Savannah State University Faculty Senate Minutes

Tuesday, August 14, 2012 4PM Jen Auditorium Whiting Hall

Senators Present: Bentley, Brooks, Faries, Kawasha, Maynor, Metts, O’Brien, Rukmana, Stewart, Wyche, Dowling, Jahmani, Yoon, Dolo, Li, Cox, Adeyemo, Tessema, Taylor, Johnson, Verret, Warren, Harris-Murphy

Senators Absent: Franklin, Silberg, St. Mark, Walker, Arora, Brown, Ouandlous, Sivapatham, Sajwan

Visitors Present: Yount, Schroeder, Purnell, Barnette, Mustafa, Jolley, McMillan, Agata, Myers, Adams, Brannen, Sarhan, Clark, Mosley, Fayoyin, Bongang, Lambright, Gardner-Martin

1. Call to Order- The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Dr. Dowling at 4:05 PM.
2. Approval of Agenda- Add Searing-in of Senate Executive Committee and Swearing-in of Newly Elected Senators. The agenda was then approved.
3. Approval of the minutes of April 24, 2012- The minutes were approved without changes.
4. Election for Parliamentarian- Dr. Bentley was elected.
5. President’s Report
6. Dr. Dozier welcomed Dr. Reynold Verret, our new VPAA, and Mr. Phillip Adams, our new Vice President of University Advancement.
7. Dr. Hua Zhao was congratulated for receiving the prestigious Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award and for his effective work and collaboration with students in his research.
8. Faculty were thanked for assisting with registration during Welcome Back Weekend and for teaching in summer school.
9. SSU had the largest study abroad enrollment in history with fifty students participating.
10. We hope to graduate 200-250 students in December.
11. The USG is requesting that all institutions enhance their online technology/distance learning programs, enhance academic services to persons serving in the military, and enhance academic programs to non-traditional students. The Distance Education Task Force, appointed by Chancellor Huckaby, has sent a draft report for our review.
12. We have submitted a 3% proposed cut plan to USG, which does not affect faculty positions allocated. We hope to offer faculty initiative mini-grants again.
13. We currently have 4612 students registered for Fall 2012 and 1383 are new students. We have received 5885 applications for Fall 2012 and made 3914 decisions, of which 2605 are admitted. Students will not be reinstated to rosters after August 22.
14. There will be a ribbon cutting on Friday, August 24, 2012 at Adams Hall and Alexis Circle for Tiger Point, Tiger Court, Tiger Place, Adams, and Camilla Hubert Halls.
15. SSU Foundation meetings will take place on August 24 on campus.
16. On August 225, the SSU Foundation will host the Third Annual Hall of Fame Induction & Scholarship Awards Ceremony.
17. Committee Reports
18. NPCC

The following NPCC proposals for Mass Communications were approved.

1. Move ENGL 2104 (Advanced Composition) to Area F as a requirement.
2. Move COMM 4180 (Communication and Research) to become an elective under each concentration.
3. Add GEOG 1101 as a requirement in each area of concentration (print, radio/television, etc.)

The following NPPC proposal for Social Work was approved.

1. Change SOWK 6000 (special topics course- now impacted by federal guidelines in financial aid)- syllabus to be approved by the department

To SOWK 4160 International Social Work- This course introduces students to concepts and practice issues regarding social welfare in a global context. (Free-standing course)

The following NPCC proposals for Liberal Arts were approved.

1. English Language and Literature

Special topics In ENGL 4401, 4402, 4403, 4404, 4405, 4406, 4407, 4408, 4409, 4410) Due to changes in federal financial aid, students cannot receive aid for repeating the same course number they have already passed. This proposal seeks to create a sequence of numbers that may be used for special topics courses so that no one number is repeated during the student’s academic career. Examples of topics include Contemporary Multi-Lingual American Literature, Islamic Literature, Japanese Fiction, Gullah Culture, and Latin American Literature.

