Savannah State University Faculty Senate

Minutes for Meeting of Tuesday, December 1, 2015 4 PM Chan Auditorium Whiting Hall

Present: Dozier (Chair)

Senators present: Lewis, Warren, Arora, Choi, Toney, Wang, Wu, Alexander, Bindhammer, Iancu, Jordan (Vice –Chair), Lewis, O’Brien, Rukmana, Tedrick, K. Walker, Yount, Hayder, Kim, Nitta, Olubajo, Sajwan, Wyche, Thompson

Excused: Holmes

Ex-Officio: Scipio, Adams, Fayoyin, Jolley, Lambright, Baloch, D. Smith, R. Smith, Walton, Williams

Visitors: D. Bell, Piatkowski, Odum, Mosley, Merkousko, J. Johnson, Nyatuame, Paramasivam

I- Call to Order- The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Dr. Jordan at 4:10 PM with a quorum present. The quorum was present throughout the entire meeting.

II- Approval of Agenda- The agenda was approved.

III- Approval of Minutes (from November 3, 2-15)

1. Under IV. President’s Report, indicate that Dr. Holmes gave the report in place of Dr. Dozier.
2. Under XI. Announcements #3, the date for the Urban Planning Conference was April 1.
3. The minutes were then approved.

IV- President’s Report- See the attached sheet for the majority of the information. Additional items are noted here.

