Savannah State University Faculty Senate

Minutes for meeting of Tuesday, March 1, 2016 4 PM Chan Auditorium Whiting Hall

Present: Dr. Dozier (Chair)

Senators present: Holmes, Locke, Warren, Choi, Toney, Wang, Wu, Faries, Gardner-Martin, Iancu, Jordan (Vice-Chair), Lewis, O’Brien, Tedrick, Yount, Hayder, Kim, Nitta, Olubajo, Sajwan, Wyche, Thompson

Senators excused: Arora, Rukmana

Ex-Officio: Scipio, Adams, Goldwire, Hardy, Jolley, Sarhan, Steffen, Walton

Visitors: Bell, Schroeder, Ogden, Merkousko, Elmore, Pinheiro, I. Walker, Brannen, Mosley, Odom

1. Call to Order- The meeting was called to order by Dr. Sajwan at 4:10 PM. with a quorum present. There was no longer a quorum at 5:20 PM but no matters were voted on after that time.
2. Approval of Agenda- The agenda was approved.
3. Approval of Minutes from Feb. 2, 2016- The minutes were approved without changes.
4. Update to the Faculty Senate Webpage (Dr. Lewis)
5. The webpage has been updated by Jason Saunders.
6. The minutes of the December and February meetings have been uploaded. We will try to put the minutes from each previous meeting on the webpage before the next meeting.
7. The Executive Committee pages are open with pictures.
8. The full Faculty Senate roster is at the bottom of the page.
9. We are working on posting committee reports and committee rosters.
10. All committees should submit written reports to Dr. Lewis so that they can be uploaded.
11. The webpage should show the term each Senator is in and what unit Senators are representing.
12. The agendas should also be uploaded.
13. Dr. Dozier asked if there could be a description of each committee on the webpage.
14. We are also working on a Faculty Senate List Serve.
15. Committee Reports and Updates
16. Calendar Committee (Dr. Yount)
17. The Committee met and reviewed a draft of the academic calendar for 2016-2017 which will be sent to Dr. Scipio.
18. The committee will meet again in April to finalize the calendar for 2017-2018 and present it to the Senate for input.
19. Student Affairs (Dr. Faries)

A. The committee consists of 4 faculty, 3 students, and the Vice President of Student Affairs.

 B. Dr. Faries has tried to convene the committee but only two faculty have responded.

1. Dr. Faries will meet with Dr. Walton to discuss this committee.
2. Mr. Jolley commented that looking at the structure of the committees to see what is doable is a good idea.
3. We have had a struggle getting committees to function. Committees need to function by October. Dr. Jordan said that the Senate cannot function if the committees do not function.
4. Faculty development (Crystal Locke)
5. The committee met on Jan. 7 and are forming the Subcommittees of Teaching & Learning, Copyright, and Distinguished Professor.
6. The committee will meet again on the last Tuesday of March.
7. International Students, Scholars, and Programs (Dr. Pinheiro)
8. The committee needs one member to replace Felicia Bell.
9. The committee will be meeting to discuss applications for Study Abroad scholarships.
10. FAR (Faculty Athletic Representative) (Dr. Schroeder)
11. Dr. Schroeder thanked faculty for submitting progress reports for athletes.
12. The MEAC basketball tournament is next week.
13. Some teams may have tournaments during final exam week.
14. President’s Report (In the interest of saving paper, the President’s Report will be posted on the Senate web site.
15. Current Gun Legislation Update (Mr. Steffen)
16. We are one of thirty institutions in the University System. We speak as one voice on these issues. As one voice, the USG supports the existing gun legislation that allows licensed guns to be brought on campus and concealed in a car.
17. To understand the position of legislators regarding the proposed gun law of allowing a concealed weapon to be carried with a permit, one must understand where the legislators are coming from. Some feel that guns are the best defense against crime. Others are afraid of being primaried by those who believe in the legislation.
18. Firearms can be purchased in Georgia without a permit even though they can only be brought on campus with a permit.
19. Can we ask students in a class to see their permit for the gun?
20. If the law passes in the Georgia Senate, students will be confused. They may think that they can bring any gun anywhere.
21. A logistical problem was brought up about where commuting students who have a licensed gun would keep their gun if they had class in Tiger Arena, which is one of the places where even a licensed gun cannot be brought
22. Some faculty suggested renting a bus and going to Atlanta to express opposition to the legislation.
23. Dr. Faries said that he hopes that we have a symposium soon to educate students, faculty, and staff about the law if it passes in the Senate.
24. Admissions and Enrollment Update (Dr. Walton & Des Potier)
25. Mr. Potier said that we have 4.944 applications for the fall with 1,600 students having been offered admissions and 800 students having accepted. Last year, we had 8,000 applications and hoe to be over that. The application deadline is July 15.
26. Open Campus Day is on March 19. We need people for the Academic Marketplace.
27. So far, 915 people have registered to attend.
28. VPAA/Provost Search Update (Dr. Walton)
29. A notice will be sent to the faculty with the advertisement and application for the position with a link to the search firm.
30. Budget, facility, and Capital Concerns (Mr. Jolley)
31. Mr. Jolley passed out a State Appropriations sheet.
32. 2. We budgeted $29 million based on our enrollment projection. We will have attained $23 million and will have a $6 million shortfall.
33. We had a rainy day fund and held some positions vacant to get us through the Fall.
34. We hope to make an additional $1 million in the summer and to gain enrollment for the second minisemester .For the summer, we intend to recruit students who live in this area but attend other schools.
35. Please identify savings that can be made so that we can avoid cuts. We are not doing a budget freeze or furlough but are looking for cost savings.
36. Kennedy Update- We have to get another contractor and hope to open up two-thirds of the building by April or May.
37. The legislature said there will be no tuition increase.
38. We may not have sufficient funds to fund the proposed 3% merit pay increase.
39. RAACA Update (Dr. Holmes)
40. The Regents’ Advisory Council on Academic Affairs met and talked about e-Core as a priority for the University System.
41. How does e-Core fit into institutional assessment?
42. How will e-Core be implemented on campuses?
43. With online students, how do they do a 1st year experience course?
44. Associates Degrees- Only Associates Degrees of Science and Arts can be done but there have been Associates degrees in majors.
45. Sector meeting- There were four issues.
46. Negotiating with book vendors to reduce costs of online textbooks.
47. Pay for overloads and independent study was discussed.
48. Calculations of the threshold for summer classes was discussed.
49. Course release would be called reassignment of duties instead of course release.
50. CCG
51. Consultants have been on campus. Faculty Engagement and Advisement are big issues.
52. Advising is a key factor in lack of retention. We need to work on the transition between CAS advisement and advisement in the Major.
53. Faculty Engagement- We must attempt to connect students to Academic Departments earlier.
54. Der. Jordan asked about what impact adding more online courses in the summer would have.
55. Dr. Gardner-Martin said we should have more cross-listing of courses.
56. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin O’Brien- Recording Secretary