Minutes
New Programs and Curriculum Committee
September 30, 2010 @ 4:00 p.m.

In attendance: Dr. Mary Wyatt, Dr. Larry Stokes, Dr. Elissa Purnell, Dr. Michael Schroeder, Dr. Derrek Dunn, Dr. Karla Sue Marriott, Dr. Jane Gates, Dr. Dorothy Gardner-Martin, Dr. Cecil Jones, and Ms. Pamela Majette.

Minutes
The minutes of the September 16, 2010 meeting were approved with no corrections.

Request for New Agenda Items
- None

Policy 1.9.3.3 – Curriculum and New Programs (taken from the Faculty Handbook 4.27.2007 edition, SSU website)
The current policy reads:

The Curriculum and New Programs Committee shall consist of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the deans of the degree-granting units; the Registrar and six faculty members from degree granting units of the University appointed by the Senate in May on the recommendation of the committee on committees. Newly appointed faculty will take office the following September. The chairperson shall be the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

1. The Curriculum and New Programs Committee shall assume leadership in the development and coordination of sound and progressive academic programs for the university that are in conformity with practices followed in the University System of Georgia and by regional and professional accrediting bodies.

2. It shall consider the recommendations of all colleges and committees relating to instructional matters and forward all curricula modification proposals, with a recommended action, to the faculty senate for action.

3. It shall consider and recommend to the faculty senate such rules, program modifications (initiation, expansion, suspension, and/or deactivation), and regulations as will, in its opinion, facilitate and improve the academic operations of the university.

4. All proceedings of the Curriculum and New Programs Committee, except those dealing with routine matters, shall be promptly communicated in writing to and acted upon by the university Faculty Senate.

The revised policy reads:

The Curriculum and New Programs Committee New Programs and Curriculum Committee (NPCC) shall consist of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the deans of the degree-granting units; the Registrar and six faculty members from degree granting units of the University appointed by the Senate in May on the recommendation of the committee on committees. Newly appointed faculty will take office the following September. The chairperson shall be the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

1. The Curriculum and New Programs Committee New Programs and Curriculum Committee receives, reviews, and recommendations reports to the faculty on requests for modifications to existing undergraduate curricula or proposed curricula for new undergraduate programs. Recommendations of the committee are subject to the approval of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and, where necessary, the approval of the President.

2. It shall consider and report to the faculty senate such rules, program modifications (initiation, expansion, suspension, and/or deactivation), and regulations as will, in its opinion, facilitate and improve the academic operations of the university.

The Curriculum and New Programs Committee New Programs and Curriculum Committee shall meet at least twice each semester and at such other times as the presiding officer shall deem necessary.
Discussion Points (1.9.3.3) continued:
- It was the recommendation of Dr. Schroeder that the revised policy be sent to the Faculty Senate first, then submitted to the handbook committee;
- Dr. Gates recommends sending the policy to the handbook committee for inclusion with the finished revised version of the Faculty Handbook, which will be sent to the Faculty Senate for review anyway.
  - Approved for submission to Faculty Senate

COST
- Dr. Dunn presented the Establishment of Associate of Science Degree with options;
- A summary of the proposal states that many students have attended Savannah State University to enhance their education credentials to pursue other fields such as Nursing, Physical Therapy, Engineering, etc. While this practice has not necessarily hurt the College of Sciences and Technology’s retention rates, it has impacted our graduation rates since those students leave before completing a degree from Savannah State University. Re-establishing the Associate of Science Degree would give students who are interested in improving their educational credentials an opportunity to pursue degrees in fields not offered by SSU while not hurting the graduation rate of the college and university. The program is being designed to offer various options, but the degree awarded in each case would be an Associate of Science;
- The following handouts were given:
  1. Form I – Summary Page for Proposal;
  2. Survey of 121 COST Freshman Year Experience students who were asked if they planned to stay the entire four years at SSU to earn their degree;
  3. Associate of Science Degree Grids
     a. Engineering Studies Option
     b. Health Science Option
     c. Aquarium Science Option
     d. General Science and Technology Option
     e. Pre-Physics Option
- Dr. Dunn offered thanks to faculty members who helped with preparation of the option grids; Dr. Purnell (Health Science); Dr. Lambright (Engineering); Dr. Dunn (General Science & Technology); Dr. Hintz (Aquarium Science); and Dr. Li (Pre-Physics);
- Savannah State University’s application for admission will be modified to allow students to choose from two year and four year programs (admissions and COST are working on this);
- Undeclared students can declare their intention to receive an Associate of Science Degree at any time after admission;
- The newly hired recruiter in the COST is working with Admissions to review incomplete applications and see if the possibility exists to put those students on the Associates Degree track;
- Dr. Dunn suggested that the recruiter be allowed to work with undecided majors from Ms. Majette’s area to see if they desire to pursue an Associate of Science;
- Marketing materials are forthcoming to promote the Associate of Science degree at SSU;
- It was noted that successful delivery of the program would be easier with clear communication to our students;
  - Associate of Science (general) Approved effective December 2010 commencement
  - Associate of Science (w/ options) Approved effective Spring 2011 commencement

