Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate of Savannah State University

Minutes for Wed., Sept. 19, 2012 4:30 PM Hill Hall President’s Conference Room

1. Call to Order- The meeting was called to order by Dr. Dowling at 4:45 PM.
2. A WTOC consumer affairs reporter was on campus asking for opinions regarding layaways. We would like to develop a list of faculty experts who can speak to issues.
3. We are awaiting a written report from the USG System regarding the possibility that up to 2,000 students have been admitted to SSU who did not meet admissions standards. The admissions audit covered a period prior to this Administration.
4. Dr. Dowling mentioned that approximately 25% of our students are currently on academic probation. 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 leaning support. Students need to be moved out of learning support more quickly.
5. 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. We have Associates’ Degrees at SSU that we have not used. We could use them since there is no community college in the area. There is an Associate’s Degree in COST but not in COBA. Twenty-six out of 35 USG institutions have a degree in Interdisciplinary or General Studies and we will also plan to offer a General Studies or Interdisciplinary Degree.
6. Our advisement needs to improve. It must be part of the annual assessment for the faculty. Advisement is currently included under both teaching and service. We could create an instrument for students to evaluate advisors. Some advisement problems are students taken classes without having taken the prerequisites and students asking faculty for their PINS because their advisors are never present.
7. The promotion and tenure process should be looked at. In the past, pre-tenure has not been used as a basis for tenure. Pre-tenure has been used for guidance of what needs to be corrected. It was mentioned that the makeup of the Promotion and Tenure Committee often determines the outcome of Promotion and Tenure.
8. Salary Study- Dr. Dowling spoke with Dr. Crow. Dr. Crow will get information from the BOR from USG system schools, excluding research institutions and community colleges, and compare SSU salaries at peer colleges by rank, gender, and discipline.
9. Concerns in Recruitment Process of Faculty- When hiring, we should be more sensitive to the correct use of oral communication. Faculty must be able to communicate effectively in English in the classroom.
10. Agenda for the Senate meeting of October 2, 2012- The agenda will consist of the Call. To Order, Approval of the Agenda, Approval of the Minutes, President’s Report(to be done by Dr. Verret), Committee Reports (Committee on Committees, Faculty Affairs, Executive Committee), Announcements, and Adjournment. Dr. Metts will invite Dr. Best of Human Resources to the meeting to discuss health plans. Dr. Metts will address the correspondence she received from Dr. Jordan which indicated dissatisfaction with Dr. Dowling being Vice-Chair of the Senate and Chair of Faculty Affairs. Dr. Jordan felt that this represents a conflict of interest. The Executive Committee will send this matter back to Faculty Affairs to decide if Dr. Dowling should hold both positions.
11. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin O’Brien- Recording Secretary of the Faculty Senate