

**Georgia Southwestern State University  
Faculty Senate Meeting- 8/15/23  
12 p.m. GSW Nursing Building Room 106**

**\*\* (Meeting was moved from Rm. 105 for logistical reasons.) \*\***

**MINUTES - Approved 9/26/2023**

**Members in Attendance (15):** John LeJeune, Amber Stovall, Ashley Jones, Ian Brown, Sisi Chen, Michael Crosby, Michelle Dykes, Chadwick Gugg, Anne Jacobs, Sai Mukkavilli, Thelma Sexton, Sondra Smith, Anh-Hue Tu, John Wilson, Keaton Wynn

1. **Call to Order:** Called by J. Lejeune @ 12:01
  - a. There were no changes to the agenda
  - b. Introduction of John LeJeune and Amber Stovall as President/Vice President, and of all Senators.
  
2. **Approval of Minutes from April 27, 2023**
  - a. Thelma Sexton motioned to approve, seconded by Anne Jacobs
  - b. Motion passes with thirteen in favor and two abstentions (Brown and Dykes)
  
3. **Public Address**
  - a. John LeJeune motioned to permanently add public address to Senate agendas with twenty minutes total allowed, and no more than 5 minutes per speaker, seconded by John Wilson
  - b. At the suggestion of Michael Crosby, Dr. LeJeune amended the motion to include pre-approval of participating to public address, with all sign-ups contacting the Senate President at least 48 hours in advance with a summary of topics to be discussed; seconded by John Wilson.
  - c. Motion passes unanimously.
  
4. **Summer Senate Updates-John LeJeune**
  - a. **Meetings with Administration:** Dr. LeJeune discussed meetings over Summer with Dr. Weaver and Dr. Drake. Topics discussed included:
    - i. Role of Senate in relation to other administrative offices.
      1. Particular issues that Senate should be paying attention to, in light of Senate Bylaws and USG Policy Manual.
    - ii. Where can we work together?
      1. Dr. Drake & Dr. Weaver will attend meetings and accept Q+A, although they were regrettably unable to attend today's

meeting due to Freshman Convocation. Their agendas will be at beginning of the meeting, with the expectation that exiting the meeting after that point is an understandable choice. .

2. Administration will bring issues that impact faculty to Senate at the earliest possible, while the Senate is responsible for informing the faculty of what we have learned.
3. Issues of concern to Dr. Weaver and Dr. Drake also included:
  - a. No SAT/ACT requirements with 3.0 GPA Average.
  - b. Overload Pay and Costs.
  - c. Advising: Complaints on inequities with advisees.
  - d. How to strengthen the Senate: Procedures and transparency.
    - i. Legal Compliance of Senate and Committees

**b. No SAT/ ACT Admissions Issue:**

- i. Over summer information was gathered through emails with Dr. Gugg (Math), Dr. Gurnack (Chemistry). Dr. Dahlgren (English), and Dr. Harvey (Biology), and a meeting with David Jenkins (FYE) about ways to address concerns with proper course placement of incoming students with no SAT/ACT scores. A meeting will be set up between Dr. Drake and these stakeholders to determine the best path forward, with the most popular idea being implementation of an in-house math exam.

**c. USG Faculty Council**

- a. De Facto member change: Senate President is the current GSW Faculty Council representative
- b. University spending on DEI: Interested Senators can contact Dr. LeJeune for recent USG report
- c. Dr. LeJeune will forward a recent email with an AAUP survey on tenure and academic freedom to all faculty.

**5. President and Provost -- University Updates & Q&A**

- a. Not in attendance to fulfill: Dr. Weaver and Dr. Drake could not attend due to overlapping Freshman Convocation duties, and both send their regrets.

**6. Senate Strategic Planning 2023-2024**

**a. Bylaws Discussion**

**i. Mission Statement**

1. The Senate discussed the nature of its mission in light of 3.2.3 from the USG policy manual. It was noted that the USG Policy Manual and Faculty Senate Bylaws do not squarely

match. A future task will be to go through the current Faculty Senate Bylaws and make the two documents consistent.

ii. **Standing & Ad Hoc Committees**

1. Future Bylaws revisions should clarify committee structure and the difference between “Faculty Senate” committees and Administrative Working Groups, as well as if/when the latter fulfills committee service requirements.
2. Carter Leadership Committee: Confusion reigned over what kind of committee the old Carter Leadership Program Committee was, and the Senate discussed whether to establish a new version of the committee in light of recurrent but nondescript faculty concerns about the program. The issue was tabled.

iii. **Senate Calendar- Officer Turnover**

1. Revisions to the Senate Bylaws should clarify when Faculty Senate officer responsibilities turn over.

iv. **USG Faculty Council:** The topic was already covered.

**b. Open Meetings Act Compliance:** The Senate briefly discussed steps to be taken to ensure full Senate compliance with the OMA, including prompt posting of agendas, minutes, etc.

**c. Faculty Senate and the Website**

- i. **Committee Meetings with Websites:** To enhance the functioning and compliance of the Senate, steps will be taken in the Fall semester to give every Senate Committee a website where agendas, minutes, and other relevant information can be posted. A process will also be developed to make it as easy as possible on chairs, administrators, website developers, etc.

**d. Data Gathering by Next Meeting:** As part of setting the Senate’s annual agenda, the Senate will gather information from faculty about their concerns, preferences, and priorities.

1. Motion by LeJeune for the Senate’s Executive Committee (LeJeune, Stovall, Jones) to create a Faculty Survey on the issues or concerns that Faculty Senate should address, seconded by Michelle Dykes, and passed unanimously.
  - a. Additional suggestions included asking questions related to academic integrity and upper administration
2. At the suggestion of Dr. Jones, the Senate will also pursue an ongoing Google Form on its Website for Public Address/Issues or Concerns

- e. **Faculty Senate Handbook:** Dr. LeJeune spoke briefly on the kind of information that might be posted on the Senate Website to refresh members of the Senate's procedures, powers, and general functioning.
- f. **Open Forum- Other Concerns?**
  - i. Summer Pay-Formula & Contracts
  - ii. Discretion of Faculty Member for running a class in the summer with low enrollment?
  - iii. Academic Integrity & Cheating Issues
    - 1. Response time from Student Success or Student Conduct
      - a. What is their process?
      - b. Who runs it?
      - c. Timestamps for expediency
    - 2. In House Punishments and Appeal Process
  - iv. ProctorU examinations, especially for online
    - 1. How many is too many?
- g. **Future Meeting Schedule**
  - i. Find a time with a quorum or multiple times, based on submitted availability; will send out schedule once conferring with Dr. Weaver & Dr. Drake.

## 7. Adjourn

- a. John Wilson motions to adjourn, seconded by Anne Jacobs, and passed unanimously. Adjourn at 1:36 p.m.