Savannah State University Faculty Senate

Minutes for meeting of Tuesday, November 6, 2012 4:00 PM Whiting Hall Jen Auditorium

Senators Present: Bentley, Brooks, Franklin, Maynor, Metts, O’Brien, Rukmana, Silberg, Stewart, Walker, Jordan, Wyche, Brown, Dowling, Jahmani, Yoon, Dolo, Sivapatham, Cox, Adeyemo, Tessema, Warren, Harris-Murphy

Senators Absent: Faries, Kawasha, St. Mark, Reddick, Ouandlous, Li, Sajwan, Johnson, Verret

Senators Excused: Arora, Taylor

Visitors Present: Sarhan, Schroeder, Best, Myers, Lambright, Clark, Gardner, Mosley, Steward, Barnette

1. Call to Order- the meeting was called to order with a quorum present by Vice-Chair Dr. Dowling at 4:10 PM.
2. Approval of Agenda- Information about Athletics from Dr. Jordan was added to the agenda. The agenda was then approved.
3. Approval of Minutes-The minutes were approved without changes.
4. Reports
5. President’s Report
6. Student enrollment is at 4,589 for the Fall, 2012 Semester. We are among the 16 institutions with an increased enrollment this semester.
7. AJC article concerning enrollment- Starting with the 2015 fiscal year, the amount of money colleges receive will be determined mainly by how well students progress through college and the number of degrees awarded.
8. Enrollment Management- The Vice President for Student Affairs and the Vice President for Academic Affairs are discussing the future configuration of the office of Enrollment Management which includes Admissions and the office of the Registrar. The results of this discussion are not finalized. The final results will be shared with the campus community.
9. Advisement-We learned this semester that a significant number of our students did not have an advisor assigned in BANNER. Some have advisors assigned who are no longer employees of SSU or an assigned advisor from a previous major. Many students could not receive their PIN through an advisor as required and have been allowed to register without consulting an advisor. The VPAA discussed the issue with the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate and it was agreed that a student assessment of faculty advisors and of their advising experience is needed. It is highly likely that the lack of formal advising contributes significantly to our retention and progression issues. In light of our goals for Complete College of Georgia, it is imperative that all students be advised as to their curriculum and current progress.
10. Dr. Dozier thanked faculty for contributing to the SSU Annual Fund. Some departments had a100% participation.
11. We have received the IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) report from the National Center for Education Statistics. This report makes a comparison between Savannah State and 16 peer institutions selected by SSU with respect to data from the 2011-2012 collection cycle. This report compares such parameters as student race/ethnicity, number of degrees awarded, FTE enrollment, tuition/fees, average amounts of grants or scholarship aid, graduation/retention rates, average salaries of full time instructional staff, and distribution of core revenues and expenses. Our retention rate is comparable to those of our peers. Our 6 year graduation rate is below the mean of our peer group at 29%. Peers average 45%. However, our peer institutions have a noticeable difference in the number of students who receive the Pell grant and this affects our graduation and retention rates as well.
12. The Budget Committee met and reallocated $1million. Faculty participated in the process
13. Banner Gold Hosting will go live in December.
14. Funded by Title III, Ellucian, the provider of Banner, has been engaged to assist SSU in an assessment of our utilization of Banner and to guide us through a project that will enhance our utilization considerably.
15. SSU received the BOR 2012 Award of Excellence for the revitalization of the Historic Alexis Circle at the System’s Facilities Conference, held in Savannah on October 25.
16. Howard Jordan construction/renovation should be completed in the next 2-3 months. Progress had been slowed by soil issues.
17. Harris Hall is being renovated to provide 10 offices for COST, particularly Marine Sciences.
18. Alba Rodriguez is now the lead in the Registrar’s Office. Cynthia Stephens is the lead for the Enrollment Services Unit and the lead in the Office of Admissions as the Assistant Director for Admissions.
19. The new Chief of Police, Mr. Julian Coaxum, will begin on December 3, 2012.
20. Dr. Dozier distributed a handout on the Complete College Georgia planning on graduating an additional 250,000 students by 2020.
21. The Veterans Day Program will be on November 9, 2012 at 7 PM. Student Affairs is running this program. Dr. Dozier commented that she would like to see a Veterans Day Program at the faculty level.
22. The Open Campus Day for high school students will be on November 10, 2012. The opening session is at 10 AM in the Tiger Arena.
23. Founders Day will be on November 16, 2012 at 10 AM in the Tiger Arena.
24. Dr. Houston Davis, the Senior Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, will visit SSU on November 29.
25. Student Forum will be on November 7 at 7 PM in the King Frazier Ballroom. i: Dr. Dozier said that one of the topics will be students scheduled to graduate in December who cannot because they need one course which may not be offered until the following year. We must determine how we can help students take that class instead of having to wait for one year. We lose students for that reason. Some leave and never come back to take that class.

ii: Dr. Dowling commented that, for students who are in this situation, we have used transient status for them to take classes online from Albany St. or other colleges.

