

Georgia Southwestern State University

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes (unapproved)

Date: November 17, 2025

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: Carter Two, Room 236

Attendees: MacLennan, Carter, Hart, LeJeune, Berggren, Cook, Crosby, Ghosh, Gosa, Kaus, McKie, Meador, Parkinson, Stovall, Wynn, Johnston (Ex Officio), Abbott (Ex Officio),

- 1) The meeting was called to order by MacLennan at 3:06 pm.
- 2) Minutes approved
- 3) Senate Activity Updates
 - a) President's Cabinet Meeting Report on October 21, 2025
 - i) Enrollment and retention increased
 - ii) One-year post-graduation median income for GSW alums is ranked third highest among USG institutions.
 - iii) The National Institute of Student Success and Master Planning are ongoing
 - iv) The President's Cabinet discussed security training on phone and email verification.
 - v) A vote will be taken on November 18 by the President's Cabinet on the GSW Social Media Policy, with guidelines on how to engage online when in an official GSW capacity.
 - vi) Faculty Evaluation Task Force – programs are charged with creating rubrics which are due in Fall 2026.
- 4) Public Address – none
- 5) University Updates Q and A
 - a) President Michelle Johnston
 - i) USG has 382,000 students with the largest enrollment to date. GSW's enrollment increase was 8.5%. Since 2021, state universities have grown at a 5.8% rate, while GSW has grown at a 27.2% rate.
 - ii) Both graduate and undergraduate enrollment have increased.
 - iii) Dual enrollment is rising. GSW has seen a 20.5% increase in dual enrollment.
 - iv) GSW is fourth overall in enrollment increases out of the 26 USG institutions.
 - v) Full-Time Enrollment – FTE enrollment grew 8%.
 - vi) Retention – GSW's retention rate has grown. With this growth, GSW received the Chancellor's Award for Retention Increases. GSW is still comparatively low in our sector for retention rates.
 - vii) Average loan amounts at GSW are the lowest in our sector.
 - viii) GSW has a low faculty and staff turnover rate compared to other USG institutions.

- ix) Experiential learning courses – GSW has grown from 1,111 enrollments to 3,469 enrollments.
- x) The Master Planning Forum on November 20 will discuss potential growth opportunities.
- xi) Graduation is December 12, and all faculty are expected to attend unless they have notified their Dean or Chair.
- xii) Dr. Rachel Abbott was announced as the GSW Provost effective December 1, 2025.
- b) Interim Provost Rachel Abbott
 - i) The fifth Humanities Symposium on Friday, November 14, 2025, was highly successful, receiving many positive student comments.
 - ii) The GSW Faculty Senate President will receive a \$1,500 stipend for Fall 2025 and Spring 2026. The stipend will be \$600 for Summer 2026.
 - iii) Phone verification procedures are in effect and should be reviewed by faculty and staff.
 - iv) The NISS Team was on campus today to launch a three-year partnership with GSW to work on the four student success recommendations tailored to GSW's needs. The focus will be on student standard care for advising, with consistent university-wide policies.
 - v) Dr. Jenkins will continue to work with NISS, after Dr. Davis retires.
 - vi) The Annual Faculty Evaluation - Deans are beginning to work with programs to develop evaluation instruments. In mid-February or March 2026, the Deans will come together to work on comparability between developed drafts. The new evaluation rubrics will take effect in January 2027. The first evaluation in which the new rubrics will apply is 2028.
 - vii) With academic growth and faculty success three new faculty positions in Management, Music, and Education have been added.
 - viii) Budget hearings –
 - (1) There were 17 hearings with 5 million in requests with 1.3 million possible to spend. Of the 1.3 million, one million is from the state and 300,000 from tuition.
 - (2) New full-time, part-time, and supplemental teaching will be provided in different university colleges.
 - (3) Equipment purchases and upgrades will be made in the academic departments.
 - (4) A full-time Director for the Center of Teaching and Learning will be hired to facilitate faculty development and support.
 - (5) GIFT evaluations will be available to new faculty and faculty going up for promotion and tenure over the next year.

6) Committee Recommendations

c) Academic Affairs

- i) Marketing minor – curriculum revision, approved - Carter motion, Stovall second
- ii) Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration – new program, approved – Meador motion, McKie second
- iii) Sociology major - curriculum revision, approved – Cook motion, Carter second

d) Faculty Affairs

- i) Faculty release time for professional development – policy revision. The current policy on course release time allows faculty members to reduce their course load to facilitate research, service, or coursework. New language for the policy has been approved and follows. Old: The GSW Provost will make a final determination of the request. Latest: At any level, in the case of approval or denial, a written explanation will be provided. Carter moves, Meador seconds

7) Announcements – none

8) Adjournment – MacLennan 4:42 pm

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Hart