

**Savannah State University Faculty Senate
Annual State of the Senate Remark**

**'Resolve'
April 23, 2013**

**Prepared by:
*SSUFS Executive Committee***

It is with great honor that I share with you the 2012 – 2013 annual report of the SSU Faculty Senate, the representative body through which faculty members participate in University affairs. Through standing committees this outstanding body has promulgated policies and regulations regarding the general educational objectives of Savannah State University during the past academic year. The code word for this legislative session has been ‘resolve.’ Never before in our history have we been resolute in our resolve than this legislative session. It all started as a challenge from our energetic 13th President, Dr. Dozier. During the early days of her administration, she honestly challenged us to look creatively into the future of our institution to imagine (and share with her administration) what we can become as ONE SSU.

Madam President, for the past few months we have looked into the future of our wonderful university, and through careful planning and strong commitment by every senator I am happy to highlight the following senate resolutions designed with the sole purpose for the betterment of our institution:

- **FSSR-2013-8: Resolution on Modifying the Banner Registration System to Detect and Enforce Prerequisites for Courses Across the University.**
- **FSR-2013-2: Resolution on Course Syllabi**
- **FSSR-2013-4: Resolution on Salary Compression**
- **FSSR-2013-5: Resolution on Online/Distance Education**
- **FSSR-2013-7: Resolution to Urge Faculty Advisor not to Encourage Student Athletes to Enroll in Mini-Semester Courses During Active Athletic Semester**
- **FSR-2013-2: Resolution on Freezing Faculty Parking Fee for AY2013 – 2014 at the AY2013 – 2014 Rates**
- **FSSR-2013-2: Resolution in Support For QEP Initiatives Focused on Improving Language Skills of SSU Students**

Madam President, for the past few months we did also look into the future of our wonderful university, and through careful planning and strong commitment by every senator we believe that communicating with our state legislature about important issues which are not in either our purview as senators or your purview as President, is absolutely necessary as a mean of keeping our concerns alive on the state agenda. Here are few of such correspondence:



Faculty Senate

3219 College Street
Box 20089
Savannah, GA 31404

The Executive Committee

Dr. Rose Metts: Correspondence Secretary,
mettsr@savannahstate.edu
Dr. Emily Bentley: Parliamentarian, bentleye@savannahstate.edu
Dr. Nicholas Silberg: Logistic Officer, Silbergn@savannahstate.edu
Dr. Kevin O'Brien: Recording Secretary, obrienk@savannahstate.edu
Dr. Samuel Dolo: Vice Chair, dolos@savannahstate.edu

February 12, 2013

Jack Hill

Chairman, Georgia State Senate Appropriations Committee

234 State Capitol

Atlanta, GA 30334

R.E: Letter of Support For Herty Hall Renovation Funding

Dear Chairman Jack Hill:

During the course of the past couple of years, your committee has confronted numerous budgetary challenges in a particularly difficult economic and fiscal environment. Nowhere has the need to develop effective and efficient funding policy for the state been more critical than in higher education programs. As you and your colleagues continue discussion of these matters and the FY 2014 appropriations legislation, we write to offer the views of the approximately 150 plus faculty at Savannah State University on the Board of Regents' requested funding level of \$3.3 million for the renovation of Herty Hall at Savannah State University. We believe that the Board of Regents' funding level of \$3.3 million for the renovation of Herty Hall represents the best possible prioritization of resources based on prudent risk assessments of the building engineers, and would kindly urge your unwavering support for the proposed funding level. The Faculty Senate at Savannah State has officially submitted a letter of support for Herty Hall renovation funding to the Georgia State Senate Appropriations Committee, and we thought it would be prudent to write you (the Honorable Chair of the committee) a separate letter informing you of our support for the renovation project, and of our support for your able leadership of the powerful appropriations committee. Please continue the outstanding job of developing a robust and adequately funded programs for all of the institutions of higher learning within the University System of Georgia (especially for institution like ours that lacks private endowment funding). If you have any questions, please contact me (Samuel Dolo) at 912-358-3292 or dolos@savannahstate.edu.