1. Committee on Committees- The following faculty will serve on the Athletics Committee: Myers, Jones, Lin, and Sams.
2. NPCC- The New Programs and Curriculum Committee will meet on November 8.
3. Library and Educational Media Committee-
4. Pending Transition to Desire2Learn (new e-learning system)- Training is in the next couple of weeks. Dr. Silberg said he has experienced password issues. He can contact Mr. Scott. There will be training for students in January. Faculty with big core classes should schedule training for students in the library.
5. Submit book requests to your library liaison.
6. Faculty Affairs-
7. The Executive Committee of the Senate sent the issue of whether or not Dr. Dowling should be Vice-Chair of the Senate and Chair of Faculty Affairs back to Faculty Affairs. The Faculty Affairs Committee voted to retain Dr. Dowling as Chair.
8. Faculty Affairs recommended that the College of Education elect a Senator. This was approved by the Senate. Faculty Affairs will revisit the issue of representation from Education and the Library on Faculty Affairs.
9. Discussion of Advising- Advising is expected of faculty and should be assessed so it can be rewarded. Dr. Crow was asked to see how other institutions assess advising.
10. Parking- Why do SSU faculty have to pay for parking? Parking is free at Armstrong.
11. Service loads- There is an inequity in service loads. Some faculty listed on committees fail to show up and do not participate and yet take credit for committee service in the Tenure and Promotion Portfolio.
12. Salary compression- This issue was tabled pending a report from Institutional Research about compression.

There was some discussion about some of the above matters:

1. Dr. Myers asked if there is a timeline for the faculty salary equity study. It will be done in the spring by Dr. Crow.
2. The Vice President for Academic Affairs has been asked to be a guest at the Faculty Affairs meetings.
3. Professor Brooks said that some students get their PIN to register without seeing their advisors.
4. Dr. Dowling commented that some students have figured out how to remove academic holds.
5. University System of Georgia Faculty Council Report- Dr. Dolo reported.

Chancellor’s Report

1. Online Education

i: The state is lagging in online education.

ii: All institutions must make an effort to increase their curriculum for online education.

iii: There should be increased demand for online courses and the technology in place.

iv: Rigorous assessment protocol of online education is currently in the works.

1. Consolidation

I: Consolidation may not be over.

ii: Recent consolidation is currently being assessed before proceeding.

1. BOR Policies

i: Capable staff is being assembled to review all BOR policies.

ii: There will be no faculty representative on the BOR but the USGFC will be taken into consideration for policy making purposes if necessary.

1. Academic Salary

i: There is no political appetite in the legislature in Atlanta for salary increases at the moment.

ii; The high cost of health care at the state level is the major contributing factor for the current salary freeze.

Committee Reports

1. Budget and Faculty Resources

i: USGFC recommends that the state find the necessary funds for salary increases no matter what.

ii: The quality of education is being affected by adjunct instruction.

iii: Institutions must abide by the SAS percentage requirement for part-time instructors.

iv: there is a need for more full-time and tenure-track positions.

1. Consolidation:

i: Appears to be working.

ii: There are minor problems with tenure and promotion requirements, especially involving consolidation of teaching and research institutions.

1. Bylaws

i: Change the word “act” in the by-laws with regards to the time line the President must respond to the recommendation(s) or law(s) passed by the Faculty Senate.

ii: Response time must be about 30 days.

1. Other Committee Reports

i: Resolution in support of granting in-state tuition to certain categories of aliens.

ii: Resolution to grant soft benefits to domestic partners.

iii: Resolution to encourage each institution to inquire into the need for child care facilities as part of the recruitment, retention, and graduation rate goals.

iv: Resolution to encourage unity among all institutional organizations on issues that matter the most.

1. Executive Committee
2. Athletics issue

i: Dr. Metts expressed her concern about football players being demoralized due to losing so badly. She hoped that it would not be our primary way of fundraising.

ii: Mr. Steward discussed playing these high-profile games with the football players and they did want to play in these games for the experience. He said that we did not experience any more injuries in these games than we do in MEAC games.

Iii: Dr. Jordan asked how much we need to have in the budget to be in the MEAC.

iv: Dr. Dozier responded that we need a budget of between 7 and 9 million dollars. We currently have $5.1 million in the budget. Although we have hired a marketing firm to help with corporate sponsorships in the community to help with funding, there is presently no way to raise this money without these guaranteed games. We must support SSU as a Division I school. Dr. Dozier does not want to take money from academics and give it to athletics. She also said that, if athletics cannot raise the money, our teams could be moved back to Division II.

1. Faculty Senate website- The website has been updated by Dr. Metts and includes all minutes, agenda, curriculum proposals which have been passed, Senate membership, committee membership, calendar of events and 2011-2012 Action Items. The action items include all actions taken by the Senate. Instead of looking in each month’s minutes, all actions taken by the Senate can now be found in this one document.
2. Faculty Secretary- Dionne Hoskins was elected in April, 2012 as faculty Secretary for 2 years.
3. The Executive Committee requested to Dr. Dozier that a Faculty Senate representative be on the Technology Committee in addition to faculty members who are currently on that committee.
4. Distance Learning
5. The syllabi for all online courses should include the following contact information for the professor: SSU email address and office phone number. Cell phone numbers should not be listed. The next meeting for Distance Learning is in November.
6. Correspondence
7. Letter regarding Founder’s Day- Professors have raised concerns about Founder’s Day being changed from Nov. 19 to Nov.16. Dr. Dozier said that we will communicate such changes better in the future.
8. Revised draft of the Academic Suspension Appeals Committee- This will be sent to the Handbook Committee and will then come back to the Senate for approval.
9. Letter from Dr. Dowling of Nov.6, 2012- Dr. Dowling tendered his resignation as Vice-chair of the SSU Faculty Senate effective Nov. 27, 2012. Dr. Dowling will be unable to participate in the life of the university during most of the Spring, 2013 Semester
10. Athletics information- Dr. Jordan- Professors are urged to respond to the grades first progress reports. Please note any problems with unexcused absences or missing assignments so that the coaches will be informed. This is part of the academic progress report process.
11. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin O’Brien- Recording Secretary