

**Georgia Southwestern State University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

Date: February 22nd, 2010

Place: SGA Conference Room

Time: 11:00 AM

Presiding: Dr. Gary Fisk

Attendees: Dr. Brian Adler, Dr. Kendall Blanchard, Genie Bryan, Ru Story-Huffman, Brian Smith, Anh-Hue Tu, Bonnie Simmons
Due to lack of a quorum, the decision was made to receive comments from Dr. Blanchard and Dr. Adler and reschedule remainder of the meeting.

Comments from Dr. Blanchard	<p>The following topics were discussed by Dr. Blanchard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of President – Dr. Blanchard thanked members of the Senate for participating in the process. Official results are pending. The following comments from the unofficial report were addressed: (1) lack of seriousness regarding SACS; President remarked that having not had the experience of taking part in a SACS review made it even more serious to him; (2) seriousness of Strategic Planning – President remarked the priorities clearly had to be addressed. This has been turned over to Dr. Adler; (3) concern over general issues of faculty/staff; President remarked that an invitation to send e-mail or come to his office had been extended. In addition he attended staff senate meetings when invited. • 3 year degrees – GSW/GA Perimeter released a plan for students to obtain a degree within a 3 year time frame vs. a 4 year degree, with 1 ½ years spent at each institution. No actual cut in credit hours, with students attending summer classes was intended. Plan met with opposition and will need approval before further action is taken. • Homecoming 2010 – Homecoming activities were held in the new facility. Attendance was low due to inclement weather. • Furlough Days – In response to a question regarding more furlough days by Gary Fisk, Dr. Blanchard remarked that no additional furlough days had been discussed. • Construction – Construction continues on campus. Compared to other institutions, GSW is in pretty good shape according to Dr. Blanchard.
Comments from Dr. Adler	<p>In reference to the incidence in Huntsville, Alabama regarding lack of tenure being granted to a faculty member, Dr. Adler shared a handout with the Senate discussing “collegiality.” Dr. Adler considers it to be pertinent due to evaluations that are on going at this institution. The Senate was asked to consider the last sentence in the handout and possibly formally integrate the concept into the tenure/evaluation process. Discussion followed regarding this issue, along with discussion of the evaluation process used for Teaching/Scholarship.</p>
Meeting adjourned.	<p>Remainder of meeting to be held on Friday, February 26th @ 1:30 PM.</p>

Date: February 26th, 2010

Place: SGA Conference Room

Time: 1:30 PM

Presiding: Dr. Gary Fisk

Attendees: Kathy Barnetson, Genie Bryan, Julia Dorminey, Kailish Ghimire, , Stephanie Harvey, Ru Story-Huffman, Paul Shapiro, Bonnie Simmons, Brian Smith, Charles Wells (replaced Keaton Wynn)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Outcome
Approval of Minutes of January 22nd, 2010	Minutes were approved with two minor corrections.	Corrections to be made by Gary Fisk and forwarded to office of VPAA.
Academic Affairs	The following proposals were forwarded from Academic Affairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ENVS 1100 – Move to approve by K. Barnetson. Seconded by S. Harvey.• B. Smith moved the remaining proposals be considered all at one time. Seconded by G. Bryan.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ CIS 3300, CIS 4310, CIS 4300 (delete)○ Computing & Mathematics: BS Proposal	Unanimously approved by Senate. Unanimously approved by Senate.
Discussion of Learning Communities	The following comments were given regarding the use of learning communities: (a) Are they effective? (b) Do they add to retention? (3) Cause “herd mentality” with no transition to college style of learning (e.g. trading notes). (4) Cause outsiders to be “ostracized”. (5) Students are less likely to accept new ideas. (6) Learning communities take up seats from majors. (7) Is their any data to support their use? Motion made by J. Dorminey to disband learning communities and have Lynda Lee Purvis present data supporting the success or failure of their use to the Faculty Senate. Amendment made by B. Simmons to have Lynda Lee Purvis present to Faculty Senate first, then vote on continued use of learning communities. Seconded by S. Harvey. Approved unanimously by Senate.	G. Fisk to contact Lynda Lee Purvis regarding presenting data on use of Learning Communities at next meeting.
Reading Day Proposal	The following proposal was presented to the Faculty Senate by Burt Carter: “My proposal would be that the only allowable business on reading day would be reading (and discussing) the material to be covered by the looming final exams. No faculty meetings or committee meetings or administrative deadlines should be scheduled on that day, so that we can be available in our offices all day to handle student questions.” Motion to approve by G. Bryan. Seconded by R. Story-Huffman. Unanimously approved by Senate.	G. Fisk to forward proposal to Dr. Adler’s office.
Semester Time Slots 2010-2011	Handout from Dr. Adler regarding options for time slots for 1,2,3,& 4 hour credit classes was dispersed via e-mail prior to meeting. Discussion followed on the hardship this placed on science classes with labs. Motion was made by J. Dorminey to grant more flexibility with scheduling to Arts & Science departments. Seconded	G. Fisk to forward decision to Dr. Adler’s office.

	by S. Harvey. Approved by Senate.	
Collegiality Discussion	A broader discussion was held regarding the use of this concept for hiring, tenure, etc. P. Shapiro moved that the Faculty Senate acknowledges the importance of the concept, but feels that it is already part of the evaluation process of service and teaching at this institution. Seconded by S. Harvey. Approved unanimously by Senate.	G. Fisk to discuss ruling with Dr. Adler.
News & Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission Statement – There is no need for a quick vote on the new mission statement. This vote will take place at the end of year faculty meeting. The 5th year report is based on the old mission statement. • Reevaluating Core Curriculum – The recommended change is more freedom with a minimum number of classes in certain areas. The focus is on learning objectives and how they are measured. Jeff Waldrop is chair of this committee. • Regent’s Exam – These proficiency exams will eventually be replaced by core student learning outcomes. Plans are to be effective after 2011. • Move on When Ready for High School Students – High school students are beginning to take college classes early with Junior students up to 12 hours of college credit. This will cause some loss of revenue for GSW for these classes. • Assessment Day – Dr. Adler is advocating for a day that is set aside at the end of the academic year for only assessment to be done. Assessment Day may be added as soon as this semester. • USG Faculty Council – G. Fisk reported that the only barrier to this organization receiving Board of Regents approval was that all Presidents/Faculty Senators agree to approve. All 35 Presidents/Faculty Senates approved. The BOR will vote in April to approve this organization as a body of the University System. 	
Meeting Adjourned.	Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM	Next meeting March 22 nd , 2010 @ 5:00PM.