

Faculty Senate Meeting
BHP Building
Friday October 23, 2015 9:00 am
Harold Isaacs Conference Room

Present: Sam Peavy, Robert Bennett, Queen Brown, Lee Ann Dalzell, Chadwick Gugg. Rebecca Gee, Jamie MacLennan, Yangil Park, Brian Parkinson, Laurel Robinson, Rebecca Short, Thomas Weiland, Brian Adler (Ex-Officio)

Absent: Courtney McDonald; Mark Laughlin

Guest: Helen Tate

The October meeting of the Georgia Southwestern State University Faculty Senate was held at 9:00 AM on Friday, October 23, 2015 in the Dr. Harold Isaacs Conference Room in the BHP Building. The President of the Faculty Senate, Dr. Sam Peavy, was in the chair.

September 25, 2014 Faculty Senate Meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion was made by Professor Robinson to approve the minutes; seconded by Professor Dalzell. Motion carried.

The President presented a proposal initiated by the Department of Computer Science to deactivate the Undergraduate Certificate in Information Technology (Online). Motion was made by Professor Robinson to accept; seconded by Dr. Short. Motion carried.

The President asked Dr. Bennett to brief the committee on the discussion from the previous meeting regarding making a decision to move the Spring Faculty Meeting to accommodate the annual Student Appreciation Day. After some discussion, a motion was made by Professor Robinson to begin the Spring General Faculty Meeting at 9:00 am in the Nursing Building Carter I Auditorium to avoid a time conflict with Student Appreciation Day; seconded by Dr. Weiland. Motion carried.

Guest Speaker, Dr. Helen Tate, informed the committee about the decision to change fall and spring graduation ceremonies to Friday at 3:00 pm as an attempt to solve the current problem of chaos/disorder created at each ceremony because of lack of space to accommodate the large crowd of family and friends desiring to attend. Spring 2016 graduation is scheduled to be held Friday, May 6, at 3:00 pm and fall 2016 graduation will be held on the second Friday in December 2016.

Professor Robinson suggested a more appropriate time should be considered for the fall 2016 graduation because fall time changes will probably result in the ceremony ending in evening darkness and resulting in other problems for travelers.

In addition, Dr. Adler addressed the desire of Interim President Patterson to see more faculty participate in graduation ceremonies.

Dr. Brian Parkinson asked to hear an update on the status of the University Mission Statement and the Strategic Plan. He addressed concerns about the future of the university and the morale of faculty and staff. Dr. Weiland and Professor Robinson both agreed that a timeline for completion is necessary.

Dr. Adler announced updates on the EAB initiative to direct development of the University strategic plan. He recently attended a conference in DC for the EAB, Education Advisory Board. The EAB is a high powered think tank that will help our institution with our strategic plan, which will expire at the end this semester.

Dr. Weiland and Professor Robinson suggested the need to receive more direction from the university President and asked Faculty Senate President Peavy to invite President Patterson to attend the next meeting to address concerns regarding implementation of a timeline for completion of the strategic plan.

Dr. MacLennan expressed concern about the length of time it takes the Registrar's Office to process or complete a student Graduation Application/Audit. Dr. Tate explained how completion of a Graduation Audit can be verified by checking codes in Degree Works or by checking with Krista Smith or Lynda Lee Purvis.

No other announcements or discussions were made. Professor Robinson made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Dr. Weiland. Motion carried.

The next Faculty Senate meeting was tentatively set for either Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 4:00 pm or Friday, November 13, 2015 at 9:00 am in the Education Center Conference Room 104.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Queen Brown