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Georgia Southern University Faculty Senate Meeting
October 6, 2002, 4pm to 6pm
Meeting Rescheduled from September 29th due to Hurricane Ian

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Senate President Bill Dawers.

The Senate approved the meetings from the August meeting and the Librarian's Report.

Bill Dawers began the meeting with his update to the senate, speaking about the new staff hire to support the faculty senate, about updates to the faculty senate website enabled by having a new administrative assistant, and about the work of the Armstrong Task Force.

The solo discussion item was about plans for a survey of faculty about their experiences with teaching site synchronous courses. Bill Dawers indicated that he would be working with Kasie Alt (CAH) to apply her ongoing research to design an effective survey mechanism. The floor was then opened to discussion, and several senators and members of the administration brought up concerns and thoughts about the site sync technology and how it is being used.

President Marrero and Provost Reiber both delivered their respective updates from their positions to the Senate, fielding questions from Senators.

The meeting adjourned at 5:11 PM.

MINUTES

Officers in Attendance: Bill Dawers (CAH, President); Ed Mondor (COSM, President-Elect); Robert Terry (CAH, Secretary); Kymberly Harris (COE, serving as parliamentarian); Christine Bedore (COSM, Librarian).

Officers Absent: None.

Senators in Attendance (by college): Annie Mendenhall (CAH); Jonathan Murphy (CAH); Lisa Costello (CAH); Jeffrey Riley (CAH); Chris Caplinger (CAH); Kasie Alt (CAH); Steven Elisha (CAH); Virginie Em-Bleneau (CAH); Dan Larkin (CAH); Kendra Parker (CAH); Marieke Van Willigen (CBSS); Josh Kennedy (CBSS); Wendy Wolfe (CBSS); Jonathan Grubb (CBSS); Jayce Sudweeks (CBSS); Mike Nielsen (CBSS); Tom Sweeney (CBSS); Elizabeth "Betsy" Barrow (COE); Ming Fan He (COE); Karin Fisher (COE); Lucas Jensen (COE); Kathryn Haughney (COE); Raymona Lawrence (JPHCOPH); Bill Mase (JPHCOPH); Haresh Rochani (JPHCOPH); Tuyin An (COSM); Jay Hodgson (COSM); Yi Hu (COSM); Nathaniel Shank (COSM); Worlanyo Eric Gato (COSM); Divine Wanduku (COSM); Tricia Brown (COSM); Zhan Chen (COSM); Maxim Durach (COSM); Yongki Lee (COSM); Beth Burnett (LIB); Wilhelmina Randtke (LIB); Mujibur Khan (PCEC); Hayden Wimmer (PCEC); Anoop Desai (PCEC); Salman Siddiqui (PCEC); Vladimir Gurau (PCEC); William Amponsah (PCOB); Omid Ardakani (PCOB); Nick Mangee (PCOB); Jun Liu (PCOB); Errol Stewart (PCOB); Sheri Carey (WCHP); Joshua Kies (WCHP); Estelle Bester (WCHP); Kari Mau (WCHP); Chris Hanna (WCHP); Leigh Rich (WCHP); Gregg Rich (WCHP); Paula Tillman (WCHP)

Alternates in Attendance (by college): Janet Dale (CAH); Dean Cummings (CAH); Samuel Opuku (COPH);

Senators not in Attendance (by college): June Joyner (CAH); JenniferKowalewski (CAH); Amy Potter (COSM); Felix Hamza-Lup (PCEC); Kwabena Boakye (PCOB);

Participating Administrators: Kyle Marrero (University President); Carl Reiber (Provost); Ashlea Anderson (Interim CIO); Ashley Walker Colquitt (Dean, College of Graduate Studies); Amy Ballagh (Interim AVP Enrollment Management); Amy Smith (AVP Enrollment Management);Ashraf Saad (Assistant Dean, Armstrong Campus, College of Engineering and Computing); Bradley Sturz (Associate Director of Assessment); Breanna Calamas (Assistant Director of Advisement); Brenda Richardson (Assistant Director, First and Second Year Experience); Cassie Morgan (Registrar); Cynthia Groover (Assistant Provost); Delena A.G. Schartner (Assistant Vice President for Strategic Initiatives); Delena Bell Gatch (Assistant Vice President for Institutional Assessment and Accreditation); Diana Cone (Vice Provost); Dominique Quarles (Associate Vice President for Inclusive Excellence and Chief Diversity Officer); Dustin Anderson (Associate Provost for Student Success); Jennifer Syno (Director, Office of Advising); John Kraft (Interim Dean, Collge of Arts and Humanities);John Lester (Vice President, University Communications and Marketing); Kelly Crosby (Director, Risk and Compliance); Lisa Carmichael (Dean of Libraries); Matthew Pulliam (Director, IT Business Operations); Norton Pease (Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs, College of Arts and Humanities); Ron Stalnaker (Vice President, Business and Finance); Shay Little (Vice President, Student Affairs); Stuart Tedders (Dean, Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health); Whitney Nash (Dean, Waters College of Health Professions); Maura Copeland (Executive Counsel); Scott Taylor (Staff Council); David Walker (Assistant Director – IT Support Automation)

Attendees: Karelle Aiken; Nikki DiGregorio; Trish Holt; Carol Jamison; Amanda Konkle; Eliose Pitt; Michael McCurdy; Leticia McGrath; Beth Myers; Brad **Surtz**; Stuart Tedders; Kelly Tippy; Ellen Williams; Wendy Woodrum.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Bill Dawers called the meeting to order at 4:01pm.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- a. Besty Barrow (COE) moved to approve the agenda. Motion was approved 44 in favor, 0 against, no abstentions.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- a. No corrections were made to the minutes from September.

