Savannah State University Faculty Senate Minutes for meeting of Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2016 4 PM Chan Auditorium Whiting Hall

Present: Dr. Dozier (Chair)

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

Senators Excused: Rukmana, Kim

Ex-Officio: Scipio, Fayoyin, Goldwire, Jolley, Walton, Adams, Hardy

Visitors: Pinheiro, Anthony, Silberg, Cottle, Merkousko, Branner, Odom, Rech, A. Johnson, Schroeder, Mosley

1. Call to Order- The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Dr. Jordan at 4:15 PM. with a quorum present. The quorum was present throughout the entire meeting.
2. Approval of Agenda- the agenda was approved.
3. Approval of Minutes from Dec. 1, 2015- The minutes were approved without changes.
4. President’s Report- In the interest of saving paper, I have summarized the report here.
5. Dr. Dozier expressed thanks to those professors who worked with our students and allowed us to reach a total of 234 graduates in the fall.
6. BOR and State Legislature Matters
7. The BOR announced merger of Dalton College and Albany State University. This is the second consolidation of an HBCU in the country. The name of the merged school will be Albany State and will retain the same HBCU mission.
8. The BOR announced the finalization of the merger of Georgia State University and Georgia Perimeter College. The merged schools will keep the name of Georgia State University.
9. In the Legislature, Bill 859 would allow licensed firearm holders to carry guns on campus but not in dorms, school buildings, etc. We are very concerned about this.
10. Another bill would allow people to have tasers and stun guns on campus. Faculty can call or write legislators on these issues. Faculty can visit legislators as individual citizens.
11. Funding for our new Marine Science building is being support by the legislature.
12. The HOPE scholarship bill would direct the Board of Regents to identify specific courses in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics that are academically rigorous and required for or leading to employment in high demand fields in Georgia, and give students a half-point boost to their GPAs for a B, C, or D.
13. Enrollment- Dr. Walton announced that the current enrollment is 4,373 students. All of these students have been financially cleared. There are 2,558 students living on campus. Housing capacity is 2,745. We expect some increase in enrollment with the second minisemester.
14. The reinstatement period ends on Feb. 5. Dr. Jolley said that there is still some reinstatement going on. After this week, students who are not on the roster should no long be allowed to attend class. We have helped students with hardship funds because some of our students come from families with the least resources to help them. A total of 1,055 students had owed $1,000 apiece. We have provided up to $2,000 hardship funds for individual students and a total of more than $150,000.
15. Dr. Holmes- Academic Affairs Report
16. Dr. Holmes thanked faculty, staff, donors, and alumni for helping some students financially.
17. Dr. Holmes welcomed Dr. Gardner-Martin back to the Senate after her hip replacement.
18. Dr. Holmes thanked faculty for working with students who were dropped for non-payment and non-attendance.
19. We had 300 new students in spring, 2016 including 157 new Freshmen and about 200 readmits who had stopped out or dropped out. We changed our academic appeal letters to indicate when students can return.
20. We have 134 applicants for graduation for the spring. The deadline for graduation applications is Feb. 25.
21. The 65th annual Southern Regional Press Institute will be on Feb. 18-19. The Department of Journalism and Mass Communications has formed a partnership with Savannah Chatham Public Schools to provide special digital literacy skills workshops in February for elementary, middle, and high school students.
22. We currently have 42 MBA students enrolled and 25 in the online BBA program.
23. The Library has report
24. ed delivery of sixteen instructional classes in January. There are forty additional instructional classes scheduled for February. The next event for the Scholar in Residence Lecture Series is March 1.
25. For the 3rd consecutive year, the SSU School of Teacher Education and the Savannah County Public School System are co-hosting a Spelling Bee this evening at 7 PM in the Student Union Ballroom.
26. The College of Sciences and Technology will be hosting a regional science and engineering fair on Feb. 9-11 for the 3th consecutive year. This event will draw hundreds of middle and high school students and their parents. During this event, students will compete in STEM activities and display their projects to see who moves on to the state competition.
27. Dr. Edoh Agbehonou just published a paper “Contests For State Power: An Examination Of The Consequences Of Variations In Electoral Systems In Contemporary Africa” in the journal International Relations and Diplomacy.
28. IT Update- Dr. Walton
29. There have been network issues. Students have had trouble being connected to d online course work. Upgrades are being worked on to correct this.
30. Savannah Black Heritage Festival
31. SSU is one of the primary sponsors. Several events are being held here. The kickoff is Friday night.
32. From Feb. 1-28, Like Oaks Library will be celebrating Black History Month.
33. Please refer to the list of all of the Black History Month events.
34. Women’s History Month(March, 2016)
35. Author Isabel Wilkerson will be here. Her book is about the African-American migration to the north.
36. Please contact Dr. Yount and Professor K. Walker for additional information on Women’s History Month activities.
37. Budget Concerns
38. Mr. Jolley said that our budget had been set for 5,000 students for the fall but had planned for a drop to 4,500 for the spring. We have not achieved our proposed budget in either semester. We held some positions vacant for the year.
39. We are hoping for a more robust summer school with the right mix of courses. Our summer school enrollment was only 1,100 students last year.
40. We will continue to discuss the compensation structure for summer pay.
41. We had a tiered fee structure for summer school last year.
42. Decisions will be made on travel and hires for vacancies that are not critical.
43. Dr. Dozier said that we must utilize our academic space better. Buildings are expected to be in use for classes from at least 8 AM until 8 PM. Not one of our buildings is over capacity. We do not have 12 hour utilization of most space.
44. Retention is critical for us. Other schools are offering more classes to the community, robust online offerings, and certificate programs. We have e-core but are at the lowest end of doing that.
45. Social Work Curriculum Changes- Dr. Deloach

Dr. Deloach said that these curriculum changes had been approved by CLASS and that she was trying to track down the changes after that. Dr. Holmes asked Dr. Deloach to send her a list of the changes.

1. Committee Reports
2. International Students, Scholars, and Programs Committee (Dr. Pinheiro)

Dr. Pinheiro reported that the committee met in the fall to discuss and approve Study Abroad proposals. In the spring, we will meet to discuss the students’ applications for Study Abroad and student scholarships. There were 3 different tiers of scholarships last year.

1. Committee on Committees ( Prof. K. Walker)

All committees should meet in February before the next Senate meeting and should email the reports to Prof. Walker. A request was made to redistribute the membership of the committees.

1. Faculty Athletics Representative (Dr. Schroeder)
2. Dr. Schroeder said that he was thinking of reactivating the Athletics Committee but felt that would overlap with the Academic Working Group which gets together once a month. This group consists of people in various capacities on campus, including Athletics, Financial Aid, etc. Dr. Schroeder asked for more faculty participation in the Academic Working Group.
3. We have had honorary coaches for some of the women’s basketball games.
4. The women’s basketball players may miss 8 classes instead of the maximum 7 (15% of classes). Please work with these players to help them with their class work if they are in your classes.
5. Announcements
6. Open Campus Day will be on March 19 and the Honors Convocation will be on March 24.
7. Dr. Dozier complimented the Registrar and the Interim Director of CAS, both of which are understaffed.
8. The minisemester starts on March 14.
9. Dr. Faries announced that the QEP, the Estuary, and the Library will have an event next Friday. Dr. Faries will send an email. There will be an event on campus and off campus.
10. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin O’Brien- Recording Secretary