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Faculty Senate Minutes

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## Faculty Senate Minutes (Corrected)

*Georgia Southern University*

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**Senate Executive Committee Meeting**  
**April 16, 2021 1:00 PM-3:00 PM**

**Summary:**

Faculty are encouraged to attend or send an alternate to the summer Senate meeting in May in order to vote on and conclude Senate business.

The SEC discussed the procedure for voting on Senate officers at the April meeting. The SEC also discussed appointing the USG Faculty Council and Faculty Representative to the SGA.

The SEC discussed the post-tenure review update from the system, the Inclusive Excellence Plan, and Bylaws revisions.

The SEC approved a discussion item on Revisions to Bylaws Article III. The SEC approved the following motions to bring before the Senate body: the NTT pathway to promotion, adding an Inclusive Excellence standing committee, Revisions to Bylaws Articles I and II, an online application portal for faculty hiring.

**Members Present:** Cheryl Aasheim, Lisa Abbott, Helen Bland, Diana Botnaru, Cary Christian, Jessica Garner, Trish Holt, Barb King, Amanda Konkle, Dee Liston, Bill Mase, Jeff Secrest, Bill Wells

**Minutes:**

Faculty have said that their contracts are up May 8, so they are not coming to the meeting in May. We will need a quorum to be able to vote on Senate business. There is always a summer meeting scheduled. If a Senator cannot attend, please send an alternate.

Barb King reported that the February meeting minutes for the Undergraduate Committee were received for the April Librarian's Report, so that is where minutes of curriculum changes will be to review.

The SEC agenda was approved.

Bill Wells reported on Core Curriculum Committee issues. The BOR has backed off of changes to the Core because of the Chancellor search, so the GECC approved a motion to suspend work on Core revision. Bill Wells discussed submitting a letter to faculty, but later decided to not send that letter out, so although this is in the committee's minutes, faculty should not expect this letter. Bill Wells also drafted this committee's work on the Inclusive Excellence plan, which is still under consideration by the General Education and Core Curriculum Committee.

**Old Business.**

**Elections.** The only contested election will be the President. Candidate statements will go out on April 16. There are still issues to be addressed for a few college-level elections due to lack of

interest/faculty availability (libraries), and Parker College of Business is waiting on dean committee assignments.

Barb King reviewed the process for voting, which will take place via Qualtrics during the April Senate meeting. The ballot will close at the end of the Senate meeting, with a final announcement to be made within 48 hours.

**Nominations for USG Faculty Council and SGA representative for AY2021-22** were discussed. Lisa Abbott suggested opening the floor for nominations for the SGA representative at the Senate meeting in April. She said that the USGFC issue is part of the proposed Bylaw change, so perhaps we should delay voting on this. The change is to change this to a 2-year-term, because FC members can't speak until the second year of their term. The SEC nominates someone to serve; this has traditionally been an SEC member. The proposed Bylaw change is to not require this position to be a member of the SEC, and that this is a two-year appointment. This individual reports to the SEC following the meetings and then to the Senate. With a new chancellor, there will be news to report, so it was decided to appoint someone to a one-year term, which can be revisited/extended after the Bylaw changes are approved. Dee Liston suggested SEC appoint someone to serve for one year. Diana Botnaru clarified that we go by the USGFC Bylaws, which say that individuals serve a one-year term with the possibility for continuous terms. Cary Christian was appointed the Georgia Southern representative.

#### **New Business.**

**USG post-tenure update.** The USG has stopped the option to skip fifth-year review if one was planning to retire within four years. This was not a recommendation from the post-tenure review task force, which is still waiting for their recommendations to be finalized.

**Inclusive Excellence plan.** Trish Holt has submitted a draft with the expectation that various subcommittees could review what they can and can't do and suggest revisions before voting. Trish Holt has been asked to send this draft to Tajuan Wilson and Maura Copeland for review. She hopes to get something from Senate to Dr. Wilson before the end of the year so that the Senate plan can go into the university reports. Bill Wells asked if this has to go before Senate to be approved. Trish Holt clarified that we will be voting on the actions inserted into the written plans. What we vote on is not binding.

