

**GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Americus, Georgia

Minutes of the General Faculty Meeting  
Wednesday, August 10, 2005, 2:00 pm  
Education Center 100

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Cathy Rozmus, Vice President for Academic Affairs. A quorum of the faculty was present. Dr. Rozmus asked the faculty to write down three items pertaining to the prior faculty development workshop which include (1) the changes that will be made or things that were thought about from the session with Virginia Johnson, co-author of *Effective Grading*, (2) a brief evaluation of the session, and (3) suggestions of topics and/or speakers for next year.

2. Approval of Minutes of May 4, 2005

The minutes of the May 4, 2005, General Faculty Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion to approve by Dr. Elizabeth Kuipers and a second by Dr. Anh-Hue Tu.

3. Remarks by the President

a. Dr. Hanes thanked Admissions for the refreshments. He stated that state colleges and universities across the state are facing problems with student graduation rates. The public is becoming aware of this issue and we need to do a better job of graduating students. Retention is clearly the first step toward increasing the graduation rates. The Chancellor initiated a project one and a half years ago to examine graduation rates and to create a task force system to look at the data to address this issue. GSW is expected to provide a plan of action by the end of September.

b. Questions from Faculty

1. A question was asked regarding enrollment for fall. Enrollment is up by 110 students from last year at this time. A loan program has been created for graduate students.

2. Dr. Herschel Beazley asked if we get credit if a student begins at GSW and then transfers to another university. The student is counted in the system retention rate but not for GSW.

3. Dr. Tom Johnson asked how students entering junior colleges without SAT scores impacted enrollment at GSW. Dr. Hanes stated that for the most part, it would not have any effect on first-year freshmen because they would not qualify for GSW. It could have a positive effect if the students do well and transfer to GSW.

4. Remarks by the Vice President for Academic Affairs
  - a. Dr. Rozmus commented on the summary of outcomes of civic engagement which was distributed. The summary will be voted on by the Academic Affairs Committee and then by the Assessment Committee. Everyone was asked to discuss the summary outcomes among their peers. Many of the objectives will also be covered in UNIV 1000 sessions.
  - b. Dr. Rozmus summarized a report of the Principles from the 2004 USG Chancellor's Graduation Task Force which was distributed.
  - c. Dr. Rozmus discussed graduation rates and how they are compared among the schools. The federal government uses institute specific graduation rates and we will continue to use these same rates at GSW. According to the university system wide rate, the student and institution are a success when calculating graduation rates; when using the federal government institute specific graduation rate, the student is a success, however, the institution does not get graduation credit. AASCU completed a year-long study of twelve schools in the country with the highest graduation rates to see what they were doing differently from other schools. The one emphasis that teams heard throughout the study was concern for student learning. The by-product of this is that the graduation rate was higher. Implementation of the learning outcomes and putting the focus on helping students learn will result in an increased graduation rate. Dr. Rozmus referred to Dr. Lisa Cooper's website to see comparisons of retention and graduation at GSW and peer schools. Also, the national data source, [www.collegeresults.org](http://www.collegeresults.org), compares data to institutions with similar statistics. The data include total head count, expenditures per FTE, and demographics of students. The transfer rate of GSW is 30%. Students who transfer to an institution do not count towards the success rate of that institution. Only first-time, full-time freshman count toward the success rate statistically. Students that begin as part-time students are not included in the data. The generalized data makes it easier to compare with other institutions and is not intended to disregard other groups of students or imply that we are not concerned about them. Dr. Rozmus emphasized that we want to focus on learning outcomes and helping students learn for all students including transfers.
  - d. The PBS documentary entitled "Declining by Degrees" has been ordered and will be used for faculty development.

5. New Business

Statute Changes – Title Changes

Title changes in the statutes that were approved by the faculty are as follows: from Associate Dean for Academic Services to Dean for Academic Services and Special Programs, from Director of Continuing Education to Dean of Continuing Education, and from Director of Library Services to Dean of the Library.

6. Announcements

- a. Dr. Anh-Hue Tu and Dr. Stephanie Harvey just returned from Yellowstone National Park which is part of the American Democracy Project. Special sections of UNIV 1000 will use the re-introduction to wolves as a case study to develop civic engagement and skills. They want to have a local project and possibly a global project at a later date.
  - b. Ms. Gaye Hayes stated that Monday is registration and advisement for new students. She thanked everyone for helping with Preview Day.
  - c. Ms. Lynda Lee Purvis announced that Monday is also registration for current, returning, and re-admitted students. Efforts have been made to register them this summer. She will be sending information regarding registration day to all of those involved.
  - d. Dr. Kris Lawson asked if the calendar was going to be updated beyond December 2005. Ms. Lynda Lee Purvis said that she would check on it.
  - e. Dr. Hanes announced that a group has been working on the new web page for the last nine months. He respects what the web page group has done. It was recommended that we make it more directly accessible for new students off-campus. We have to become more aggressive in recruiting new students.
  - f. In response to a question from Dr. Peggy Ellington about classes being full, Ms. Lynda Lee Purvis asked that anyone who is willing to add two seats to their section to send her an email. We are getting more transfers that need courses. She will ask Ms. Donja Tripp to run a program of those who have not paid and will see if it can be posted or distributed to the faculty.
7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m. for faculty to attend the Faculty Committee meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

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Dawn J. Knapp, Secretary

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Michael L. Hanes, President