Savannah State University Faculty Senate Minutes

Tuesday, April 24, 2012 4PM Jen Auditorium Whiting Hall

Senators Present: Metts, Yount, O’Brien, Kawasha, Jamison, St. Mark, Stewart, McClain, Bentley, Brooks, Arora, Dowling, Ouandlous, Andreou, Taylor, Sivapatham, Dolo, Singh, Cox, Sarhan, Wyche, Maynor, Rakmana, Jahmani

Senators Absent: Han, Silberg, Faries, Naniuzeyi, Franklin, Reddick, Johnson, Yoon, Tessema, Harris-Murphy, Warren

Senators Excused: Brown, Walker

Visitors Present: Schroeder, Gentry, Fayoyin, Dunn, McMillan, Miles-Edmonson, Stephens, Brannen, Myers, Bongang, Sajwan, Lambright, Barnette, Agata

1. Call to Order- The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Dr. Dowling at 4:09 PM with a quorum present.
2. Approval of Agenda- Add to new business the recommendation to allow students to participate in commencement exercises if they are within 6 credits of graduating.

The agenda was then approved.

1. Approval of Minutes-The minutes from April 3, 2012 were approved without changes.
2. Old Business- Student Evaluations
3. The Executive Committee made a recommendation that the Senate adopt a statement that all syllabi include a reminder to the students stressing the importance of doing evaluations for assessment of faculty.
4. Our evaluation response rate is still low.
5. We cannot hold students’ grades until evaluations are completed.
6. Dr. Sarhan said that students have the option to do or not do the evaluations.
7. Dr. Metts commented that student evaluations are part of our annual evaluations.
8. Dr. Sarhan stated that there should be alternative ways to determine faculty effectiveness and that too much weight is given to these evaluations.
9. Dr. Sarhan added that a statement on teaching effectiveness of professors should come from Department Chairs and Deans for personnel decisions.
10. The motion to approve a recommendation that a statement be included in the syllabus stating the importance of doing evaluations was passed.
11. New Business A. Students within six credits of graduation being allowed to participate in graduation exercises.
12. This policy had been passed a couple of years ago and was then cancelled.
13. The need for this policy has again arisen because some students, due to advisement errors, will not graduate.
14. Dr. Dozier said the goal is to move students in good standing towards graduation.
15. A motion was made and approved to allow students in good standing who are within 6 credits of graduation to participate in the graduation ceremony.

B. Discussion of annual evaluation of faculty

1. The Executive Committee recommends that administrators be properly trained to administer the annual evaluation.

2. One department judged faculty on all areas of the evaluation form. Professors in that department had not been informed as to what they would be evaluated upon at the beginning of the academic year.

3. The VPAA asked Dr. Dowling to provide information as to where this occurred so that corrective action can be taken.

1. Committee Reports
2. Executive
3. Publishing of grade distribution and student evaluations.

i: Dr. Stewart asked about the value of publishing student evaluations when we are not happy with evaluation participation.

ii: Dr. Dowling responded that publishing student evaluations would provide useful information.

iii: Dr. Bentley said that, if students see their evaluations published, perhaps they will be encouraged to participate more.

iv: Dr. McClain commented that professors will have incentive to improve if the evaluations are published.

v: A motion was made and approved to publish grade distribution of faculty by course.

vi: The motion to publish student assessment of faculty by course was approved.

1. Salary study

i: The Executive Committee reiterated a call for a study on the issue of faculty equity.

ii: Dr. Dozier will follow up with Dr. Crow on this matter.

1. The Executive Committee asks all committees to submit written year-end summaries.
2. Library- The Library submitted its annual report.

i: Two library faculty members, Ivy Brannen and Leatha Miles-Edmonson, and one staff person, Elizabeth Oldiges, were hired to address SACS requirements.

ii: Beginning in fall, 2001, drop-in workshops were held to assist students in their research.

iii; Summer research workshops were offered during the summer session.

iv: Library space was renovated.

v: Resources were added to the library’s collection. In addition to books and journals, our users now have access to digital archives.

vi: Alumni were targeted for outreach activities.

vii: Mary Jo Fayoyin was elected chair of the HBCU Library Alliance Board of Directors.

viii: Louise Wyche was named to Who’s Who.

ix: Ivy Brannen and Lauren McMillan were selected for the HBCU Libraries Leadership Institute funded by the Mellon Foundation.

1. Former Admissions Committee

i: Dr. Sivapatham presented a proposal to re-name and re-task the Admissions Committee. The committee will be re-named the Academic Suspension Appeals Committee.

ii: Dr. Maynor expressed the hope that students who are coming back to school after academic suspension will have had sufficient life experiences during their suspension to be better prepared for success.

iii: The proposal to re-name and re-task the Admissions Committee was approved.

1. President’s report

i: Dr. Dozier announced that Dr. Brock’s son Otis had a massive heart attack. Please keep the family in your prayers.

ii: Dr. Dozier commended the Faculty Senate and Executive Committee. We have been able to have good discussions and develop mutual respect. She thanked us for being supportive and professional.

iii: Last weekend, the next-to-last Board of Regents meeting was held at Georgia Southwestern University. The Chancellor submitted a budget for Fiscal Year 2013 of $18, 114, 403. This includes a 2% cut for all institutions and a 2% tuition increase. Three mandatory fee increases for students were approved.

iv: Complete College- We submitted our one-page proposal. The USG has a goal of having an additional 250,000 graduates by 2020.

v: We currently have 1716 Freshmen for the fall, 2012 semester.

vi: We have approximately 300 students set to graduate in May. Regent Larry Ellis will be the commencement speaker.

vii: The Alumni Association will be on campus May 3-5.

1. Swearing-In of New Senators for 2012-2013- Dr. Dozier swore in the new Senators.
2. Election of the Executive Committee for 2012-2013- The following officers were elected for 2012-2013.
3. Vice-Chair- Dr. Dowling
4. Recording Secretary- Professor O’Brien
5. Corresponding Secretary- Dr. Metts
6. Parliamentarian- Dr. McClain
7. Logistics Officer- Dr. Dolo
8. Announcements- There were no announcements
9. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin O’Brien- Recording Secretary of the Faculty Senate