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Consolidation Implementation Committee (CIC) Minutes

March 24, 2017 3:00 p.m. Armstrong State University Student Union Ballroom BC

I. Welcome and Opening Remarks – The meeting was called to order at 3:01 PM. President Hebert thanked the committee for its ongoing work since the consolidation announcement in January.

II. Other Consolidation Business

- A. Update on Mission Statement (OWG A-2) The goal is to have a proposed mission statement on the agenda for the April 18-19 meeting of the USG Board of Regents. A draft mission statement (below) was shared with the faculty senates of both universities as well as the USG. Feedback received included wording recommendations, concerns about the length of the statement, and concerns that the proposed mission statement too closely resembled the current Georgia Southern University mission statement. Given the feedback, President Hebert has asked the members of the OWG to review the feedback and make appropriate revisions. A revised draft will be submitted to each faculty senate in time for their April 3 and April 4 meetings with the final draft presented to the CIC for its April 7 meeting.
 - 1. Draft Mission Statement Georgia Southern University is a public, Carnegie Doctoral/Research university devoted to academic distinction in teaching, scholarship, and service. Sharing the resources of its three campuses, the University's hallmark is an inclusive, student-centered culture of engagement that bridges theory with practice, extends the learning environment beyond the classroom, and promotes student growth and life success. Georgia Southern's nationally accredited academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and professional studies prepare a diverse undergraduate and graduate student population for leadership and service as world citizens. Faculty, staff, and students embrace core values expressed through integrity, civility, kindness, tolerance, collaboration, wellness, social responsibility, and a commitment to lifelong learning.

Central to the University's mission is the faculty's dedication to excellence in teaching and the development of a fertile learning environment exemplified by a free exchange of ideas, high academic expectations, and individual responsibility for academic achievement. Georgia Southern faculty are teacher-scholars whose primary responsibility is the creation of transformative learning experiences of the highest quality, informed by scholarly practice, research, and creative activities. Through





this commitment, the University offers access to educational opportunities, which are enhanced by technology, transcultural experiences, and public and private partnerships.

With its wide array of degrees and variety of outreach programs, the University advances intellectual and economic development in the State of Georgia and beyond. Georgia Southern also strives to enhance the quality of life in the region through collaborative relationships supporting education, health care and human services, cultural experiences, athletics, scientific and technological advancement, and responsible sustainability.

- **B.** Update on Planning Documents (Due to Randy Stuart by Wednesday, March 29) The new Leadership and Responsibilities document was emailed on March 20, 2017. If you have not yet been in communication with your University System Office (USO) contact, please contact them. Per Dr. Noble and Mr. Fuchko, the USO contact should be frequently involved in OWG meetings, planning, and review of documents.
- **C.** Accreditation Team (A-Team) Update Dr. Hebert clarified the purpose of the A-Team: it is charged with writing the SACS prospectus that is due on September 1, 2017. The A-Team is not a decision-making body, but rather will contact CIC members, FA co-chairs, and OWG co-chairs for assistance with data and information. Dr. Flateby reported that the A-Team is near completion of three of the ten major prospectus components, with guidance from Dr. Ed Rugg.

III. Review of OWG Recommendations:

- A. OWG I-10: Athletics Presented by Lisa Sweany (Armstrong) and Tom Kleinlein (Georgia Southern), the following recommendation was approved by consensus of the CIC with no objections. Dr. Hebert thanked Ms. Sweany for her professionalism and commitment to the Armstrong student-athletes during this process.
 - 1. Recommended that ASU teams shall discontinue NCAA competition at the conclusion of the current academic year, with no teams participating in intercollegiate athletic competition in the 2017-2018 academic year:

Due to the number of transfer requests, Armstrong State University will, in many cases, not be able to field teams that meet NCAA requirements and even when it can field teams that meet NCAA requirements, the limited roster would place the student-athletes at risk. Furthermore, this decision provides clarity for ASU student-athletes and staff members as they make personal decisions moving forward.





IV. Additional Discussion

- **A.** Dr. Padgett asked for clarification on the tenure policy that was discussed at the town hall in January and the information that is on the consolidation website. Dr. Noble explained that when an institution's mission changes, performance expectations must also be revised. If a faculty member achieves tenure prior to consolidation, tenure and rank will be preserved.
- **B.** Dr. Belzer asked for clarification on the process for submitting OWG documents. Dr. Noble explained that the OWG co-chairs should submit documents to Dr. Stuart. The documents will then be shared with the FA co-chairs, and the final recommendations would be approved by the CIC. Per Mr. Fuchko, with the exception of the mission statement (which must be approved by the USG Board of Regents), the CIC is the final decision-making group for the OWG recommendations.
- **C.** Dr. Belzer asked when the organizational structure will be made available. Dr. Hebert replied that the goal is for this information to be distributed in mid-April. He noted that there will be a search conducted for a provost.
- V. Future CIC Meetings Remaining meeting dates will be determined in April. All meetings will be available via conference phone. Agendas will be provided two days prior to each meeting, as well as any recommendations for consideration, directions, and call-in information.
 - A. Friday, April 7 1:00 p.m. @ Georgia Southern (note the new time)

B. Friday, April 21 – 3:00 @ Armstrong

- VI. Conclusion In his final remarks, Dr. Hebert reiterated his desire to have open discussion among CIC members on difficult issues such as the concerns raised about the proposed mission statement. He concluded the meeting, stating that the creation of a new Georgia Southern University must be a collaborative process.
- VII. The meeting adjourned at 3:56 PM.