#### **Bylaw Revisions.**

**Discussion Item for Article III.** This discussion included the original members of Lisa Abbott, Diana Botnaru, Cary Christian, Barbara King, Bill Wells, and new members Bill Mase, William Dawers, and Karelle Aiken, as recommended by the President at a previous meeting to diversify and ensure representation. The SEC discussed these changes line by line. Article III, Section 2 allows the SEC to request representation on committees relevant to academic affairs. Article III, Section 3, point D added a point about how to bring non-voting members into the conversation. The President can also invite an Armstrong representative if there is not one to the SEC to have a voice but not vote. Article III, Section 4 clarifies the duties of the Senate President, which were not previously spelled out in detail. Of note in the discussion were the timing of when the

University President receives the Senate Agenda. This was changed to state the University President will receive the finalized Senate Agenda 5 business days (although it can go out earlier) prior to the Senate meeting so that members of the Cabinet can come prepared to speak to relevant issues. This information was also added to item F. Item H, of serving on University committees at the request of the University President, was also added to clarify the Senate President's duties. Item I about the equivalent of course releases for Senate President was also clarified.

Changes to clarify the duties of the Senate Executive Committee in Section 5 were discussed, including coordinating the orientation workshop, with each SEC member doing this with the faculty from their unit. Discussion centered around whether this will be possible to coordinate a week prior to the first Senate meeting, with the point that if the SEC representative from each college holds a smaller group meeting, this will be easier to schedule. The requirement to review the Senate Librarian's report prior to all Senate Executive Committee meetings was removed from the Bylaws, as sometimes there's too much of a time crunch. Item J was revised to ask the SEC committee members to review a mandated report of each committee (rather than meet with each committee chair as stated in the current bylaws). Cheryl Aasheim stated that committee chairs might not be able to put together a report of their charges and what they do at their first meeting without guidance. This discussion led to an item being added to Section 4 for the Senate President to meet with all the chairs of committees to clarify their charges, deadlines, and responsibilities.

The SEC will also record minutes and a summary of each meeting. Other changes had to do with the language of the Section. It was stated that SEC members should provide updates to their colleges. Section 6 changes included clarifying the responsibilities for the Senate President-Elect. Section 7 changes resulted in discussion about whether to keep the Past-President position. A discussion point for the Senate meeting questions the possibility of allowing a Senator to run for President in their second year of their term, because that would extend the Senator's service to a fourth or fifth year. It was suggested to not assume that a Past-President would be willing to be a mentor but rather to assign it to the Past-President's duties as an official obligation. There was a discussion about the length of time of service for the President (with a title as President-Elect, President, and then Past-President). It was decided to bring this debate before the Senate. Section 8 clarifying the Secretary's duties and Section 9 clarifying the Librarian's duties were discussed. The Bylaws committee proposed to add a Parliamentarian position. This position would not have to be an SEC member or active Senator, as this person generally does not have a voice within discussion of issues. Section 10 discussion around whether the Senate Secretary, Librarian, and President-elect have to be acting Senators, or if someone can run for one of these positions as a Senator-elect. SEC members voted to keep the requirement of President-elect must have one year remaining in their Senate term.

Lisa Abbott moved to send this forward as a Discussion Item to the Senate. The motion was seconded, and the committee approved sending these changes forward.

**Motion: Bylaws Revision Articles I and II.** Following review by the University President and Legal Counsel, the Bylaws for Articles I and II were amended to cite the AAUP for the opening statement in Section 1. Article II language was amended to clarify the University President and Faculty Senate President. Article II, Section 3 was discussed to see if the timeline changed in the Article III discussion affected the timeline for Article II, Section 3. Lisa Abbott moved to bring Bylaws Articles I and II forward as a motion to the Senate. The motion was seconded and passed.

**Letter to President about Revising Statutes.** A letter to the University President about revising the Statutes was discussed. The main issue is that Section 9 of the Statutes contradicts apportionment in the Bylaws. There was also discussion about how to ensure representation from the Armstrong and Statesboro campuses. There was a decision to revisit this letter since there is time to complete it and send it to the President for more thorough review prior to next spring's elections.

**Motion: Extend SEC Meeting.** There was a motion to extend the meeting which was seconded and passed.

**Motion: Non-Tenure Track Pathway to Promotion.** A motion to send the NTT document forward was discussed. William Mase moved to approve this motion, which passed.

**Motion: Inclusive Excellence Committee.** Lisa Abbott moved to send forward a motion to add an Inclusive Excellence committee. Bill Mase seconded. Bill Wells noted that many schools have this, and Diana Botnaru added that this conforms to the University's Strategic Pillars. The motion passed.

**Motion: Faculty Hiring Portal.** A motion to approve an application portal for faculty was proposed, seconded, and approved.

**Motion: Approve Senate Agenda.** A motion to approve the Senate agenda was made, seconded, and approved.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.