Savannah State University Faculty Senate

Minutes for meeting of Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2012 4:00 PM Whiting Hall Jen Auditorium

Senators Present: Reddick, Bentley, Franklin, Kawasha, Metts, O’Brien, Rukmana, St.Mark, Stewart, Walker, Jordan, Wyche, Arora, Brown, Dowling, Jahmani, Ouandlous, Yoon, Dolo, Sivapatham, Li, Cox, Adeyemo, Taylor, Johnson, Warren, Harris-Murphy, Verret

Senators Absent: Brooks, Faries, Sajwan, Tessema

Senators Excused: Maynor, Silberg

Visitors Present: McMillan, Purnell, Clark, Schroeder, Jolley, Chandler, Steward Jr., Myers, Barnette, Lambright, Mosley Sote, Berry, Lambright

1. Call to Order- The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Dr. Dowling at 4:05 PM.
2. Approval of Agenda- The agenda was approved without changes.
3. Approval of Minutes-The minutes were approved without changes.
4. President’s Report- (delivered by VPAA Verret due to Dr. Dozier’s presence at the USG Chancellor’s Retreat)
5. There are 219 applicants for December Commencement.
6. Our final enrollment for the Fall, 2012 semester is 4586 students.
7. We are offering a mini-semester on Oct. 10. Registration will take place on Oct. 4-5. Students can take up to 9 credit hours but we are recommending six. Many thanks to the faculty of CLASS and all who helped bring the mini-semester back to SSU.
8. The new director for the center of Academic Success is Dr. April Gentry. The appointment of the Chair for Liberal Arts will be announced during the coming week.
9. The university will be conducting several fire drills over the next few weeks as a part of our fire safety awareness activities.
10. There will be a budget realignment meeting on Oct. 3, which will include Faculty Senate representatives who have been contacted.
11. The CIO Search Committee has reconvened and interviews will begin later this month. Faculty will be informed of the open forum when candidates are on campus.
12. Public Safety Issue- The campus was immediately placed on lockdown on Sept. 30 at 1:22 AM following a shooting incident on campus. This isolated incident is being investigated by the SSU Department of Public Safety. Students will hold a public safety forum on Monday, Oct. 8.
13. There will be a new faculty/staff reception with Armstrong Atlantic University on Oct. 3 at 5:00 PM.
14. The Lumina Press Conference will take place on Oct.4 at 9:00 PM in the new Student Union.
15. The Chancellor will visit SSU on Oct. 8 from 12:00 to 5:00 PM. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee has been invited to meet with the Chancellor for one hour during his visit.
16. Committee Reports
17. Executive Committee
18. Correspondence received from Dr. Jordan- Concern was expressed because Dr. Dowling is Vice-Chair of the Senate and Chair of Faculty Affairs. The Executive Committee is sending this matter back to Faculty Affairs to decide on whether or not Dr. Dowling should hold both positions.
19. Salary Survey- Dr. Crow will review SSU faculty salaries against those of faculty at a group of peer BOR schools. We will bring the report to the Senate when we receive it.
20. The Executive Committee met with President Dozier and VPAA Verret on Sept.19, 20012.
21. We discussed the report that a number of students were admitted to the university lacking fulfillment of entrance requirements.
22. Dr. Dozier said that an audit of this situation was done earlier in the year and that she was awaiting the audit report. She assured the Executive Committee that the circumstances that allowed this to happen have been corrected.
23. We discussed the fact that 17% of SSU students are currently on academic probation and suspension.
24. The problem may be the quality of students we are bringing in or we may not be teaching them at the appropriate level. However, we are an open campus. We need more success in learning support. Students need to be moved out of learning support more quickly.
25. There will be a reverse transfer of students with Savannah Tech. Savannah Tech will take some students back from Savannah State for an Associate’s degree and then the students can return to SSU for their Bachelor’s degree.
26. We have Associates’ degrees at SSU that we have not used. We could use them since there are no community colleges in the area. There is an Associate’s degree is COST but not in COBAS. We could develop additional Associates’ degrees.
27. Twenty-six out of 35 USG institutions have a degree in Interdisciplinary or General Studies and SSU is planning to introduce a General Studies or Interdisciplinary Degree.
28. Our advisement needs to improve.
29. Advisement must be part of the annual assessment for the faculty.
30. Should we create an instrument for students to evaluate advisors?
31. Some advisement problems are students taking classes without having taken the prerequisites and students asking other faculty for their PINS because their advisors are never present.
32. The institutional promotion and tenure process should be reviewed.
33. In the past, pre-tenure has not been used as a basis for consideration in Personnel Committee recommendations for tenure. Pre-tenure has been used for guidance of what needs to be corrected. However, there is internal inconsistency when the pre-tenure report indicates that the faculty member is flawless and the tenure recommendation is negative without referencing the pre-tenure report. Similarly, there are cases in which the faculty member received a pre-tenure report with flaws to be corrected and subsequently received tenure without apparently addressing these flaws.
34. We discussed a concern expressed by students that they are having difficulty understanding some faculty in the classroom. The recruitment process of faculty was discussed. When hiring new faculty, we should be more sensitive to the correct use of oral communication. All agreed that faculty must be able to communicate effectively in English in the classroom.
35. Athletics Committee- President Dozier has requested that the Faculty Senate nominate four faculty members to serve on the Athletics Committee. She will call a meeting of the committee in the next couple of months to formally charge the committee.
36. Since there were no nominations, this will be turned over to the Committee on Committees to handle. The Committee on Committees will submit a list of names to be approved by email or at the next Senate meeting.
37. Need for Volunteers
38. The following faculty agreed to serve on the selection committee for the Richard R. Wright Sr. Award of Excellence: Reddick, Adeyemo, and Harris-Murphy
39. The following faculty agreed to serve on the selection committee for the Cyrus G. Wiley Distinguished Alumni Award: Cox, Johnson, Warren
40. Faculty Affairs Committee
41. The Faculty Affairs Committee has not met since the last Faculty Senate meeting but a correction needs to be made to the recommendation for the Faculty Affairs Committee to serve on the University Academic Program Review Subcommittee. The following names were put forward: Berry, Franklin, Hardy, C.Jones, Liu, Metts, Mukhtar, Purnell, Yoon, Park, Stewart, Zhang
42. Committee on Committees
43. Dr. Stewart is having difficulty getting responses from committees to see who the Chair is for each committee.
44. Dr. Stewart needs more information for the new Committee on Academic Probation and Suspension. She needs to know the composition of this committee.
45. Health Care Presentation- Mr. Jolley
46. The University System of Georgia’s Plan Year 2013 Open Enrollment will begin Oct. 15, 2012 and end Nov. 9, 2012.
47. The Board of Regents will offer the following health-care options:

Blue Cross HMO

Kaiser Permanenete HMO

HAS Open Access POS

Open Access POS (formerly PPO)

1. 2013 Health Care Plan Changes: HMO
2. Re-open Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia and Kaiser HMO’s for new enrollment.
3. Currently enrolled employees will be able to move among all plan options during open enrollment. Current employees can move from HMO to any of the remaining medical coverage.
4. Only new hires and newly eligible members will be able to enroll in either of the HMO plans. Employees who are currently enrolled in other coverage cannot switch to HMO.
5. To help re-align HMO Plan Benefits and Premiums, there will be an increase in co-pays in both HMO plans beginning in January, 2013.
6. 2013 MET Life Dental Plan
7. No increase in premiums
8. Annual maximum benefit raised to $1,500 from $1,000
9. Composite Fillings covered on posterior teeth
10. No Orthodontia waiting period will apply to new orthodontic treatment.
11. 2013 Cigna Life Insurance Changes- New Spouse and Child Life Coverage Options:
12. Premiums are decreasing for active employee basic and supplemental coverage.
13. Premiums will be calculated based on employee’s age on Jan. 1 instead of age employee is turning during the year.
14. Portability option will be added. You, your spouse, and children may continue coverage in the event your work status changes (i.e., quits or retires)
15. 2013 Health Care Plan Changes: HMO

Service Current Rate 2013 Rate

Office Visit $15.00 $15.00

Specialist Visit $15.00 $25.00

Hospital in-patient $200.00 $250.00

Outpatient Services $50.00 $100.00

Emergency Room Co-Pay $75.00 $150.00

1. The split between employers/employees for health care will remain 70% for employers and 30% for employees.
2. During the open-enrollment period, information will be available to see the differences between POS and HMO.
3. The SSU Employees and Family Benefits Fair will be on October 12, 2012 from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM on the 2nd floor of the New Student Union.
4. Announcements
5. There will be HIV testing tomorrow.
6. Sterling Steward invited all who attended the Senate meeting to the football game on Saturday free of charge.
7. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin O’Brien- Recording Secretary