1. Fine Arts

Special topics in FINE 4901, 4902, 4903, 4904, 4905, 4906, 4907, 4908, 4909, 4910) Due to changes in federal financial aid, students cannot receive aid for repeating the same course number they have already passed. This proposal seeks to create a sequence of numbers that may be used for special topics courses so that no one number is repeated during the student’s academic career.

The topic of this seminar varies from semester to semester. Each semester focuses on a specific field or issue in the Arts. Students engage the topic by pursuing projects that relate to course content.

1. Committee on Committees
2. Dr. Stewart said that she will make sure that all committees are chaired by a Senator. She asked Professor O’Brien for the list of Senators for 2012-2013.
3. Any faculty interested in filling any vacancies on committees should contact Dr. Stewart.
4. Executive Committee
5. Classroom environment- There is concern about temperature control in Herty and Jordan. Herty is scheduled to be renovated next summer.
6. Senate Processes
7. Restatement of Issue- Either the Corresponding Sectary or the Vice-Chair will restate issues to be voted on prior to the actual vote.
8. Participation- These are open meetings and all will be allowed to speak and express their opinion.
9. Length of meetings- Senate meetings were previously limited to one hour but may run 10-20 minutes longer to accomplish all necessary business.
10. Senate Committees
11. Resignation and/or Refusal to Serve- If a professor resigns from a committee or refuses to serve, he/she should send a letter to the Senate Executive Committee with copies to the College Dean and VPAA.
12. All committees should try to hold an organizational meeting by August 30. The chair of the committee for 2011-2012 will call for an organizational meeting.
13. Minutes of each committee meeting must contain the roster of attendees and must be submitted to the Corresponding Secretary (Dr. Metts).
14. Faculty Affairs Committee- The President has asked the Vice-Chair to call an organizational meeting of the Faculty Affairs Committee. The call has gone out and the organizational meeting will be on August 16 at 4 PM in Room 2238 of Jordan Hall. With the exception of Personnel Committee meetings, all committee meetings are open to the public and all are invited to attend. If anyone wants to serve on the Program Review Committee, Post-Tenure Appeals Committee, or the Evaluation Committee, let Faculty Affairs know.
15. Update on Online Student Assessment of Instruction- Presentation by Dr. Crow
16. The response rate for Fall 2011 was 30% and 22.5% for Spring 2012. The response rate is half of what is was under the paper system.
17. Response rates varied greatly by course and instructor. The class size did not affect the response rate.
18. Fourteen sections had a 100% response rate, 14 sections had a 80-99% rate, 45 sections had a 65-79% rate, 61 sections- 50-64%, 99 sections 20-29%, 236 sections- 10-20%, and 165 sections less than 10%.
19. Some small response rate classes had uniform responses.
20. Most high response rates were clustered together.
21. Some faculty achieved higher response rates by bringing a class to a computer lab or by allowing students to respond on their smart phones. Some professors talked up the survey for several weeks. Others gave modest extra credit to students who gave them the receipt.
22. The Evaluation Committee will revisit the process.

1. Swearing-in of Newly Elected senators- The following Senators were sworn in by Dr. Dozier: Li, Johnson, and Adeyemo
2. College elections to fill Senate vacancies- All colleges should fill any Senate vacancies by the next Senate meeting. Please inform the Executive Committee who the new Senators are.
3. Parking- increased fee and distribution of funds generated by fees- The Executive Committee is requesting a report by the Parking Committee on the flow of funds for the 2011-2012 Budget Year and the expected flow of funds for the 2012-2013 Budget Year. Faculty have had input on parking fees through faculty representation on the Budget Committee.
4. Election of Budget Committee representatives- Dr. Tessema, Dr. Yount, and Dr. Adeyemo were elected.
5. Announcements- Dr. Gardner-Martin asked Dr. Crow to attend the Faculty Affairs meeting regarding his data on student evaluations.
6. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.