Minutes
New Programs and Curriculum Committee
January 20, 2011 @ 4:00 pm

In attendance: Dr. Mary Wyatt, Dr. Larry Stokes, Dr. Elissa Purnell, Mr. Timothy Cranford, Prof. Nicholas Silberg, Dr. Cecil Jones, Dr. Samuel Dolo, Dr. Dorothy Gardner-Martin, and Ms. Pamela Majette.

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Dr. Mary C. Wyatt.

Minutes
The minutes of the November 4, 2010 meeting were approved with no corrections.

Request for New Agenda Items
The Commencement Participation Exception Form policy vote was added to the agenda.

Old Business
- Dr. Stokes revisited the Academic Forgiveness policy which allows a student to repeat 12 credit hours, and any courses repeated in excess of the allowed 12 credit hours will count into the overall GPA;
- Mr. Cranford says the policy cannot be implemented due to needing a script;
- Mr. Cranford further stated SSU is hosted and our host does not have the capability to implement the script, nor will they write the script;
- A student’s GPA would change if the student was allowed to repeat as many course as he/she liked;
- Unlimited repeating of courses would also affect graduating with honors and honors convocation awards;
- In the past, when presented with the Academic Forgiveness policy, the Faculty Senate voted in favor of 12 credit hours being the maximum and not 18 credit hours as proposed;
- It was asked if grades could be averaged instead of replaced in the GPA calculation, but this also would require a script and due to hosting, cannot be done either;

New Business
Withdrawal Policy

Discussion:
- A copy of the proposed policy was handed out;
- Number of student withdrawals correlates to low graduation rates;
- The proposed policy is similar to that of Georgia State University;
- The proposed policy would limit the number of times a student is allowed to withdraw with a W to a maximum of six (6) times as an undergraduate student at Savannah State University;
- Types of withdrawals being proposed are:
  a. Withdrawal before midterm (W)
  b. Withdrawal after midterm (WF)
  c. Hardship withdrawal (WH)
  d. Military withdrawal (WM)
  e. Non-academic withdrawal for Administrative cause (AW)
- Hardship and military withdrawals would not be included in the six (6) withdrawals listed above and each request will be reviewed on a case by case basis;
- If a student is summarily suspended and the suspension is later overturned, he or she would be allowed a hardship withdrawal if applied for and approved by the Vice President of Academic Affairs;
The number of times a student can withdraw under the hardship exception is unlimited, but again, each will be evaluated on a case by case basis;
- Hardship Withdrawal from the University - approved as written
- Military Withdrawal - approved as written
- Non-Academic Withdrawal for Administrative Cause - approved as written

New Agenda Item
The Commencement Participation Exception Form policy has been suspended via email vote. The vote was done by email at the request of Dr. Wyatt who asked:

I am recommending that the Commencement Participation Exception rule be discontinued, effectively immediately. Whereas this policy was established to facilitate a need, it has only exacerbated the situation. This policy has increased the workload on the Office of Academic Affairs, students are finding loopholes, students are failing classes their senior year, and departments are approving students to participate who are not enrolled in their last semester of classes, faculty members are changing grades in record numbers, etc. We tried it. It did not work.

Effective immediately, the policy will read:
TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMENCEMENT, ALL STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE ALL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS and MUST SUCCESSFULLY PASS THE REGENTS’. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS. (Any applications made this semester for May will be null and void. It was a violation of our policy to allow students to complete the application outside of the semester prior to enrollment in their last semester of coursework).

Addendum to policy for clarification: This rule will also apply to Students who are enrolled as transient students whose grades have not been posted in the Registrar’s Office at SSU.

Recorded votes:
Dr. Elazer Barnette vote in favor of the new policy
Dr. Ulysses Brown, III vote of support for the change in policy
Mr. Timothy Cranford vote for discontinuing effective immediately
Dr. Emily Crawford vote of support for the policy change
Dr. Samuel Dolo vote “YES” for proposed policy change
Dr. Derrek Dunn vote for discontinuing effective immediately
Mrs. Mary Jo Fayoyin vote of support for the change in policy
Dr. Dorothy Gardner-Martin vote in favor of the policy change
Dr. Jane Gates vote of support for the change in policy
Dr. Reginald Leseane vote “Yes” to the policy change
Ms. Pamela Majette vote of support for Dr. Wyatt’s recommendation
Dr. Mostafa Sarhan vote in favor of the proposed policy change
Prof. Nicholas Silberg vote for discontinuing effective immediately
Dr. Larry Stokes vote of support for the change in policy
Dr. Paul Torres vote of support for the change in policy
Dr. Asad Yousuf vote of support for the change in policy

A motion to rescind the policy was presented and approved by the Faculty Senate on January 18, 2011.

-Approved, suspended effective immediately

Announcements and/or comments
none

Adjourn

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