IV. LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

- a. Betsy Barrow (COE) noted that the Librarian's Report had the wrong version of the Faculty Welfare Committee's minutes, so plans were made to get all committee minutes updated at the next meeting, Kymberly Harris (COE) moved to accept the report. It was accepted with a vote of 46 to 0, no abstentions.

V. SENATE PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

- a. The first update provided by Bill Dawers (CAH) was that we now have Kelly Tippy as the administrative support for the Faculty Senate, indicating that she is located in the Savannah Research Labs annex across Abercorn from the main part of the Armstrong Campus.. This is the first time in three years that the senate has received this support.

Bill Dawers (CAH) noted that Kelly Tippy worked at Armstrong more than a decade ago and that he was thrilled to welcome her to Georgia Southern.

- b. Next, Dawers (CAH) indicated that he has been making tweaks to the pre-meeting notes to make them more accessible and quicker to read. In addition, he said that David Walker believes that senators' and other panelists' chat comments made to "Everyone" should now be visible to attendees of senate meetings.
- c. Next, Dawers (CAH) transitioned to talking about Kelly Tippy's contributions over the next few months. He said he will be working with her to update membership lists and address any remaining gaps in the committee memberships. She will also work on updates to the faculty senate website, including posting the videos of the faculty senate meetings. None of this will happen right away, but these updates are in progress, and Dawers (CAH) indicated that he will work with IT to improve the discussion item and request for information forms to make them more accessible and more effective in communicating information. The result, Dawers hopes, will be a new faculty senate business page, making it easier for faculty to be aware of what is happening before any given meeting and during the periods between meetings.
- d. Dawers (CAH) then transitioned to talking about the Armstrong Task Force. He said that a list of programs that could be promoted has been pushed forward and is being discussed. He encouraged people to check the links provided in the faculty senate agenda to dig into the data for a better understanding of what the Task Force is doing and how various programs have fared from 2015 until now. He said that senators who are representing programs that may be struggling in some way or have lost majors should look at this data
- e. Dawers (CAH) then transitioned to the effects of changes in evaluation of service and how it has continued to affect the difficulty of the senate to fill all of its positions, and he urged those who saw gaps that they could address to reach out to him or to their SEC representatives.
- f. He then opened the floor to questions or comments. Lacking questions, he then also stressed that if anyone had ideas for improving communication so that committees could help make their work more well-known, people should reach out to him.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Bill Dawers then moved to our only discussion item, which was on doing a survey of faculty who are teaching site synchronous courses. He noted that a few important details were in the printed agenda and that he would ask Kasie Alt (CAH) to speak to her experiences and research after his opening remarks. Dawers spoke to his experiences with site sync and the challenges he has faced with the courses, though he noted that without it, some programs would not be able to have courses make or to meet the needs on multiple campuses. The goal of the survey would be to reach out to as many teachers as possible to learn more about their experiences and thoughts about site sync.

Dr. Alt (CAH) was then introduced, with indications that she is currently engaged in a SoTL (Scholarship of Teaching and Learning) study on site sync teaching. Dr. Alt (CAH) spoke to her experiences teaching site sync. She said that based on her experiences and discussion with peers, student disengagement can be a problem. She indicated that she

is currently doing a small case study to learn more about how students engage with and respond to technologies. The study has gone over the past two semesters, and she is hoping that this will reveal best practices and other technologies that could be incorporated.

Bill Dawers (CAH) then opened the floor to see if anyone else had concerns about what the survey attempted to measure or target. Kasie Alt (CAH) started the conversation and wanted to know what other professors had used to engage students successfully. Mike Nielsen (CBSS) asked if there would be data collected on student expectations or their perspective at the end of the semester. Bill Dawers (CAH) responded that the survey probably couldn't go beyond faculty perception of student expectations and satisfaction. He asked Dustin Anderson (Provost Office) to speak to it. He said that measuring student elements would require a different mechanism to be developed and approved, but that his office would be happy to contribute to such a study. Dr. Alt (CAH) said that considering tools was crucial to success with this type of study.

Marieke Van Willigen (CBSS) said that one problem in her department is that she and her colleagues have encountered issues with too few students on one campus (usually Armstrong) and also with making sure that classrooms are unlocked and accessible to students. Mike Nielsen (CBSS) indicated that part of the concern is that the nature of site sync may make it feel like the 'remote' campus is a 'second-class' campus. Bill Dawers, speaking to Dr. Nielsen's concern, mentioned that some faculty who have taught site sync have driven to the remote campus at least one day a week to improve student engagement. Kymberly Harris (COE) talked about the challenge of supporting students at the Liberty Campus, especially non-traditional students who will mostly be taught in the evening. She said that having a fixed, functional version of site sync was essential for what COE wants to do.

