

Georgia Southwestern State University
Americus, Georgia

Minutes of the General Faculty Meeting
Friday, December 5, 2008 – 10:00 A.M.
Student Success Center, Room 2417

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Brian Adler. A quorum of the faculty was present.

2. Approval of Minutes of April 30, 2008

A motion was made by Elizabeth Gurnack and seconded by Ellen Cotter to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2008, General Faculty meeting. They were unanimously approved.

3. Remarks by the President

Dr. Blanchard stated that as a spin-off from the downturn of the economy, the PGA program has been put on hold due to the loss of jobs for PGA personnel. He hopes the program will be discussed at a later date. The Residence Hall project hopefully will take place. The most immediate problem is the 6% budget cut which will limit what can be done this year. Enrollment for fall 2008 has increased from last year. He is concerned about fall 2009 enrollment due to the economy and the costs to students. We may be at an advantage since tuition fees are lower at GSW. Also, in difficult times, people plan to go back to school. Retention and recruitment are main concerns. A meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 15, to discuss plans to increase enrollment. An honorary doctorate degree will be presented to Judge Griffin Bell at graduation. Judge Bell's grandson will be the commencement speaker. Regent Bishop will attend the graduation breakfast. Everyone is invited to the 2008 Holiday Bash, hosted by the President, tonight from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the intramural gym. Those attending are asked to bring a present for a child to the holiday bash. Dr. Blanchard said he continues to believe in the institution and the faculty. If we continue to grow, we will see prosperity here. He wished everyone a pleasant and joyous holiday season.

4. Remarks by Vice Presidents

Cody King

Mr. King has received word that the budget has been cut from six to eight percent. The Board of Regents will mandate a student assessment of \$75 for spring semester only. This fee applies to every student. Employees will pay 5% more for health insurance. These cuts should be sufficient for 2009. Funding for fiscal year 2010 is questionable. The economy will effect how much will have to be cut. Raises for non-faculty will remain in place. Due to higher bond rates, a local bank has offered funding assistance for the housing project. We have been in contact with the Board of Regents and are awaiting approval to continue with the housing project. Site treatment is supposed to begin today if the BOR approves. The current instructional budgets are set. The increase in fall enrollment helped to offset the budget cuts.

Brian Adler

Dr. Adler commented that he and Dr. Shah were in Mumbai, India, two days after the terrorist attacks. On behalf of all the faculty and staff, he extended his sympathies to the people of India. Dr. Adler stated that it has been a difficult semester in light of the budget cuts, but that the faculty have risen to the challenge and that we are where we are as an institution because of the tremendous amount of work by the faculty under trying circumstances. The dedication of the faculty is a

testimony to the hard work in dealing with the large number of students. He also extended thanks to faculty involvement in various activities such as the environmental studies major and grant writing, the committee for awarding Distinguished Professor Grants, the committee for Faculty Development Grant awards, and the Promotion and Tenure University Wide Committee. He also appreciates the efforts of those working on Faculty Handbook revisions. While the PGM program being put on hold is certainly a disappointment, the School of Nursing has received accreditation from the National School of Nursing. The School of Business Administration is looking forward to the accreditation visit from the AACSB in January. We have numerous programs in other parts of the states including Georgia Perimeter College and Bainbridge College which will lead to a wider presence and will help to build a safety net as an institution. Dr. Adler appreciates those working with the TAG program. Dr. Blanchard just returned from China. We are working hard to reach students internationally to increase a cultural and friendly environment. Work is being done with the GSW Foundation to streamline ways to make money available to students. Dr. Adler thanked the featured scholar committee for their efforts to determine the featured scholar, Dr. Gary Fisk. It is important to preserve the freshman advocate position which is integral to the retention of students. He is looking at assessment as a way to improve education processes in regard to the SACS accreditation. In spite of the suspension of the PGM program, a successful fundraiser took place in the fall in honor of Judge Griffin Bell that will establish a substantial scholarship program at some time in the future.

4. Reports by Committees:

Academic Affairs

Bryan Davis reported that the meeting times will be changed for spring semester 2008. The committee will meet at 3:00 p.m. on February 5, March 5, and April 2, 2009.

Academic Grievances – No Report

Athletics – No Report

Business and Finance – No Report

Faculty Affairs

Elizabeth Kuipers reported that they are continuing to work on Faculty Handbook revisions. She can be contacted for any changes to be considered for the Faculty Handbook.

Graduate Affairs

Stephanie Harvey reported that Graduate Affairs has specified that all Graduate faculty terms will start in the fall following approval and a term year will consist of fall, spring and summer. Following review, the committee let stand the requirement of a graduate program for graduate faculty status. Graduate faculty applications are due by Friday, January 9, 2009.

Institutional Research – No Report

Institutional Review Board

Paul Shapiro reported that seven proposals have been reviewed and approved. One is currently being reviewed.

Instructional Technology

Gary Fisk reported that the committee has met twice and has recommended that 50 new computers be purchased to replace the old ones in the computer labs.

