changed without input from the committee. Others in the university should recognize the role of faculty committees. Dr. Jordan added that an effective committee system is important for SACS accreditation. Dr. McClain said that sometimes issues submitted for Senate consideration are not placed on the agenda, to which Dr. Dowling responded that sometimes the Executive Committee sends issues to the appropriate committees for consideration. Last year fewer than six committees made reports.

V. Dr. Dowling continued with the report of the Faculty Affairs Committee, which had been suspended at the previous meeting for lack of time. The FAC made the motion that the VPAA immediately rescind all appointments to leadership positions involving supervision of faculty or curriculum for individuals without regular faculty status. Further, all such appointments from this time forward should be made in a manner consistent with established policy. Dr. Dowling clarified that "immediately" would be relative in order to consider contractual obligations. Subsequent discussion clarified that the units under question are the Center for Academic Success, in which a staff member oversees some tenured faculty, and a department in which a Visiting Professor was appointed as interim department chair. Dr. Wyatt explained that the situation in CAS came about after faculty members who had been shifted to Liberal Arts were

transferred back to CAS. Additional discussion raised questions about the difference between “regular faculty” and “non-tenure-track faculty.” The motion passed with one no vote.

The second item carried over from the FAC report was a request for an apology from Dr. Reddick to Dr. Alemayehu for comments alluding to race that were made at the October 5, 2010 meeting. Previously, Dr. Gardner-Martin had apologized for her comments, and Dr. Yarbrough had apologized as the Chair of the Senate for allowing such comments to go unchallenged. Dr. Reddick objected that the matter should be handled between individuals and that her comments should not have been seen as offensive. She added that due process has not been followed. Dr. Dowling presented the motion from FAC: That the Senate request that Dr. Reddick apologize to Dr. Alemayehu for her comments, and that if she does not that the Senate censure her for conduct which was not only a violation of his rights but also of the university’s history of racial and ethnic diversity. Dr. Dowling added that as part of a committee report, the motion needed no second. On a voice vote, the motion was defeated, receiving two yes votes.

VI. Dr. Wyatt presented business from NPCC. One item was a document involving copyright laws that will be considered at the next meeting.

The second item was a motion to rescind a policy that allows students to participate in the commencement ceremony when they are three or four hours short of meeting all requirements. After trying to follow the policy for two graduations, the result is that students are taking advantage of the situation. The motion would restore integrity to our degrees by requiring that all degree requirements be met before the student is allowed to participate in the commencement ceremony. The motion was seconded and approved.

The third item was a motion to change the residency policy for transfer students to require that 25% of the total hours and 50-60% of hours in the major be completed at SSU. The policy was approved.

VII. Dr. Reddick reported on the Committee on Committees. She said the committee has identified similar institutions for comparison of our committee structure with theirs. The goal is to make our structure more efficient. Dr. Jordan asked her to contact committees to request that they submit reports to the Senate.

VIII. Dr. Gardner-Martin reported from the Evaluation Committee, saying the committee has been working on the proposed evaluation forms for a year. They have been field tested and checked for adherence to SACS requirements. Each department would be allowed to adjust the items in the assessment of faculty evaluation. Adjustments could continue to be made in subsequent years. Dr. Metts requested that electronic copies be posted so faculty could examine the forms. Dr. Yount pointed out that one of the items on the student evaluation is reversed, punishing the instructor if the student finds the course to be challenging. She also asked if the student evaluation could be done online. Dr. Gardner-Martin said she wanted to find outside sources to evaluate the results of the evaluations. It was suggested that such evaluation should be part of the duties of IRPA.

IX. Budget Report: The budget is very tight, and future furloughs are a possibility.

X. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Dr. Michael Schroeder, Recording Secretary