FACULTY SENATE MEETING: 3-24-2017

ATTENDANCE:

Paula Bryant

Queen Brown

Elizabeth Gurnack

John Wilson   
Chadwick Gugg

Laurel Robinson

Tom Weiland

Mark Laughlin

Brian Adler

Lynda Lee Purvis

Charles Patterson

1. The minutes from the meeting of November 18, 2016 were approved with the following change: Item #4 replace “improve” with “lower”.
2. Dr. Patterson provided the following update to the Senate:
   1. The hole in the ground in the front of the Administration building is for a new small plaza that is being built. It will have “GSW” built in boxwood bushes, they have also removed several overgrown trees by the SOE Building. There is an ongoing effort of campus beautification. The “Jimmy Carter” signature is to be included in the new wall for the plaza so it can easily be seen by visitors. The Panhellenic organizations are each designing their own bench. These benches will be installed across from the Physical Plant building.
   2. The Vinson study is a comprehensive investigation to study staff, faculty, administrative duties and compensation along with the salary equity study. The assessment will be finished in August, mid fall will start the study and it should be complete by 2018.
   3. There are auditors on campus this week and next for the Presidential Transition study. This was delayed for 3 years (should be done when a President leaves.)
   4. We have a 2% merit pool from the State that will be distributed to Deans. The University will add some funds to that to address equity issues. We do not know how much yet and will not know until May or June.
   5. Monday there will be a President’s Advisory Committee meeting at which the institutional enrollment management plan will be shared. This is a companion plan to the Strategic Plan. It will describe our market and how we will address that market and what our own enrollment projections are. 3500 students is our goal. How can we reach this benchmark? Fall 2017 registration is down a bit compared to 2016. We can attribute some of this to the fact that Admissions is busy with implementation of TargetX program, a mass communication tool that will help in recruitment and admission of students.
3. Lynda Lee Purvis requested the following input from the Faculty Senate:
   1. Length of the Semester: The Senate unanimously endorsed having 15 weeks of instruction followed by 1 week of finals as opposed to having 14 weeks of instruction followed by 1 week of finals. The most crucial point was that the faculty felt they needed the time to adequately cover the course material. This will help bring GSW hours in line with the average for the USG.
   2. Class Week: The Senate was generally in favor of consideration of moving back to having classes Monday through Friday instead of Monday through Thursday, even though several departments currently do offer classes on Fridays. The Senate is aware that the shift to a 5-day class week would have repercussions on several departments and programs who have adapted to the current schedule such that it may be difficult to switch back. The Senate agreed to consider this issue in more detail in the following academic year.
4. The Senate unanimously thanked Ms. Purvis for her extensive work in this area and for her willingness to come out of retirement to serve GSW as interim VPAA.
5. The Senate considered and APPROVED with some discussion the following items from Academic Affairs Committee:
   1. Master of Science in Nursing Curriculum Change
   2. BSED in Health and Physical Science Curriculum Change (HPER 3250 -> HPER 3230)
   3. Proposal for Autism Education Endorsement Program
   4. BA Music Major Curriculum Change
   5. BA Music Minor Curriculum Change
   6. Digital Media Technology Certificate Curriculum Change
   7. Proposal for Pop Music Certificate (online)
   8. Deactivation of Dual Degree Program with Georgia Tech
   9. Deactivation of M.A. in English, Critical Literacy
6. The application for Graduate Faculty Membership for Joy Humphrey was unanimously approved.
7. The Proposal for a change in ITAC description in the Statutes was unanimously approved.
8. The Sexual Harassment Training is currently online. It was discussed whether it might be better to have in person training. Since there does not seem to be any current problems, the Senate voted unanimously to keep the training as is, that is on-line.
9. The Senate agreed to a slight change in the timing of incoming Senators and the change of leadership. We will request that all schools announce and elect their new Senators before the end of the Academic year such that the new Senators (along with the current Senate) can meet in the last meeting of this year (April 21, 2017) and the new President can be elected before the summer break. This will allow the new Senators to help elect their President and ensure that there is continuity of leadership throughout the summer if issues arise that may require the input or presence of the Faculty Senate and/or the Faculty Senate President.
10. Other business: Laurel Robinson inquired of Dr. Patterson if the Amendment in the GA Constitution giving all USG policy change power to the BOR rather than the Legislature had been discussed in light of the renewed move to get another campus carry bill through. He responded that it had been discussed, but there was another bill being proposed to put all USG budgeting in the hands of the Legislature circumventing the BOR. The BOR can’t push for the use of the amendment over losing control over budget/USG funding. Dr. Patterson indicated that although the BOR and the USG Presidents were still opposed to campus carry, it was up to the governor and seemed more likely this time to pass.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be April 21st, 2017 at 10:00 in the Third World Studies Conference Room in the Library.

Respectfully submitted by M. E. Gurnack