



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA  
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**MINUTES**  
**SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE**  
**November 16, 2010**

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

Visitors: Stokes, Dunn, Gates, Crawford, Myers, Roberts, Caywood, Brown, McClain

I. The meeting was called to order at 4:06 with a quorum present.

II. Agenda: It was requested that issues with parking, security, and computer concerns be added as item IV on the agenda. The agenda was approved with the addition.

III. Minutes: Approved.

IV. Ms. Caywood, Mr. Brown, and Chief Roberts were present to describe developments and take questions concerning parking and security. Mr. Brown pointed out that a Parking Review Board, chaired by Dr. Yount, exists for handling disputed tickets, and that suggestions for parking and traffic should be presented to the Parking and Traffic Advisory Committee through faculty representatives Dr. Ide and Dr. Reddick. The faculty representatives should also bring concerns from the Senate to the committee.

The Parking and Traffic Committee has made several changes in policy: (1) Parking decals will be full price until December 31, and then half price after that. (2) Vehicles that are kept on campus but not registered, mostly in residential student lots, must be registered for spring or face booting.

Dr. Dowling raised the question of why a hang tag is no longer used, making it easier for faculty or staff who drive different automobiles to campus. Mr. Brown and Ms. Caywood replied that the decals should match the registration so vehicles can be identified if necessary. In response to other questions, they said that the cost for parking has risen because parking and traffic, as an auxiliary service, needs to be self-supporting, but is currently \$500,000 behind budget; that decals will cost \$10 more next year to pay for a new lot for the student center; and that the committee might consider making

allowances for faculty who have had to miss extended periods of time, but that there is a danger in setting precedents.

Dr. Dowling pointed out that the Senate had requested a financial report for parking and traffic. Dr. Yarbrough pointed out that financial reports should come from Mr. Jolley.

Chief Roberts explained that Georgia laws states that one's car is an extension of one's home, so legally owned guns are allowed on campus, but must be kept in the car. Police officers taking courses can legally bring guns into class, but he would like to discourage the practice. In response to concerns about campus police entering a classroom to make an arrest, he said that arrest policy depends on the nature of the offense, and that this case involved a felony warrant, so officers came in force. Individual officers can decide how to handle the arrest, and in this case he considered the actions of the officers to be a little excessive, but acceptable. However, the dog would have been ineffective in arresting a suspect, so it should not have been brought into the classroom.

In response to questions about road blocks, Chief Roberts said that they are to check for seat belt use, licenses, and possible dui's, that no one should be delayed more than a few minutes, and that officers would not make people park at the entrance to campus because there is no room there.

V. Dr. Reddick presented the report of the Committee on Committees. She said that committee membership was based largely on requests from faculty by e-mail or on lists compiled at previous meetings. All committees should be meeting by now. The committee also made recommendations: (1) the Senate should review committees and recommend changes; (2) if a committee needs members, the request should come through the Committee on Committees; (3) it appears that we have some duplication in committees; (4) we should look at comparable institutions to see if our committee structure is comparable to theirs.

Dr. Ide asked why the chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee regularly attends meetings of the Executive Committee. The answer was that the Senate voted years ago to make the chair of the FAC a non-voting member of the Executive Committee because the FAC plays a large role in the business of the Senate. The report of the Committee on Committees was accepted.

VI. Dr. Wyatt presented the report of the New Programs and Curriculum Committee.

1. The first item was to revisit a proposal presented at the previous meeting to correct the name of the committee in the Handbook and to replace the provision that the NPCC actions will be "acted on by the university Faculty Senate" with one stating that the NPCC will report actions to the Senate. The purpose is to streamline the process for curriculum approval. Dr. Dowling pointed out that the Bylaws would have to be changed as well as the Handbook and Dr. Alemayehu added that oversight of the curriculum is one of the main functions of the Senate. Dr. Wyatt suggested voting on the proposal in two parts. The name correction was approved. The proposal to change the requirement for Senate approval was removed from consideration.