Core Curriculum Learning Outcomes
- Dr. Michael Schroeder handed out the Proposed Core Curriculum Learning Outcomes approved by the Core Curriculum Committee as of 9/21/10;
- The outcomes are as follows:
  o Area A1. Communication Outcomes
    Students produce well-organized written communication that meets conventional standards of composition and appropriately acknowledges the use of material from original sources.
  o Area A2. Quantitative Outcomes
    Students demonstrate the ability to utilize mathematical information and concepts in various forms to solve problems.
- Area B. Institutional Options
  Students analyze and evaluate elements of arguments and create effective, well-reasoned responses, considering opposing views when appropriate.

- Area C. Humanities and Fine Arts
  Students effectively analyze the meaning and cultural significance of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

- Area D. Science and Technology
  Students demonstrate a collegiate-level understanding of the nature of science and the scientific method and knowledge of fundamental concepts in one or more fields of science.

- Area E. Social Sciences
  Students critically analyze historical, economic, political, social, spatial, or psychological processes and how they contribute to the human experience.

- Area I. US Perspectives
  Students demonstrate collegiate-level knowledge and understanding of the history, culture, and politics of the United States.

- Area II. Global Perspectives
  Students demonstrate knowledge of political, social, economic, linguistic, or institutional developments and human diversity in global cultures.

- Area III. Critical Thinking
  Students analyze and evaluate elements of arguments and create effective, well-reasoned responses, considering opposing views when appropriate.

Dr. Schroeder said there were no substantial changes to our current core outcomes;
- The outcomes may seem vague, but that is encouraged by the Board of Regents;
- The panel asked Dr. Schroeder where is reading comprehension in the listed outcomes?
- Dr. Schroeder said Area A1 originally had two statements about reading, but they were removed because it was difficult to determine how reading outcomes were measured;
- It was stated that reading is embedded but not specifically identified in any outcome;
- Ms. Majette stated she spends $80K in adjunct salaries to cover Regents’ Reading courses;
- It was suggested that Area A1 needs reading statement to show that reading is institutionalized;
- It was noted that most students enter with poor reading ability;
- Can reading outcomes be measured by embedding a question on exams that allows students to read a passage and select a multiple choice answer (A – D)?
- Ms. Majette stated that 1/3 of Regents’ courses were for writing and 2/3 were for Reading and there are constant repeats;
- Moving forward, can SSU offer a reading course as an elective?
- It was recommended that Dr. Schroeder reincorporate a reading outcome;
- Dr. Schroeder said he would take it back to the committee for consideration;

Approved with the ability to amend

Announcements and/or comments
- Dr. Wyatt introduced Ms. Majette as the new Director of University College and stated she would be present to listen as curriculum changes affected the students she serves. She will not serve as a voting member;
- Dr. Elazer, Interim Director of The School of Teacher Education may also be present at future meetings;
- A recommendation would be sent to the Faculty Senate to change the handbook to reflect new members of the NPCC roster;
- It was noted that The School of Teacher Education exists structurally as approved by the Dean’s Council and the NPCC, but it is currently a degreeless entity until BOR approval of Education degrees;
- Dr. Wyatt will give an NPCC report at the October 5, 2010 Faculty Senate Meeting;

Adjourn