1. Dr. Dozier said that 60% of our students are 1st generation college students. These students typically need extra help with logistics. Many do not know that they have to register for courses and financial aid each semester.
2. Students who are missing requirements for graduation are working these out with the Registrar.
3. Of the 1,225 current students who have not registered for spring courses, 800 are 1st year students.
4. Tiger Claus Committee Faculty and Staff Gathering is on Dec. 3 from 4-6 PM in King-Frazier. The gifts which are brought will be distributed to local charities.
5. Enrollment Update- There are 1189 applications for new students and transfers. There are 360 students whose applications have been accepted and 200 who have acknowledged acceptance. We are trying to have at least 250 new students to replace those who are graduating.
6. Tomorrow is the SSU-Georgia Southern basketball game for men and women in the Tiger Arena.
7. Standing Item: CCG Strategies for Improving Retention and Graduation (Dr. Williams for Dr. Holmes).
8. Dr. Lewis said that he attended the CCG Beyond Financial Aid Conference. The conference attendees had to rate themselves regarding how their institution provides assistance for automotive repairs, health care, housing, and federal and state tax preparation for low-income students.
9. Dr. Odum expressed the opinion that connecting students with an advisor in the major field is important. Advising involves creating a rapport with students, not just helping them choose their classes.
10. There is a meet and greet for Political Science majors so that they can meet their faculty.
11. Dr. Dozier said that, ideally, students should choose their major as soon as possible. Research in higher education indicates that, the sooner students declare a major, the more successful they are.
12. Dr. Mosely said that, in the School of Teacher Education, everyone works to drive the passion for being a teacher. Students are invited to office parties and provide input about their learning experience. Enrollment has quadrupled in Teacher Education. Information sessions are offered to show what Teacher Education has to offer.
13. Mr. Jolley said that we need to help students choose a field they will enjoy and not just pick a major. Students should have contact with someone in the field they have chosen.
14. Professor Walker said that we should put greater emphasis on enabling students to finish their degree when they are only 3 or 6 credit hours short. We must find out what they need and why they have not finished. In many cases, students don’t finish because their work schedule doesn’t fit with the course offerings. We must be flexible with our students. Most don’t flunk out but drop out because of life issues.
15. Dr. Jordan said that some students who are not doing well are quiet about it and don’t say anything. Dr. Jordan calls in low-achieving students to encourage them and boost their confidence.
16. Dr. Mostafa has found a missing connection between CAS and the Athletic Department. The final schedule of the students should be approved by the academic advisor, not the athletic advisor.
17. Dr. Rukmana said that we must encourage our students to continue their graduate studies here. We must do more to promote our graduate programs. We don’t have any graduate school applications for the spring, 2016 semester. Last year, we had 21 graduate school applications at this time.
18. Professor Walker stated that the Journalism and Mass Communications Department has developed a compass, which mirrors the core curriculum and tells students what they should take each year so that students are aware from the very beginning which classes they need. The compass delineates what courses students need each semester.
19. COST uses advising grid sheets as opposed to graduation grid sheets. The graduation grids don’t lay out what students need to take each semester. Grids don’t tell students about particular courses that may not be taught in certain semesters.
20. The same grid system has been used for at least 25 years at SSU and seems to be outdated. No other schools in the Georgia System uses a grid like we do.
21. Another problem is that we do not have an up-to-date catalog. The last catalog dates from 2011.
22. Mr. Jolley said that our fall and spring course offerings have been pretty much rolled over for a decade. We keep adding additional sections because the curriculum seems to only provide for 3,700 students. We should be offering enough sections to serve 5,000 students.
23. Dr. R. Smith said that, while enrollment growth can be somewhat predictable, sometimes there is not communication as to what colleges students are coming to (CLASS, COBA, COST, SOTE).
24. Dr. Dozier responded that, as an access institution, our application deadline is July 15. We can’t turn around enrollment numbers much sooner than we do. We have to plan for about 1,400 new students each fall.
25. We have doubled the amount of software that we have. We pay one- half million dollars for software but it has not always been utilized. There is a lot of academic software that is not being used.
26. Dr. Mostafa pointed out that the student calendar does not show students when classes begin and end.
27. Faculty Representation on Budget Committee- The representatives will be Dr. Yount and Dr. Toney.
28. Faculty Pay Raises- Mr. Jolley reported.
29. There is a desire from the Georgia State Government to provide a 2%-3% pay raise. The Georgia System will fund only 60%-75% of the pay raise because we can create revenue. However, if there is no tuition increase, this will impact our ability to raise revenue.
30. Some schools which have been losing enrollment did get a tuition increase of 8%-9%. Schools which have gained enrollment have been sharing tuition increases with schools which have had enrollment losses.
31. The challenge for us is to create revenue for the rest of the pay raise. We have to have enough students to fund the raise. We need at least 5,000 students for the spring, 2016 semester in order to do this.
32. The state schools have been divided into four sectors. There is a research sector, regional university sector, state universities, and state colleges. Salaries vary across the various sectors.
33. Most schools in our sector vary very little in tuition.
34. Any salary increase will be tied to merit and not to cost of living.
35. Report from NPCC- Dr. Scipio reported.
36. Dr. Scipio distributed a list of curriculum proposals which had been approved by the NPCC
37. Dr. Lambright will be contacted regarding any necessary changes to CHEM 2511.
38. The Library expressed concerns about what impact these new programs and courses would have on the Library’s budget. The Library did not received a list of requested resources.
39. Each new program and course must secure desk copies to be sent to the Library.
40. Dr. Dozier said that she will make sure that sufficient resources are provided to the Library for the new programs and courses.
41. The curriculum proposals from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, the College of Science and Technology, and the School of Teacher Education were approved by the Senate.
42. Status of Certificate Programs and Curriculum Proposals- These are proposals and certificate programs which have been approved at previous Senate meetings but have not been implemented. Dr. Scipio will present a report to the Senate in January as to where we are with those proposals and certificate programs.
43. Committee Reports
44. Faculty Affairs- Dr. Jordan reported that the Faculty Affairs Committee now has a full representation of 12 members.
45. Committee on Committees- Prof. K. Walker announced that this committee has almost finished finalizing committee assignments.
46. Announcements- Dr. Dozier announced that today is World AIDS Day- Our grant has helped us work with the community on HIV and AIDS.
47. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin O’Brien- Recording Secretary