

**Georgia Southwestern State University  
Faculty Senate**

Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.  
GSW Nursing Building, Room 106

**Minutes – Approved Nov. 30, 2023**

**Members in Attendance (11):** John LeJeune (President), Amber Stovall (Vice-President), Ashley Jones (Secretary), Ian Brown, Sisi Chen, Chadwick Gugg, Anne Jacobs, Sai Mukkavilli, Thelma Sexton, Sondra Smith, Keaton Wynn

**Ex-officio Members in Attendance (2):** President Neal Weaver, Provost Jill Drake

**1. Call to Order:**

- a. John LeJeune called the meeting to order 4:30 p.m.
- b. As a preliminary matter, agenda item 7(a)ix is tabled due to not having passed Academic Affairs.

**2. Approval of Minutes from September 26, 2023**

- a. Thelma Sexton moves to approve, seconded by Anne Jacobs, and approved unanimously with mandatory abstentions from Ian Brown, Sisi Chen, Sondra Smith, and Jill Drake.

**3. Public Address**

- a. There was no sign-up for public address.

**4. Senate Activity Updates**

- a. **USG Faculty Council:** John LeJeune noted that he would be attending the USG Faculty Council meeting on 10/26 and will report back.
- b. **In House Math Exam Update:** Plans are still in the works for setting a meeting Dr. Drake, David Jenkins, Chadwick Gugg and Stephanie Harvey relating to creating/implementing a Math placement exam.
- c. **Email from Dr. Drake on USG Withdrawal Policy:** USG registrars have proposed for changes to be made to the W grade description in USG policy that would allow institutions to set their Withdrawal without penalty deadlines beyond the midterm date currently used. Dr. Drake has asked for our feedback by November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Senators will be sent a summary and relevant info to give feedback by Friday 10/27.
- d. **Senate Faculty Survey Update:** The results are in and include 37 responses -- 18 A&S, 4 COBAC, 3 Nursing, 3 Education, 9 non-specified. Around 4 lines of response text will not to be sent out to the full Senate, but will be discussed in private meetings with administration. Results will be printed out and sent to everyone's office (under their door) on Friday 10/27. At the end of the process the Senate will debrief and improve based on criticisms. Each of the 5 established Survey

subcommittees will create a report based on responses to their assigned question that will be brought to the December Senate meeting.

## 5. University Updates and Q+A

### a. President Dr. Neal Weaver

i. **Good news:** Not official, but 11% enrollment increase is the largest increase in entire system for Fall 2023. Will hopefully be recognized as the fastest growing institution in Georgia. Thanks to the faculty and staff.

ii. **Bad News:** Bad News: 2 weeks ago, notified by system office for expectation FY 25 budget will be cut of \$980,000 for GSW. Hopefully half of it will be mitigated. Enrollment increase will be reflected in the FY 26 budget. Reason for cut is that the graduate enrollment has come down since COVID by about 700 students, about the numbers of Fall 2020.

iii. **Graduate Office:** We need more attention to our graduate students and programs. Implementing a graduate office to help with this. What kind of graduate programs we should be considering to add?

iv. **Faculty development** is a real need and we want to explore options for consistency in the support of programs and efforts. QEP may create framework for development activities.

v. **Architecture and funding:** The System is providing us money to knock down Duncan Hall and Jordan Hall. 1 year to complete this project. \$1.2 million to knock down. Bad News: No money to do anything else after they are knocked down. Landscape of campus is going to change with the science building knock down and re-build as well.

vi. **Chancellor visit:** The Chancellor was on campus last week, believes he left happy with the state of campus.

#### vii. **Q+A:**

-Any budget amendments for this fiscal year yet? Won't know until January, but are expecting an amendment. Chancellor is hoping \$66 million will come back in. Hoping to replace some of the Covid cut.

-Is there a longer term plan for what goes into Duncan and Jordan Hall? Jordan Hall probably won't be rebuilt. Planning to convert MSC business/HR office back to student center services. Duncan Hall is prime real estate, but possibly a classroom building. Morgan is also bad and needs to be addressed.

-Ian Brown: Mentioned the need for speed bumps by dome and science building.

-How many students do we/will we have from ZhouKou Normal? How are we anticipating the teaching challenges? Possibly 115 people-ish. GSW will be paid for 30 next year, even if 100 come. Dr. Weaver, deferring to Dr. Drake as well, expressed awareness of the teaching challenges to anticipate, and said that it is important to ensure that student preparation matches our standard expectations of freshman students, and that this is being followed and monitored.

