

Georgia Southwestern State University

Faculty Senate Minutes - DRAFT

Present: Mulleins-Foreman, McKie, Crosby, Wynn, MacLennan, Smith, Kaus, LeJeune, Carter, Dahlgren (Guest), Jacobs, Abbot, Johnston.

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 3:30pm

Nursing 106

1. Call to Order at 3:32 PM

- a) Approval of Agenda
- b) LeJeune moved to approve. Wynn Seconded.
- c) Passes Unanimously

2. Minutes

- a) February 13, 2025
- b) **LeJeune moved to approve. Crosby Seconded.**
- c) **Passes Unanimously**

3. Senate Activity Updates

- a) President's Cabinet Meeting Report (2/18)
 1. Pres. Johnston is looking for feedback on table talks
 2. Discussed the Dear Colleague letter to the Office of Civil rights. Also more questions about grant freezes and current events. No major new conclusions.
- b) Update on Action Items Sent to Committees
 - i. Faculty Affairs (Probationary Credit Policy and USG Core Values Statement)
 - ii. Said they will meet. They have not met for it.
- b. MacLennan Briefed on the Evaluation taskforce. Asked everyone to promote the survey.
 - i. Was discussion of the exigence and need.

4. Public Address - None

5. University Updates and Q+A

- a) President Michelle Johnston
 1. Thanks for the busy semester, and I hope that spring break allows a bit of rest
 2. Provost's search: Thanks to members of the committee. Going well. Material review starts Friday. On campus in April
 3. New HR director. Kimberly Carter starts next week.
 4. Faculty Staff awards next week
 5. ASPIRE – Dr. Abbot did great work. Encouraging and positive

6. Lots of events coming up. Commencement may 9th. Want to continue and expand faculty involvement. Respond Dr. Davis' email
7. The big event. The house building project. IS designed for individual sign up. April 14-19, 22 and 24. Do not excuse students from class for
8. Investiture is in two weeks. Get to highlight the excellence on campus.
 - i. Includes ribbon cutting of Griffin Bell Conference center. Actual cutting around 4:20. There until 6 or so.
 - ii. Griffin Bell Lecture series. Monday at 5PM in Jackson Hall. Fireside chat with Larry Thompson.
 - iii. Will announce strategic plan process.
9. State Level – are 74 bills in relation to the university system in some way. Two that we are watching:
 - i. SB 120 (was tabled, did not crossover). Purpose is to not promote DEI.
 - ii. SB 181 (is active). Shall not accept funding from foreign adversaries, from Commerce list. Could affect our China partnerships
 - iii. Updates on performance based funding from the Chancellor's office. He sees this this as “playing against yourself.”
10. Federal level
 - i. Lots of proposed changes without a lot of clear detail. We are awaiting updates.
 - ii. Dear Colleague Letter. Johnston summarized the letter and key points of the FAQ.
 - a. We are trying to understand the ramifications.
 - b. All regional accreditors wrote about concerns with the ambiguity and lack of reasonable time to comply.
 - c. We are not making changes at this time based on assessment that we are in compliance or need further study.
 - d. System changes may come through. E.g. AAMI was canceled by USG under this guidance.
 - e. Doing our best to communicate and grow within these limitation

b) Interim Provost Rachel Abbott

1. ASPIRE

- i. Positive and collaborative. Centrally discussion
- ii. Bulk of the meeting is our 5 strategies (tied to momentum plan). They are:
 - i. Clear degree pathway
 - ii. Co-curricular engagement (HAIL focused)
 - iii. Pass rates in 1101 and first math course

- iv. Was creating graduate school, now is increasing enrollment, recruitment, and retention of graduate students
 - v. Freshmen taking 15 hours.
 - b. Strategies may change with the strategic plan
- iii. New academic program ideas. Discussed three programs: Dr. of Nursing Practice, MA Teaching, BS Public Health. Generally well received.
- iv. Programs required focused attention.
 - a. Clarified errors. And asked for follow meeting if needed.
 - b. Discussed unsatisfactory performance programs. Discussed strategies and plans.
 - c. Programs will need retention and enrollment feedback in CPR
 - d. Same for the at risk programs.
 - e. Dr. Cheokas is working with the list of 2 cycle programs to set up for the follow up meeting in 1-2 months.
 - f. Dr. Abbot will be following up for conversations with programs to make plans for our best futures.

2. Evaluation

- i. Covered a wide range of topics
 - ii. Norming session. Not norming to a three, but norming what a three by campus.
 - a. Pushed on language in the policy. Need to be more clearly defining the roles.
 - b. Not going to norm as a campus right now.
 - c. Will be sending out an email to provosts to revisit the terminology. E.g. what are the adjectives and what they mean (noteworthy, significant, etc).
 - iii. Our taskforce is well timed to think through these issues.
3. Re: Colleague Letter – Events need to be open all students
 4. Post-Tenure review: we are being audited (all institutions are). Done in the next few weeks.
 5. Discussion of summer pay agreements.
 6. Discussion of AI policy discussions on campus.

- i. Process is starting soon.

6. Committee Recommendations

a) Academic Affairs

- i. Proposed Revision of General Associate Degree and General Baccalaureate Degree Requirements
 - a. Carter moves to approve. Mulleins-Foreman, seconds. Passes unanimously
- ii. English – Curriculum change
 - a. Carter Moves to approve. Jacobs Seconds. Passes Unanimously.
- iii. Health Sciences – Curriculum change
 - a. Lejeune moves to approve. Jacobs Seconds. Passes unanimously.
- iv. Social Sciences Core – Course addition. LeJeune moves to approve, Mulleins-Foreman seconds. Passes unanimously

b) Graduate Affairs

- i. Graduate Withdrawal Policy.
 - a. Carter moves to approve. Jacobs seconds. Passes unanimously

7. Senate Discussion Items / Future Action Items

a) Program Deactivation Policy

- 1. We have been drafting language. We do not have clear guidance. Will review peer policies so that we can finalize at the next meeting.

b) Senate Handbook revisions

- 1. Reminder of the timeline.

8. Announcements - none

9. Adjourn – 5:27