2. Dr. Wyatt presented a proposal to require department chairs to enforce the policy that all multi-section lower-level courses use a common textbook. The purpose is to lower costs for students. Dr. Ide said that the policy involves forcing textbooks onto faculty, that other institutions do not have such a requirement, and that most textbooks contain the same material. Dr. Wyatt pointed out that textbook decisions would be made by the department, so they would not be forced on faculty. The proposal passed with two nays.

3. Dr. Wyatt presented the proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree. Dr. Yarbrough said that there appears to be resistance from the Board of Regents to new engineering programs after the recent dispute between Georgia Tech and University of Georgia over starting new programs. Dr. Gardner-Martin pointed out that having a program at an HBCU would be unique, and she moved for approval of the proposal. In response to a question about resources, Dr. Dunn said that money has already been slated for a new building to begin in 2014, that current faculty are credentialed to teach the courses, and that an engineering program is not lab-driven, so new costs would not be high. Dr. Alemayehu added that an engineering program would favorably change the profile of SSU, so it would be a better use of resources than some others. The proposal was approved.

4. The proposal to increase hours for BIOL 3701—Bioethics from one to three was tabled after Dr. Yount raised concerns about the title because the description is not consistent with the field of bioethics within the discipline. Dr. Dunn suggested tabling the proposal until Dr. Yount and others could share ideas on how to revise the name.

5. The proposal to establish ENGT 2803—Introduction to Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship was approved. A grant would allow for faculty from the COBA and from other institutions to be invited to help instruct the course. The course was approved.

6. Dr. Wyatt introduced a research protocol document. It will be sent to the Faculty Affairs Committee for recommendations.

7. Dr. Wyatt announced that the new Core Curriculum Outcomes had been approved by the USG General Education Council.

VII. Dr. Dowling presented the report of the Faculty Affairs Committee:

1. Issues that had been raised concerning the membership of the Committee on Committees and the lateness in appointing committees appear to have been resolved.

2. The FAC asks that the Senate recommend to the President that armed police not enter classrooms in order to arrest students except in circumstances in which the suspect poses a risk of harm to others. The recent case involved a property crime. Dr. Yarbrough replied that his main concern is for safety, but that he will ask the police to exercise due diligence. Some speakers said that we should trust campus police to act appropriately. Dr. Dowling argued that such actions are inconsistent with the atmosphere necessary for learning and that the police actions placed students and faculty at risk. Dr. Myers and Dr. Metts cited earlier instances in which police came to the door and asked the instructor

to ask the student to come out of the classroom to see them. Dr. Yarbrough agreed to take the concerns of the faculty to Chief Roberts.

3. The FAC expressed concern that a non-faculty staff member is supervising faculty and that in one department a Visiting Professor is serving as interim chair after being having his title changed to Instructor. Dr. Gates replied that the Handbook designates all teaching personnel with full-time responsibilities as faculty, and that it is an interim position while a search for a chair is conducted. Dr. Alemayehu pointed out that the interim chair would still be involved in evaluating faculty with permanent status and more seniority, and Dr. Dowling added that faculty on promotion and tenure committees are considered qualified to vote only for those of the same rank or below, so a lower-ranked interim chair should not be involved in the tenure and promotion process of faculty with higher rank. When it appeared that discussion would be protracted, it was agreed that the issue be tabled in order to proceed with the agenda.

VIII. Dr. Myers reported that the Handbook Committee is progressing with the Handbook revision, and that is currently reconciling the Handbook with Board of Regents policy. She invited faculty members to attend the committee meetings on Wednesdays at 4:00.

IX. Dr. Myers also expressed concerns because the search committee for the new Chancellor does not have representation from an HBCU, and asked that the Senate write a letter to the chair of the BOR asking that HBCUs should be represented. The motion was approved.

X. Announcements: Dr. Myers reminded Senators that World AIDS Day is December 2, and several activities are planned.

XI. Dr. Gardner-Martin asked for Senators to take copies of the proposed evaluation forms to share with their departments and solicit feedback.

XII. The meeting adjourned shortly before 6:00.

Submitted by Dr. Michael Schroeder, Recording Secretary