

GSW Fall Faculty Meeting
12/04/2020

1. The meeting began at 10 AM with the call to order and welcome by Senate President Sam Peavy.
2. The minutes from the Spring 2020 faculty meeting were approved.
3. Dr. Suzanne Smith began by thanking the faculty for all their hard work this semester during trying times, especially for working with the students. Dr. Smith talked about academic planning (new program additions) and future changes, Fall graduation, contacting the Dean about incomplete grade assignments, and spend time reflecting on what went right and what didn't this past semester.
4. Dr. Weaver spoke for several minutes about the current state of the campus, and began by thanking the faculty for their diligence at following COVID protocols and limiting the spread of the disease on our campus during the semester. He also mentioned several other items:
 - a. He provided a brief update on health insurance and noted that stress among faculty and staff are very high, recommending that we contact Rachel Griggs for exercise plans to reduce stress.
 - b. He mentioned that many of our students were "falling in failing" and that we could find solutions to the issues and help our students be more successful going forward.
 - c. In spite of our increase in enrollment, our revenues only increased by ~1%. Reasons given for this outcome included a reduction in tuition rates for online classes and a cap on tuition for hours over 15 and online. Budget reductions of almost \$300K means that there will be no end-of-year monies. However, they would be able to provide a partial payout for overload hours accrued in the fall term.
 - d. Our annual budget hearing with the BOR should happen in January; GSW will probably have a cut of ~150K and mentioned the two-year delay in enrollment and increases.
 - e. Dr. Weaver then provided updates on several projects including the elevator for the English Building, the renovations to the former ACE building (should be completed by the end of January), bids have been tendered for the renovation work on the Florrie-Chappell Gymnasium, repairs to the Science Building roof (should be done by January 19th)
 - f. Dr. Weaver also talked about creating a "Talk Space" for students and "Connect @ College" within Student Support, the update to quarantine guidelines from the Department of Health and CDC, the plans to continue to adjust and evolve academic programs, the creation of a "Post-Pandemic Taskforce" focused on the "GSW Experience" and funding for increasing diversity with respect to faculty recruiting.
 - g. Dr. Weaver answered several questions after his presentation. Dr. Moir asked to whom plagiarism cases should be sent now (to Travis Crafter) and if there was support for reading comprehension for international students since our ESL group had been disbanded; Dr. Weaver stated that there was not anything specific right now but they recommended going through tutoring or the Writing Center.

5. Reports from Standing Committees

- a. Academic Affairs: Dr. Kutzler expressed concerns about the process and requested that department heads, etc. use the correct forms from the faculty handbook and on the Committee on Academic Affairs website and pay attention to submission deadlines. If you have questions, Dr. Kutzler suggested contacting Associate VPAA Bryan Davis.
- b. Business and Finance: No report.
- c. Faculty Affairs: Dr. Waldrop stated that the committee had met four times and considered the following issues: faculty welfare during the pandemic, issues with summer pay, adjustments to the promotion and tenure portfolio and questions about the process and transparency related to two program closures in Arts and Sciences. Dr. Goulding asked what had been done regarding the last issue and Dr. Waldrop responded that a memorandum had been sent to the administration.
- d. Faculty Development: Dr. Palmer stated that the committee met twice and funded three proposals in full for a total of \$1515. Next semester there should be monies for both Faculty Development and Faculty Instructional grants; application deadline will be February 12, 2021. Committee is also reviewing possible changes to the application form.
- e. Graduate Affairs: Dr. Gugg reported that the committee had looked at changes to the MSN program and issues related to undergraduate students taking graduate courses.
- f. IRB: Dr. Meador stated that they had reviewed 18 research proposals and reminded the faculty that there is now an in-house course in Georgia View to update certifications for human subject research (Contact Dr. Meador for access).
- g. Institutional Effectiveness: Dr. Mulleins-Foreman reported that the main group met twice and various subcommittees met but there would be more to do in the Spring after Dr. Davis and Dr. Smith are going to attend a SACS meeting and more will happen after they return with new information.
- h. Instructional Technology: Dr. Kostov reported that the committee met several times with the major issue being the student email migration. Dr. Kostov also asked that the faculty review the IT Steering Committee notes for information on upcoming issues/changes in IT.
- i. International Studies: Dr. Ghimire reported that the committee met twice and had one proposal for a study abroad program and looked at multiple Windows to the World events, and underwent training in international studies.
- j. Student Affairs: Dr. Dave reported that the committee met three times, reviewed organizational guidelines during COVID and approved two new student organizations (Engineering Club and Tabletop Gaming Club).

6. Items from the Faculty Senate

- a. Case Management and Care Coordination Certificate – Dr. Easom answered questions about the certificate, with the main topic of discussion being that it only contained 9 hours of coursework. After some discussion, Dr. Easom proposed amendments that included changing the wording from “Certificate” to “Endorsement” and putting a

notation on the document stating that “This endorsement does not constitute a minor.”
The amended document was approved by the faculty.

- b. Exercise Science Curriculum Change – Dr. Casaru answered questions about a proposal to modify the exercise science curriculum. Dr. Megginson asked about the elimination of the PE requirements for this particular degree program. It was explained that the information was covered within the courses and labs of the major and therefore the PE requirements were not necessary. A long discussion ensued in which Dr. Cotter stated that most students are paying for 4-5 extra credit hours beyond 120 hours for their degree programs and that these students will not. Dr. Davis reminded us that the PE coursework is not a requirement per se, as the BSN curriculum does not include the CPR/First Aid nor Lifetime Fitness courses either. It was explained that as long as the information / content of those courses was in other places in the curriculum that it might be possible to remove the courses from other degree programs. A motion was made to table the proposal, but that failed to receive the required number of votes. The original proposed curriculum change was approved by the faculty.
- c. The President Jimmy Carter Leadership Program Certificate – Approved by acclamation.
- d. IT Curriculum Changes -- Approved by acclamation.
- e. CSCI Curriculum Changes -- Approved by acclamation.
- f. Entrepreneurship Certificate – Approved by acclamation.
- g. Changes to Criminal Justice eMajor -- Approved by acclamation.
- h. BA in Communication – Dr. Kutzler asked where the funding for the new program was coming from. Dr. Suzanne Smith responded by stating that the operational budget would be coming from various sources and the faculty lines from one line currently being used for communication and a second line was reallocated. The new BA program was approved by the faculty.
- i. Changes to Policy on Academic Suspension -- Approved by acclamation.
- j. Changes to Policy on Undergraduate Enrollment in Graduate Courses -- Approved by acclamation.

7. Other Items: None.

8. Announcements: Dr. Peavy announced that a) Royce Hackett requests that we continue to help our students transfer to the new email system, b) there is a Summer Pay Taskforce – we’re looking for volunteers, c) Faculty Senate meetings will be on January 29, February 26, March 26, and April 23; the General Faculty meeting will happen on May 7th. Laurel Robinson announced that the student galleries were open and requested that faculty come by and see the work that the students have been doing. Dr. Jacobs reminded us about the Undergraduate Research symposium in the Spring.

9. Meeting adjourned at 11:52 AM.