GS Libraries Faculty Meeting
November 5, 2018

Essence Notes

Attending:


Faculty Lane Library: Douglas Frazier, Beth Burnett, Ann Fuller, Melissa Jackson, Caroline Hopkinson, Vivian Bynoe, Aimee Reist, Lauren McMillan, Kristi Smith.

Because of the short time table for this meeting Bede asked that they go straight to the subscription review.

Business Agenda

Subscription Review

Jessica Minihan proceeded to give the statistics of each subscription up for review.

The subscriptions up for review were:

1. Criminal Justice Abstracts (EBSCO)
2. Engineering Source (EBSCO)
3. PsycTests (EBSCO/APA)
4. RILM Abstracts of Music Literature (EBSCO)
5. SocIndex with Full Text (EBSCO)
6. Naxos Music Library
7. Opposing Viewpoints in Context (GALE)
8. Dictionary of Literary Biography (GALE)
9. Contemporary Literary Criticism (GALE)
10. Contemporary Authors (GALE)
11. HeinOnline (12/14)
12. Physical Education Index (ProQuest)

After Jessica’s presentation all faculty members present were given the opportunity to fill out their ballots. Ballots are to be handed in to Debra Skinner.

Faculty Senate Report

Lori announced that the Senate Executive Committee is meeting on Friday, November 16, 2018, to discuss requests for information, discussion items and any possible motions. Lori wanted to
make sure everyone knew what those items entailed and how they would be used. There are RFI (Requests for Information); these are usually requests to clarify something, could be a rumor needs to be clarified, or more information is needed on discussion point, or not enough information is available to make a decision on whether to bring something up for a motion. Discussion items are typically a starting point before a motion is submitted to have the Senate take some action. Usually these items have not been discussed already. The main thing to know is that these items get sent to the Executive Senate Committee before they are submitted for review to make that they are in the correct category and that they are pertinent to more than one college. All of the RIFs, discussion items or motions need to impact at least two colleges to be considered. These are due Wednesday if you wish for them to discussed in the Senate meeting in two weeks. Lori a url that she can send out however it is in SharePoint, so it maybe that those items need to be handed in to Lori, Aimee or Kristi. She will confirm.

**Budget Update**

The unit reports for the request by the President’s office for all units to identify 10% budget reductions are due to their respective Vice Presidents by Thanksgiving. Monday, November 19th, all of the libraries’ department heads will be meeting at Henderson Library. Bede wants to thank the Lane Library team for being willing to come down to Statesboro for this meeting. During the meeting they will be working with the summary budget reports that have been put together by Debra, Lizette and Doug.

Bede asked everyone to look at just Henderson Library’s summary and notice that the rounded budget amount for just the Henderson Library budget is about 5 million dollars. So a 10% cut would be about $500,000. Most of the colleges’ budgets are dedicated to personnel. From speaking with the other deans, Bede noted that the other colleges will not be able to make their 10% cut without cutting faculty positions. Many of the colleges have already suspended the faculty recruitments that they were planning to do this fall. They did not want to be recruiting and then told they could not fill those positions after all. In the case of the GS libraries, Bede does not want to give up any personnel budget. This might not be realistic in the long run, however. The GS libraries do not have that many vacancies and the vacancies that we do have Bede believes they need to be filled. There is a good amount of benchmark data that shows that the GS libraries are behind way behind our peer institutions in regards to the amount of staffing that we have. If the GS libraries cuts the amount of resources that will have to be cut in order to satisfy the over extension of the budget and the 10% cut asked of by the president’s office, we will have to redirect many of our faculty and staff to fulfillment. Our current inter-library loan and fulfillment units will not be able to handle the enormous increase in requests to get full texts and other materials from other libraries that will be necessitated when the overall materials budget is decimated.
There are still colleges that are complaining that they have never gotten back the positions that they had to give up in 2004 and 2008. Any personnel money that we have to give up will be much harder to get back, when we start to grow again, than it will be to get back to resources to restore lost subscriptions. So Bede would like to not touch the personnel part of the budget if at all possible. However just looking at the amount to needed cut from the Henderson library portion of the budget alone, $500,000, without touching personnel will be very difficult.

Bede shared this information with all of the library faculty because of the time frame involved and because of the fact that they will have to come out of the November 19th meeting with a package that Bede can submit. There is no time to do some work on the report and send it out for extended comment and feedback from everyone. Bede wanted everyone to at least have the opportunity to look over the budget and if anyone had any comments, thoughts, suggestions or questions on how it might be managed and cut, to have the opportunity to communicate with him, Doug or your department head before November 19th. That way there can be a better informed discussion on November 19th. Anyone faculty member who wishes to sit in on the meeting on Monday, November 19th is welcome to come.

Provost Reiber continues to insist that this 10% that everyone is supposed to identify does not mean that that everybody’s budget will be cut 10%. President Nickel is convinced that there are units that can afford to give up more than 10% without the institution suffering. She expects to see these units step up. Whether they choose to or not, her goal is to protect the mission critical areas of the institution that are most likely to get us out of what can become a downward spiral. Much of this budget problem is driven by our enrollment decline. The president’s cabinet has data that shows that our enrollment declines have very little to do with consolidation. We had bad trends before consolidation even started at both campuses. Those trends are accelerating. We need to make major changes in how we recruit students, brand ourselves, and in how we get the word out about Georgia Southern University. President Nickel would regard Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management as the two vice presidential divisions that should be cut the least. These are mission critical. Other divisions are not as mission critical. There is a chance that we will not be cutting 10% form the library budget. Even so, this is not just about the 10% but also about how over extended our budget is. Other universities are having similar issues.

Bede is open, if there is sufficient interest, to schedule another time to go through the budget and have some discussion prior to the department heads meeting on November 19th. He realizes that this is a very busy time. If anyone is interested however in doing that, just send Bede an email and he will make arrangements.

Since there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:56 PM.