Savannah State University Faculty Senate

Minutes for meeting of Tuesday, April 5, 2016 4 PM Chan Auditorium Whiting Hall

Present: Dr. Dozier (Chair)

Senators present: Holmes, Warren, Arora, Samms-Brown, Choi, Wang, Wu, Alexander, Deloach, Faries, Gardner-Martin, Iancu, Jordan(Vice-Chair), Lewis, O’Brien, Walker, Yount, Hayder, Kim, Nitta, Olubajo, Sajwan, Wyche, Thompson

Senators excused: Rukmana, Tedrick

Ex-Officio: Fayoyin, Goldwire, Hardy, Jolley, Lambright, Moore, Walton

Visitors: Butler, Merkousko, Singleton, Serdikoff, T. Walker, Mosley, Silberg, Anderson, Odom

1. Call to Order- The meeting was called to order by Dr. Jordan at 4:08 PM. with a quorum present. The quorum was present until 5:40 PM.
2. Approval of Agenda- Add the following: Other Committee Reports, Establishing a Board of Review, and a Nominating Committee in order to have elections of officers at the next Senate meeting. The agenda was then approved.
3. Approval of Minutes (from March 1, 2015) Add the name of Samms-Brown to the attendance. The minutes were then approved.
4. President’s Report- In order to save paper, the majority of the President’s report will be put on the Senate’s web page. Items not in the written report are recorded in the minutes.
5. Changes regarding Student Affairs Policy (due April 22)
6. The state mandates that there be a uniform code of student conduct and uniform policy on sexual misconduct. Ms. Bradley is putting this together and it will be sent out next week.
7. Vice Presidents met last week to see how to implement the new policies. It is still a work in progress.
8. What we do has to fit our campus. We need to have a separate person in charge of Title 9 and another person in charge of investigating sexual harassment.
9. One change is that the accused person in a harassment case can have an attorney present. The attorney can advise the client but not participate in the hearing.
10. We have a Student Affairs Committee working on the Student Affairs Policy.
11. CCG (Dr. Holmes)
12. Consultants came to campus to evaluate us regarding CCG and gave feedback. They interviewed various stakeholder groups. Dr. Holmes shared the following recommendations from the student group of 5 or 6 students.
13. Consider restructuring the Center for Academic Success. If the advisor for students is not there, is the student asked to come back or sent to another advisor? We need to improve what we do in CAS to meet the students’ needs at that moment because they may not be able to come back another time.
14. Ensure course availability and make sure students are not misadvised. We may need more weekend and evening courses.
15. Students should take at least 1 course in their major in their Freshman year. It increases a sense of belonging. Students will also be able to determine faster whether or not they are truly interested in that major.
16. We need a development program for students on academic probation.
17. Educate students on the necessity of taking 15 credits per semester for 4 years in order to graduate on schedule.
18. Enhance services outside of the classroom to ensure timely completion.
19. Dr. Holmes is teaching a Grants Writing course and said that she sends students to the Writing Center. However, the hours of the Writing Center don’t align with all work hours.
20. Let us know if a lab is understaffed.
21. Dean Fayoyin said that the Library will be open until midnight the last week of class and during final exam week. The Library will have quiet zones.
22. Dr. Holmes asked if we could have quiet zones and study halls in some classrooms,
23. Some buildings need to be open for longer hours such as Kennedy when it is reopened. Someone will have to be employed in that space if it is open late.
24. Uniformity of faculty and staff to be of one accord. When we have complaints, we tend to make them public. Students feel our discontent. We should resolve our conflicts together and have more civil communication.
25. Update: Sabbatical Leave Policy- The policy has been reviewed at the Executive Council level and we will move forward with it. It has been approved in principle and will be presented at the full Faculty meeting or the next Senate meeting. The policy is still being tweaked.
26. Update: Program Coordinator Stipend: Stipends have been approved in principle at the Executive Council level.
27. Fall Classroom Assignments Update (Dr. Moore and Ms. Merkousko)
28. A handout was distributed regarding the Ad Astra scheduling system.
29. Classrooms are assigned based on the characteristics of the course.
30. Once the schedule rolls, it is put out to the departments to assign courses to professors. The optimizer is then run to assign buildings and rooms to the classes.
31. The schedule for the spring and summer will roll before the end of April so that departments can put in their classes and rooms assigned.
32. It will take 2 years to get all of the courses into Banner.
33. We are bringing online a new Technology building and are redesigning Whiting.
34. The optimizer did not account for the identity of different programs with a specific building. For example, Creative Writing was not identified as being housed in Payne Hall.
35. Dr. Moore said that we were missing some of the data we needed for that first run.
36. As we grow as an institution, if we need late or early classes which are large in size, we look for rooms that meet the size need.
37. Dr. Dozier commented that, in other universities, faculty and students have to change buildings. Our students move from place to place and faculty must also. We are implementing a scheduling system instead of doing scheduling by hand. Every class may not be in the most convenient location.
38. Needs for technology or a lab for certain course have to be included in the features for that course in order for it to be assigned to an appropriate classroom. The departments have to define the features for each course. Faculty should check classrooms to see what is needed in order to properly teach a specific course.
39. Classrooms will be assigned based on the features of the class and not necessarily on what building is the closest to the department for that class.
40. Dr. Serdikoff asked if there is any consideration of what features individual professors need for the same course. For example, some professors might require more technology than another professor for the same course. Dr. Moore replied that we are not at the level of adapting classroom features to each professor.
41. Committee report: Student Affairs (Dr. Faries) The committee, consisting of Dr. Faries, Cora Thompson, Dr. Walton, and Prof. Tedrick, has met. There will also be 3 students on the committee. Each member will be a liaison for each charge: SGA, Health Services, etc.
42. Action Item House Bill 859 (Dr. Faries)
43. Our colleagues at Valdosta passed a resolution expressed their opposition to the bill. Dr. Faries adapted that language for a resolution that we could pass as a symbolic gesture.
44. The resolution was handed out and read aloud and was passed unanimously with two abstentions (Dr. Dozier and Dr. Holmes). We are looking for a venue to which it can be distributed.
45. Burial sites/Excavations (Dr. St. Mark)
46. The Memorial Committee consists of Dr. St. Mark, Dr. Blood, Mr. Ogden, and Dr. Marriott.
47. Savannah State sit on a rice plantation. There were 230 slaves who worked here. In doing the site work for the new Science building, there were anomalies found which are believed to be human remains. There was a burial ground where the enslaved Africans were buried. When human remains are found during excavation, protocols kick in and the building stops. A permit must be applied for to move remains from one place to another. There is a public hearing on April 11 at 10 AM. If the permit is granted, the remains will be moved next to the Tiger Cafe and testing will be done on the age of the remains. We will have a ceremony to honor the reburial of the remains. The date of the ceremony will be announced.
48. Dr. Gardner made a motion that, since committees are staffed and functioning,

Senate committees should stay as they are for the next academic year. The motion was approved.

1. Announcements
2. NPCC meeting April 11, 2016
3. General Faculty Meeting, April 14, 2016
4. Faculty Senate Meeting, April 26, 2016
5. Spring Commencement Rehearsal, May 6, 2016
6. Spring Commencement, May 7, 2016
7. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin O’Brien- Recording Secretary