### b. Provost Dr. Jill Drake

i. **ZhouKou Normal:** Dr. Drake iterates that students must demonstrate appropriate preparation and accomplishments to receive a GSW degree. Some issues have been observed, and administration is aware of the need for due diligence.

ii. **RAC meeting attended:** Discussed metrics dashboards for student success at much more in-depth levels than before. System wants to see progression with student success. For our type of institution this is a good thing for our institutional research, although it means Big Brother is also watching. Going to affect the academic forecast meetings when they meet with USG team.

iii. **AI:** Dr. Drake discussed continuing concerns with identifying and addressing challenges related to the ethical use of AI.

iv. **Textbooks:** System made agreement with McGraw Hill and all books they offer will be part of low cost/no cost.

v. **CoreIMPACTS:** Soft launch this spring, including syllabi template with career competencies and guiding questions will be rolled out. For the most part so far, we've been fine with the SLOs that the system created; we are leaving History and Political Science ("P") as is.

vi. **ERP: Enterprise Resource Planning:** PeopleSoft, Banner, Georgia First, they want a more unified system across USG institutions. Long plan to roll out a unified solution. Financials and HR are first and then go to Banner possibly. Different platforms to talk to each other.

vii. **Faculty Evaluation Forms:** Are being moved to Dynamic Forms

viii. **Summer Contracts:** Still working on it. Must put in Dynamic Forms and establish who is filling out the sections, etc. But summer contracts are coming.

ix. **Pathify and My.GSW feedback:** We are not getting a lot of use out of the alerts and messaging. Is there a way to make it easy for faculty? Only four faculty used the alerts. Average is 20 from Beacon.

x. **Met with SGA President:** Does faculty do sensitivity training? We don't. DEI as part of the committee's work. Circle back to this issue. We have a diverse student population, and Dr. Drake wants to find out more about how to address this.

xi. **Georgia Match:** This is a Governor's initiative with letters to HS seniors with automatic admittance to certain schools. Started on October 5<sup>th</sup>. GSW had 114 students claim their spot. 30 applied, 157 students wanted more information, 17 have applied. Only three not participating. Dr. Weaver noted that he was unsure what ultimate the tradeoff is – whether GSW will gain or lose from this.

xii. **Q&A:**

-Letters from Governors, will we not see ACT/SAT in the future? Hasn't been discussed yet, unsure if they will bring back test scores. Probably not anytime soon.

-Why are Alerts not being used? - Some faculty have concerns with privacy. It defaults to group send instead of individual, and is a FERPA violation waiting to happen. Also looking up advisors is a pain – one can just email the advisors instead of using the alerts.

## 6. Senate Discussion Items / Action Items

**a. Senator John Wilson:** Best wishes to our colleague John Wilson, who is now the Director of South Georgia Technical College Library.

**i. Vacancies:** The Vacancy on Administrative Faculty Survey Subcommittee will be filled by John LeJeune. Dr. LeJeune will also reach out to the Library about replacing the Library position on the Senate.

**b. Official Senate Communication Form:** This form is intended for use by any faculty member wants to talk directly to Faculty Senate. At some point it will be converted into a Dynamic Form.

**i.** Motion from John LeJeune to adopt the official senate communication form, with the addition of the lines “Please fill out the entire form. Incomplete forms will not be accepted,” seconded by Amber Stovall seconds. Discussion: Link to the form on the faculty senate webpage is needed; and the form should also be placed on the Faculty Forms. The motion was approved unanimously.

**c. GSW Midterm Grade Policy** – John LeJeune briefly discussed the gathering of Senate Survey Results, resources generously provided by Brian Mallett at Institutional Research, and Next Steps. An additional month is needed to analyze the results, with discussion planned for the next Senate meeting.

## 7. Committee Recommendations

### a. Academic Affairs

**i. BBA in Project Management:** After summary provided by Carol Bishop, John LeJeune motioned to approve the BBA in Project Management, seconded by Sondra Smith and approved unanimously.

**ii. New Course: HRMT 4990: HR in New Practice**

**iii. New Course: MGNT 3620: Supply Chain Management**

**iv. New Course: DATA: 1501: Introduction to Data Science**

**v. New Course: THEA 1100: ECore Theater Application**

**vi. New Course: ACCT 4220: Data Analysis in Accounting**

Items 7a(ii-vi) were tabled.

**vii. Curriculum Change: Accounting: Updating courses listed for required courses and electives for majors:** John LeJeune motioned to approve the curriculum change to Accounting, seconded by Anne Jacobs and approved unanimously.

**viii. Curriculum Change: Accounting: Update to courses listed for students**

**seeking a minor:** John LeJeune motioned to approve the curriculum change to Accounting, seconded by Anne Jacobs, and approved unanimously.

**ix. Curriculum Change: English: Area B Core Curriculum:** Tabled

**b. Faculty Affairs Committee**

**i. Faculty Handbook: Absences, Remote Work, and Sick Leave Policy:** John LeJeune motion to approve policy changes from Faculty Affairs, Thelma Sexton second, and approved unanimously.

**c. Graduate Affairs Committee**

**i. New Course: BUSA 6650: Six Sigma Fundamentals and the DMAIC Approach:** Item tabled.

**ii. Graduate Faculty Status: Dr. Soumendra Banerjee:** John Lejeune motions to approve Soumendar Banerjee's graduate faculty status, seconded by Sondra Smith, and approved unanimously.

**8. Additional Concerns**

- a. Sai Mukkavilli raised one concern related to Dr. Drake mentioning the ethical use of AI as ethical. Can we have a workshop for what the ethics should look like? We need an official policy. This is in the Instructional technology wheelhouse, so Dr. LeJeune will reach out to IT/Gary for, perhaps, a teaching circle. Lee Wright is chair of IT committee.

**9. Announcements**

- a. There were no announcements.

**10. Adjourn**

- a. Sondra Smith motioned to adjourn, seconded by Anne Jacobs, and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned 5:48 p.m.

**Guests in Attendance:**

Carol Bishop, Mark Laughlin