**Savannah State University Faculty Senate**

**Minutes for Tuesday, January 14, 2014 4:00 PM Whiting Hall Chan Auditorium**

Senators of 2013-2014 Present: Ouandlous, Bell, Silberg, Jordan, Warren, Harris-Murphy, Niranjan, Park, Wu, Brooks, Kawasha, Lewis, Maynor, O’Brien, St. Mark, Adeyemo, Andreou, Atena, Curran, Kim, Wyche, Mosley, Jahmani

Ex-officio: Dozier, Jolley, Sarhan, R. Smith, Lambright, D. Smith, Holmes, Fayoyin

Senators Absent: Franklin, Johnson, Li, Taylor, Walker

Excused: Gardner-Martin, DeLoach, Brown, Rukmana,

Visitors: Bentley, Chandler, Richardson, Rech, Cottle, Brannen

I- Call to order- The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Dr. Ouandlous at 4:10 p.m.

II- Approval of Agenda- The agenda was approved.

III- The November 19, 2013 Minutes were approved.

IV- The Senate entertained the President’s Report, which is incorporated to these minutes by reference. In addition, the President distributed the 2014 Call for Proposals of the President’s faculty mini-grant initiative.

V- The Senate entertained an Academic Affairs Report presented by Dr. Kimberly Holmes

1. Faculty representation on the Academic Suspensions Appeals Committee was requested. She explained the function of the committee. Faculty members St. Mark and Warren volunteered and their service was approved by the Senate.
2. Mr. Jolley provided an update on the payment change to overload compensation. Administration officials concluded that communication had not dispersed broadly enough in time to implement payment processing. It was reported Dr. Verret plans to communicate the change to faculty, including the ramifications of course load deficiencies that result in repaying of overload compensation. The administration is interested in providing alternatives to repayment, such as taking on additional assignments.
3. Academic Calendar—Dr. Holmes reported work is in process and will be presented to Faculty Senate when complete. Consideration is being given to offering courses during winter break, which involves exploring various scenarios. Scenarios include targeting well-achieving students or those receiving academic support and study abroad options.
4. Assessment Committee Report— The Institutional Assessment Committee is a campus wide committee formed to address all assessment on campus both academic and non- academic. We are currently working on a set of SLO that the committee will bring before the faculty for consideration.

VI-Committee Reports- Dr. Ouandlous reported that the Chair of Committee and Committees, Dr. Gardner, was unable to attend today due to a personal emergency. Dr. Andreou reported that at the last meeting members of the Committee on Committees were directed to recruit members from their schools/departments to serve on the various committees. The Chair of the Faculty Development Committee, Dr. Brown, was unable to attend due to personal issues.

VII- Announcements—Dr. Juan Paz is the new permanent chair of social work. Also, Dr. Ricky Wallace is a new social work faculty member, effective August 2014.

IX-Adjournment- the meeting was adjourned at 4:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Bell- Recording Secretary

Faculty Senate – January 14th, 2014

President’s Report

Good afternoon, Faculty

This week we are welcoming back 4,289 registered undergrads and 155 registered graduate students. The undergraduate total includes 155 re-admits. Of the new students to SSU, 253 are first-time freshmen and 109 are transfer students. Housing is at capacity. As you know we have had to tighten our policies around warnings, probation and suspensions and 234 students have been suspended, including 112 students who received all F’s. I hope that we are implementing the early alert system in all of our classes. Students should be reminded that the minimum GPA for good standing changed to 2.0 for the 2013-2014 academic year. Notifications will continue to be released from the Office of the Provost regarding this and other policy changes that become effective this year.

State of Georgia highlights:

* The Georgia General Assembly opened on Monday. It will be a short session and some of the issues that will be discussed include:
  + HB516 - The one time opt in/opt out provision for members of the ORP.
  + The governor’s budget will be announced on Wednesday in his State of the State message. It is anticipated that it will have modest increases in expenditures. There may be small state workers and /teacher increases in pay (possibly for university level). It also includes funding for 525 new child protection social workers.
  + Georgia lawmakers will be reviving an effort to expand gun rights, but will be starting over with new legislation and weighing the possibility of giving college presidents and religious leaders the option of whether to allow guns on public campuses and in places of worship, according to interviews with key lawmakers.

**Board of Regents**

* The University System of Georgia has proposed a “Tobacco and Smoke-Free Campus Policy” banning all tobacco use on all of its campuses. The policy already has taken root at some colleges and universities. Twenty state colleges and universities have a 100% tobacco-free policy.
* State regents say they plan policy changes next month that would allow the board -- rather than state lawmakers -- to make decisions on tuition waivers for out-of-state students at Georgia colleges and universities.

Academic Affairs:

* Dean Smith will introduce the new Chair of Department of Social Work.

Global initiatives

* Professor Naniuzeyi and the Provost were in Beijing recently to formalize with partners at Jiujang University the agreement that establishes Confucius Institute at SSU. The Institute will bring opportunities for study and engagement with Chinese language, culture and ethics. It will facilitate student exchanges and collaborations of faculty and students. In addition Dr. Deloach from social work departed this week with seven students to Ghana to study at KNUST in Kumasi , Ghana
* SSU is preparing its response to a USG query concerning low-producing programs, *i.e.* undergraduate majors with fewer than 10 graduates per year and graduate majors with than five graduates per annum.
* Kudos to all faculty for recent publications and grant awards. One example is a noteworthy grant award: Karla Sue Marriott for collaborative investigations using the International Space Station platform.

In the spirit of ONE SSU and in appreciation of faculty “going the extra mile” with limited resources, Dr. Dozier has extended the President’s faculty mini-grant initiative to assist with funding opportunities (for full-time tenured track or tenured faculty **only**) during the 2014 spring semester. Fifty thousand dollars has been set aside for mini-grants ranging from $500 to $2,000. These mini-grants are designed to support activities both within SSU and beyond our campus community with external partners and projects. Any proposal submitted will be a one-time funding request and would not typically be funded by the Office of Sponsored Research or Title III.

Student Affairs

Our residential student housing is at capacity. As you know we have had to tighten our policies around warnings, probation and suspensions and 234 students have been suspended, including 112 students who received all F’s. I hope that we are implementing the early alert system in all of our classes. Students should be reminded that the minimum GPA for good standing changed to 2.0 for the 2013-2014 academic year. Notifications will continue to be released from the Office of the Provost regarding this and other policy changes that become effective this year.

Upcoming Events:

**In observance of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday on January 20th**

* The Division of Student Affairs is hosting a MLK holiday observance program on Thursday, January 16th starting at 7:00 p.m. in the King Frazier Savannah Ballroom. SSU retired professor, Ja. A. Jahannes, Ph.D., will be the guest speaker.
* On Saturday, January 18th Division of Students Affairs will be co-hosting a Backpack the MLK 5K Run in Forsyth Park from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Students can sign up for this day of service event in the Student Life Office.
* The President; Miss SSU, Duana Revere; the SSU marching band; CLASS; ROTC; and others will participate in Savannah’s MLK parade this year.
* The Division of Student Affairs and the Division of Academic Affairs will be observing National Freedom Day on January 31, 2014.

Thank you for your continued efforts towards Excellence

as we begin the spring semester.