Scholarships & Financial Aid

Brian Parkinson reported that the committee will make a recommendation to make the scholarships more flexible to students. A lot of them mandate that the student has to live on campus. The average scholarship pays \$1,000 per semester and the student has to pay \$1,500 to live on campus.

Student Affairs

The committee has approved some changes to the constitution for the Student Government Association. They also approved the Petitions for Recognition from Omega Psi Phi fraternity, the GSW Student Gaming Association, and Circle K International.

University and Alumni Relations – No Report

5. New Business

A. Academic Proposals

(1) Department of Chemistry

Elizabeth Gurnack made a motion to accept and Elizabeth Kuipers seconded – all approved.

Addition – Course- Approved by the Faculty Senate

ENVS 1100 – Introduction to Environmental Science (3-0-3)

The proposed course is designed to provide non-science and science major students with an introduction to modern environmental science. This course seeks to help students explore the reasons behind major environmental issues and the consequences these issues have. Emphasis will be on general topics such as biodiversity, environmental chemistry, pollution, global climate change, sustainability, energy alternatives, waste management, and environmental policy. Add to Core D, non-lab science for non-science and science majors.

(2) Department of Music

Bonnie Simmons made a motion to accept and Sam Peavy seconded – all approved.

Substantive Change – Program - Approved by the Faculty Senate

BA Music Foreign Language Requirement Change

To change the Foreign Language requirements from 2001 and 2002 to 1002 and 2001, in order to be in line with the BA Music degrees at other USG institutions.

(3) College of Arts and Sciences

Elizabeth Gurnack made a motion to accept and Tzvetelin Iordanov seconded – all approved.

Other - Approved by the Faculty Senate

This Proposal Creates a Policy for the Acceptance of IB Credit

This proposal provides a table listing course credit to be awarded to entering students based on their scores on higher level examinations

taken in the international Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB), which is similar to credit awarded based on examinations taken in the Advanced Placement Program (AP). This table is consistent with practice at other USG institutions and responds from a directive issued by the BOR in February of 2008.

B. University Statute Change – Approved by the Faculty Senate

Elizabeth Kuipers made a motion to accept and Laurel Robinson seconded – all approved.

C. Academic Policy Changes – Approved by the Faculty Senate

Sam Peavy made a motion to accept and Peg Ellington seconded – all approved.

6. Announcements

Ms. Purvis said that two courses have been submitted and approved by the Council on General Education. Geology 1142 – Geology of Georgia will be in Area D, list B and Library 1101, a one-hour course, will be listed for core area B. Environmental Science has also been approved by the faculty and now needs Council on General Education approval. Advisors were asked to contact students in their majors who haven't yet registered. A list of advisees can be seen on RAIN with the entry of spring 2009.

Ms. Purvis introduced Ms. Cara Lee Fowler, the new Freshman Advocate. Cara Lee received her MSW from the University of Georgia. She will be contacting freshmen who have not registered. She and Miranda Thomas will be reviewing students at risk (on warning, probation, withdrawn, and majors). Faculty were asked to send referrals (students not attending class or seem distracted) to Cara Lee. Ideas to maintain retention are welcome. Lynda Lee Purvis, Donja Tripp, and Cara Lee Fowler can be contacted for retention ideas.

Ms. Purvis announced that the graduation breakfast will be at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 13. The Teacher of the Year will be announced at graduation. Line-up for graduation will be at 10:40 a.m. in the Storm Dome.

Ms. Purvis announced that Ms. Donja Tripp will be retiring April 1, 2009. It will be sad without her. She was the Director of Student Services and moved four years ago to the Registrar's Office. She has made our lives easier and has spent a lot of time at GSW. Donja said that she has enjoyed her time here. She said that grades are due for graduates on Thursday, December 11, and on Monday, December 15, for all other grades.

Dr. YeVette McWhorter stated that they are beginning the enrollment process for 4K for children who will be four years old by September 1. Faculty and staff have precedence. She should be contacted for 4K enrollment. There is a link on the School of Education website for information on the program.

Dr. Phil Szmedra said that plans for two study abroad programs are in progress. Seven students have signed up and paid for the one in Bulgaria. Five more students are interested. Students are still welcome to sign up. Mr. Keaton Wynn said that twenty students have signed up for the China trip but have not yet paid.

Mr. Keaton Wynn invited everyone to the art sale today on the patio of the Marshall Student Center. Ms. Laurel Robinson invited everyone to come to the annual open house for the art department tonight from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Dr. Ellen Cotter thanked everyone for the donations for the Liberty House in Albany, GA. She also said that February 1, 2009 is the deadline for collecting the Delores Capitan Writing Award papers. Electronic format is preferred due to the plagiarism issues.

Dr. Lettie Watford said that on behalf of Dr. William Kipp, STEM Advocate, and the STEM committee, she wanted to announce that there will be an Academy for Future Teachers workshop next summer for teachers in math and science majors.

7. Adjourn

Mr. Ray Mannila made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Dr. Karen Turner. All approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Dawn Knapp
Administrative Assistant
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Kendall A. Blanchard
President