Sincerely,

The Executive Committee of SSU Faculty Senate

SAVANNAH STATE

**Faculty Senate**

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Dr. Kevin O'Brien: Recording Secretary, obrienk@savannahstate.edu
Dr. Samuel Dolo: Vice Chair, dolos@savannahstate.edu

February 15, 2013

Terry England**Chairman, Georgia State House Appropriations Committee**

234 State Capitol

Atlanta, GA 30334

R.E: Letter of Support For Herty Hall Renovation Funding

Dear Chairman Terry England:

During the course of the past couple of years, your committee has confronted numerous budgetary challenges in a particularly difficult economic and fiscal environment. Nowhere has the need to develop effective and efficient funding policy for the state been more critical than in higher education programs. As you and your colleagues continue discussion of these matters and the FY 2014 appropriations legislation, we write to offer the views of the approximately 150 plus faculty at Savannah State University on the Board of Regents' requested funding level of \$3.3 million for the renovation of Herty Hall at Savannah State University. We believe that the Board of Regents' funding level of \$3.3 million for the renovation of Herty Hall represents the best possible prioritization of resources based on prudent risk assessments of the building engineers, and would kindly urge your unwavering support for the proposed funding level. The Faculty Senate at Savannah State has officially submitted a letter of support for Herty Hall renovation funding to the Georgia State House Appropriations Committee, and we thought it would be prudent to write you (the Honorable Chair of the committee) a separate letter informing you of our support for the renovation project, and of our support for your able leadership of the powerful appropriations committee. Please continue the outstanding job of developing a robust and adequately funded programs for all of the institutions of higher learning within the University System of Georgia (especially for institution like ours that lacks private endowment funding). If you have any questions, please contact me (Samuel Dolo) at 912-358-3292 or dolos@savannahstate.edu.

Sincerely,

The Executive Committee of SSU Faculty Senate

SAVANNAH STATE

Madam President, for the past few months we also looked into the future of our wonderful university, and have decided that this body must keep up with current events and at the same time celebrate the legacies of important people in our nation's history (or university's history). Here are few of such resolutions:

- **FSSR-2013-1: Resolution Honoring the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**
- **FSSR-2013-4: Resolution Opposing the Possession of Firearm by Non-Law Enforcement Officials on SSU Campus.**
- **FSSR-2013-5: Resolution Celebrating the Inauguration of the 13th President of SSU.**

Shared governance has been another exciting event in this body. We have developed a strong level of cooperation between the administration and the senate. We are grateful to the President and the Provost for always attending each senate meeting and for always providing informative and meaningful material to this body. We are deeply grateful to the administration for involving faculty participation in major university functions over the past year. Our involvements in major university functions have also contributed to the passage of some of our major resolutions, including:

- **FSSR-2013-9: Resolution on SSU Investiture Ceremony Remark by Faculty Senate Vice Chair.**
- **FSSR-2013-10: Resolution on SSU Investiture Ceremony Toast to the President by Faculty Senate Vice Chair;**

Continuing on the topic of shared governance, the senate also has access to other high ranking administrators (Dr. Sarhan, Dr. Schroder, Dr. Lambright, Dr. Yount, Dr. Mustafa, Dr. Barnette, Dr. Crow, Mr. Adams, Mr. Jolley, Dr. Purnell, etc..) who have made open and candid reports as requested by this body. The Vice President of budget and finance has been very instruct mental to the operational affairs of this body and through his leadership the senate has an annual budget of \$4,050. I am happy to report that the economic health (status) of the senate is great with a current budget balance of about \$4,020. During the past academic year, the senate fund was primarily used for copying purposes of senate's monthly meeting agenda and minutes (and nothing else). The senate is very appreciative to the Director of QEP, Dr. Lisa Yount, Senator Tessema, and Senator Arora for faithfully representing the faculty on the budget committee. The senate anticipates more and improved cooperation with the administration in the coming legislative session.

On personal level, I am very grateful for having the opportunity to serve in this body for the past two years through the urging of my outstanding Dean, Dr. Lambright. I leave with an infinite respect for this legislative body. During my tenure here I was fortunate twice: first, I was graced by your trust to serve as vice chair of this body. Second, I was fortunate to have been surrounded by gifted individuals (Dr. Bentley, Dr. Metts, Dr. O'Brien, and Dr. Silberg) who worked tirelessly to set a bold and positive agenda for this body for the past four months. I am grateful to all of you for graciously allowing us to saturate the agenda of the senate with policy issues in the form of resolutions over the past four months. Certainly, this has been a productive legislative session. In the paraphrased words of Dr. Dozier at the inaugural dinner, 'we are on the right trajectory and there should be no more detours.' Indeed, we are on the right trajectory. As we anticipate electing our new leadership, I am confident the senate will elect individuals for the next leadership of this body who will continue on the current trajectory.

The leadership position of this body is a rewarding one. To name just a few, you get to see the President at least once a month, you get to sit with the President on the same diner table at major university functions, and you are guaranteed to receive a call from the President in the name of shared governance when the President's busy schedule prevents her from attending the monthly senate meeting. It cannot get better than that. I kindly urge to have a willing desire to serve. Dr. Dozier and the administration cannot do it all by themselves. We need a check and balance in the system for the purpose of a better and ONE SSU. It is hard work, but you will love every minute of it.