Savannah State University Faculty Senate Minutes Tuesday, April 3, 2012 4PM Jen Auditorium Whiting Hall

Senators Present: Han, Metts, Yount, O’Brien, Silberg, Faries, Kawasha, Stewart, McClain, Bentley, Dowling, Ouandlous, Yoon, Andreou, Taylor, Tessema, Sivapatham, Dolo, Singh, Cox, Sarhan, Warren, Wyche

Senators Absent: Jamison, St. Mark, Naniuzeyi, Franklin, Reddick, Arora, Johnson, Brown, Sajwan, Harris-Murphy

Visitors Present: Myers, Clark, Schroeder, Brannen

1. Call to Order- The meeting was called to order by Chair Dr. Dozier at 4:10 PM.
2. Approval of Agenda- The agenda was approved without changes.
3. Approval of Minutes from March 6, 2012- The minutes were approved without changes.
4. Handbook- The Faculty Handbook had been approved at the last meeting. The newly revised, approved handbook has been sent to all faculty members. Any future additions will be done on a line by line basis.
5. Reapportionment of Senators
6. Faculty Affairs recommended that the Senate be reapportioned with an equal representation of 5 Senators from each college. There would be a total of 25 Senators.
7. Professor O’Brien commented that, with fewer Senators, it would be harder to staff all Senate committees with chairs, since all Senate committees must be chaired by a Senator.
8. Dr. Myers responded that the Committee on Committees is currently working on streamlining the committees so that not as many Senators would be needed as committee chairs.
9. Dr. Tessema suggested that the number of Senators should be determined and that there should still be proportional representation according to the size of the college.
10. The recommendation from Faculty Affairs was defeated.
11. Committee Reports
12. Executive Committee
13. Dr. Metts said that Mrs. Wyche and Dr. Ouandlous would be sworn in as Senators at the next Senate meeting.
14. Dr. McClain had an issue about course syllabi. This was sent to the Dean of CLASS.
15. Dr. Metts reminded professors to encourage students to do class evaluations. There will be further discussion of the timing and window for future evaluations.
16. Dr. Metts read a letter from Dr. Dozier rejecting the following motion approved by the Senate at the Feb. 7, 2012 meeting: “Any faculty member serving in an administrative position with personnel recommendation authority may not serve on faculty search committees, including pre-tenure, tenure, promotion, and post-tenure.”
    1. Dr. Myers asked where we go from here on the issue.
    2. Dr. Sarhan responded that the issue is closed. Dr. Dozier explained that she vetoed the motion because Board of Regents policy states that faculty members serving as administrators have all the rights and privileges of a faculty member. No faculty member should be penalized by forbidding that he/she serve on search committees. This interferes with faculty rights.
    3. Dr. Dowling said that we have had department chairs in the past who have served on college personnel committees. In effect, this has given two votes to that person.
    4. Dr. Dozier responded by saying that, if this occurs, it will be referred to the VPAA on a case-by-case basis as a conflict of interest.
17. Dr. Metts said that an ad hoc committee was asked to look at Monday-Thursday classes. We should consider the pros and cons of a Monday-Thursday schedule.
18. Faculty Development Committee
19. Dr. Singh asked if the members of this committee serve for one or two years. This committee is a two-year appointment.
20. Library and Educational Media Committee
21. Ms. Fayoyin will present a library update to the Senate at the April 24 meeting.
22. Faculty should refer students and encourage use of the ReWrite Connection, which is housed in the library.
23. Ms. Fayoyin requested that faculty share written assignments that require library research with the library so that librarians can better assist students with research.
24. Faculty should be reminded to provide periodical and book requests to the library through their departmental liaison.
25. The committee discussed the January, 2013 transition to Desire2Learn and agreed that the committee should plan a training session for students on the eLearning system in early 2013--as an opportunity to provide a tutorial on eLearning and particularly the new desire2learn system--and perhaps another training session later that semester.
26. Committee members agreed to submit a revision to the committee description in the Faculty Handbook for inclusion in the next revision of the handbook. The revision should modify the committee membership to include a representative of each college and the School of Education, a student, the library director, and a possible at-large member. The sentence that gives the committee a role in senuring library holdings meet accreditation standards should be deleted.
27. Ad Hoc Task Force on Online Education.
28. There has been some overlap with the Distance Learning Committee.
29. The task force is working on a policy for faculty expectations for online classes.
30. International Programs Committee
31. The committee met to review applications for the President’s study abroad scholarships. The 52 applicants were graded 1-5 based on criteria such as strong interest in study abroad, letters of recommendation, ability to pay the balance, and GPA.
32. The committee will meet again at the end of April to decide on how the money will be awarded.
33. Admissions Committee
34. This committee has been renamed the Academic Suspensions and Appeals Committee.
35. The committee will have a final report for the April 24 senate meeting.
36. President’s Report
37. Dr. Dozier thanked faculty for our service and teaching and for nurturing our students who received honors.
38. The President emphasized moving students from matriculation to graduation. There are academic bureaucratic roadblocks which prevent students from graduating. She asked Dr. Sarhan and Dr. Clark to work with faculty to ensure students aren’t missing requirements to graduate.
39. Dr. Dozier urged us to become informed about the Complete College Initiative of the Governor and Chancellor. There was a summit to move forward on this initiative, which involves more students graduating. The plan is to have 250,000 additional graduates in the system by 2020. This will be further discussed at the full faculty meeting on April 19. Dr. Leseane and Dr. Gentry are our faculty representatives on the initiative. We must move forward by April 20 with our prospectus on accomplishing this.
40. The Facilities Master Plan meeting will be on April 10. Facilities changes will be recommended.
41. There will be a budget meeting on April 19. This is an important meeting for those who serve on the Budget Committee. Individuals are encouraged to send budget recommendations to Dr. Sarhan.
42. There is still money available in the Faculty Initiative Fund.
43. Spring enrollment- Dr. Clark said that our enrollment goal is to reach 5,000 students for the Fall, 2012 semester. About 1,000 students have registered for Open Campus Day on April 14.
44. Dr. Sarhan spoke about the Honors Program at SSU that we are piloting. A faculty task force will create an Honors Program consistent with the size of our university and will submit a report at the April 24 Senate meeting.
45. The VPAA search is ongoing. Dr. Clark is the Chair. Nominations are wide-open.
46. The CIO (Chief Information Officer) search candidates are on campus now.
47. There was a ribbon-cutting on Friday for the School of Education. Alumni and professors from the School of education that existed 30 years ago were honored.
48. Announcements
49. SSU Research Day will be next Tuesday. There will be presentations from students from COBA, COST, and CLASS.
50. Dr. Sandra Best’s husband passed away. Please keep her in your prayers.
51. Dr. Stewart announced that a World Autism Day event will be sponsored by the Behavior Analysis Student Association on Monday, April 2 at 4 PM in the lobby of the Social Sciences Building. Dr. Stewart’s autism class will have a week of events from April 9-13.
52. Dr. Faries announced that there will be a creative reading on Thursday, April 5 at 7 PM in the Library Art Gallery featuring fiction writer Julie Iromuany.
53. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 5 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin O’Brien- Recording Secretary of the Senate