

Savannah State University Faculty Senate
Minutes for Tuesday, September 2, 2014 4:00 PM Whiting Hall Chan Auditorium

Senators of 2014-2015 Present: Harris-Murphy, Ouandlous, Bell, Silberg, Jordan, Warren, Park, Savitskie, Wang, Wu, J. G. Wu, Alexander, DeLoach, Gardner-Martin, Iancu, Kawasha, Lewis, Tedrick, K. C. Walker, O'Brien, Adeyemo, Andreou, Atena, Curran, Johnson, Kim, Olubajo, Wyche,

Ex-officio Present: Dozier, Verret, Barnette, Fayoyin, Gentry, Hardy, Holmes, Jolley, Sarhan, D. Smith, R. Smith, Walton

Senators Absent: Walker, Yount, Maynor, St. Mark, Li, Taylor Taylor

Senators Excused Absent: Mosley

Visitors Present: Singh, Serdikoff, Lloyd, Schroeder, Bentley, Mustafa, Tessema, Brannen,

I-Call to order- The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Dr. Ouandlous at 4:08 p.m.

II- Approval of Agenda-The agenda was approved.

III-The August 12, 2014 Minutes were approved.

IV-The Senate entertained the President's Report, including an update from Dr. Naniuzeyi regarding the Confucius Institute. The report is included in these minutes by reference.

V-Old Business—The Independent Study Task Force report will be provided at the next meeting as the chair is not present.

VI-New Business

i and ii. The Senate approved a motion to combine the first two New Business items: Date of contract issuance and Transparency in determining Merit.

Vice Chair Ouandlous turned to Dr. Singh to address the Senate on these matters.

On the matter of Date of contract issuance he explained the difficulty of some faculty who make plans based on the contract and receive it so close to semester commencement. In the past contracts were received several weeks earlier.

Relatedly, he explained that the required turn-around time is difficult when faculty are not present to receive the contract so close to the beginning of the semester.

On the matter on Transparency in determining Merit Dr. Singh explained in the past Department Chairs would communicate recommended salary changes to faculty. If faculty had concerns there was an opportunity to discuss change or appeal. This year he did not know the salary change until the contract was received.

Dr. Verret explained that releasing contracts earlier, as in June, is difficult due to changes in the process, as well as incorporating faculty evaluations conducted in late spring. The goal is to get contracts to faculty earlier than this year. For faculty out

of the area and unable to return the contract as required, notifying the Department Chair that the contract cannot be responded to until returning has been allowed.

On the matter of transparency in determining merit increases, Dr. Verret explained the chairs make recommendations to deans who make recommendations to the provost. The evaluation should be shared with the faculty member. Appeals, but for process, is not appropriate at the department or college level as they only provide recommendations.

- iii. Compensation for partial overloads—Dr. Ouandlous explained that there are faculty who work more than the specified 12 credit hours per semester, 24 credit hours per year. A faculty member explained that in the sciences laboratories result in faculty teaching 13 hours and they should be compensated for the one hour.

An excerpt from Section 2.15.1 of the Faculty Handbook was read before the Senate,

Laboratory activity that is a regularly scheduled component of a course shall be counted on the basis of two clock hours as the equivalent of one semester hour. Faculty members, who for whatever reason teach more than the normal load in any academic year, shall be compensated for the overload on a per course basis. All compensation in addition to that specified in one's contract must receive prior approval from the President.

Chairman Dozier expressed the need for clarification in the handbook. For example, it begins by talking about laboratory activity then moves beyond laboratory activity to "for whatever reason." Also, there is a question of how "course" is defined for compensation "on a per course basis."

A motion was made, supported and approved requesting the administration to investigate how this section of the handbook is applied when a faculty member works above 12 credit hours in a semester, including any needed changes to the Overload Employment Request form.

- iv. Text books—Dr. Sarhan was invited to address the Senate on the matter. He expressed the desire for the Senate to take leadership in investigating online, open-source text books to assist students that are struggling. He included working to get the bookstore more responsive to needs.

Vice Chair Ouandlous explained that there are two components to the issue: faculty and administration. He explained there is a relationship between the increasing cost of texts and increase in students not obtaining text books for courses.

Mr. Jolly explained that in addition to cost two other factors seem to be associated to students not having the text. First, over 25% of faculty seem to not submit the course text to the campus bookstore by the request date. Second, some text adoptions change frequently to most recent editions.

Faculty reported resistance from the bookstore when adopting old editions with the explanation publishers do not want to provide old editions. Also, it was reported that there are instances where adoptions repeatedly submitted without satisfactory

response by the bookstore. It was reported that courses with many sections and over 1,000 students experience texts ordered in lots of no more than 500; text orders are approximately 50% of the faculty count submissions. In addition, the mechanism for ordering needs to be modified to better accommodate adoption submissions for dozens sections of a course.

Dr. Verret reported he will work Dr. Ouandlous to appoint a Taskforce to examination the matter and increase understanding of options available, such as copying text book chapters and uploading in D2L for students. Ms. Foyayin shall provide Dr. Ouandlous the list of those who served on a group looking at similar matters.

VII-Announcements—It was announced Dr. Felcia Bell has been appointed to be the Honors Program Director. A flyer was distributed on a Civil War celebration being held, focusing on the black soldier. Dr. Kenneth Jordan was recognized for over five years of service as the faculty athletics representative and presented a certificate of appreciate by President Dozier. She announced a request for volunteers to service in this capacity is forthcoming. . Dr. Ouandlous encouraged faculty to provide financial support to the SSU Foundation.

VIII—The meet was adjourned at 5:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
David A. Bell- Recording Secretary

Faculty Senate – September 2, 2014

President’s Report

Good Afternoon!

As I shared with you last month, my theme for this 2014 Academic Year is IT’s ALL ABOUT ACCOUNTABILITY! Accountability, Assessment & Achievement

Enrollment Statistics:

Fall registration as of this morning: 4,492 students. We were anticipating over 5,000 students enrolled for the fall and after reinstatement we hope to be close to be near 5,000 students.

We had record numbers of students who requested housing and all students who requested housing are currently living in housing with the exception of a few students who will be back on campus tomorrow.

Drop/Add - we had to drop over 600 students on Friday, August 29th and we anticipate that many will be reinstated by the end of this week. A One Stop Center has been opened on a temporary basis in the King-Frazier Ballroom. We encourage all students who have been dropped to attend their classes through the end of this week.

Board of Regents Updates:

- State University: Criteria for Tenure and Promotion In Lieu of current language, earned terminal degree in the appropriate discipline

- Chancellor will charge a Safety Task Force

Confucius Institute: Update by Dr. Naniuzeyi

- Opening Ceremony week of 27th of October with the signing ceremony on the 29th of October
- A SSU and external Advisory Committee to provide guidance in regards to Confucius Institute activities including programs and services.

New for this academic Year

- **Effective September 1, 2014. Tobacco and Smoke-Free Campus Policy** - To preserve and improve the health and comfort of students, employees and any persons occupying our campuses, Savannah State University has implement the new Tobacco and Smoke-Free Campus **Policy which started yesterday, September 1st.** Under the ban, all forms of tobacco including smokeless tobacco and electronic cigarettes will be prohibited on campus property.

Events

- **United Way Annual Campaign Kickoff - September 4, 2014**
- **SSU & GSU Football Game** -Sept 6th and home game FVSU September 13, 2014
- **New Faculty Reception SSU & Armstrong - September 15, 2014 - at 6:00 p.m.**
- **SSU Homecoming - September 28th through October 4th**