Leigh Rich (WCHP) indicated that we might need data for classes at non-traditional time periods. First, she said that we need to make sure that the rooms can be unlocked. Second, we need to make sure that enough classrooms are available. Third, Dr. Rich said that we need to determine if site sync is the mode of delivery preferred by students, especially since some seem to favor Zoom over site sync.

Provost Reiber said the goal here was not only to make site sync classes better but also to consider what tools are being used properly. He stressed that the technology is expensive and that outfitting more classrooms is a budgetary concern, and he indicated that in some situations, Zoom may be a better pedagogical option. He also stressed that it's important that people be trained to use the rooms, and he indicated that he has worked with IT so that when rooms are scheduled as site sync, people will be notified to take the training. He stressed that the goal here is not just to 'fix' site sync but determine the best available technology for different programs.

Dr. Van Willigen (CBSS) asked if it was an ‘urban legend’ that a class was counted differently depending on its mode of delivery, with site sync classes being treated as face to face classes and Zoom classes as online. Provost Reiber responded that that was the case, but that it was mostly a holdover from the period beginning in Fall 2020 in which the USG was categorizing courses as part of the pandemic response. However, Provost Reiber indicated that this measurement has changed, and that it isn’t such a problem at this time.

Dr. Alt (CAH) indicated that there is a challenge to what site sync is considered by different evaluating institutions. SACSCOC, she said, views site sync as online, but we view it as face-to-face. Other universities use “hybrid” or some other term. She also noted that internally, sometimes the courses are viewed as two sections, and this has caused her to have to deal with her courses being reported as low enrolled when they are not.

Dr. Anderson (Provost Office) echoed Provost Reiber in indicating that we need to view the site sync as a solution based on the technology of the time, and after the pandemic, we have learned more about remote learning options. However, he stressed that he didn’t want to leave the discussion with the idea that site sync is broken. He said that site sync solves specific problems.

Ming Fang He (COE) suggested making the topic of site sync classes more researchable by organizing a forum and working toward publication in a journal like the International Journal of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Dr. Alt (CAH) said she agreed entirely, and said that even a more informal forum would be appropriate. She stressed that she agreed with Dr. Anderson that site synchronous and Zoom synchronous classes are different and can solve different problems, speaking to the ability for those in site sync classes to work with each other in a physical form. Bill Dawers also spoke to the concern that with synchronous classes on Zoom, a challenge that hasn’t been discussed well has been the need for on-campus spaces for students to use Zoom.

Provost Reiber wanted to have it noted that training has already been activated.

Dr. Van Willigen (CBSS) said that given the recent negative commentary about site sync, this work on addressing these problems may be received by the student government association in a positive way. Dr. Nielsen (CBSS) said that as the representative to the SGA, he would be willing to speak to them and would report back to Bill Dawers.

At 4:40, Bill Dawers turned the meeting over to President Kyle Marrero.

VII. UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT’S REPORT AND BUDGET UPDATE (Dr. Kyle Marrero)

- a. President Marrero began his comments with Hurricane Ian, saying that he was sorry that faculty senate was pushed back but because of the school closures, it was necessary to push it back so that nothing could prevent faculty with family who needed to pick up

children from doing so. He also shared his hopes for Florida and wished positive things for those affected by the storm.

- b. He then spoke to October 17-20th, the spirit week on the Armstrong campus that will culminate with the Celebrate! event on October 20th.
- c. He then spoke to the annual faculty awards and commented on the simplified forms that had been created over the last year to make applying for these awards easier.
- d. President Marrero then transitioned to discussing the Governor's Honors program. He spoke about how the administration had responded to a state Request for Proposals (RFP) to bring this program to Georgia Southern. About 700 students will be selected from a large pool of applicants and will live on campus in July. We have a four year contract with the state to deliver the program, which fiscally is a breakeven opportunity for us but helps as a recruiting event as it exposes students to the campus.
- e. President Marrero then transitioned to the Hyundai plant, indicating that the most exciting update was that there have been subsequent meetings with their leadership to improve internship opportunities. Hyundai will be seeking to hire 40 engineers at an upcoming career fair.
- f. President Marrero then transitioned to discussing the Armstrong Task Force. He confirmed that he has received the recommended programs list and that the administration is going through the evaluation of these suggested programs. However, they are not yet ready to unveil the program. He expected that updated information would be available around the time of the next faculty senate meeting.
- g. President Marrero then provided an update regarding enrollment. As of October 1, we are down 5.8% in head count and down about 6% in credit hours. We are driving towards B term, which the university is pushing and promoting as hard as possible. The current declines would equate to about \$6.9 million. After withholding some money already, the cut to our budget will be about \$5 million. The recent declines will impact state formula funding in fiscal year 2025.
- h. President Marrero then explained that the other part of the revenue puzzle is that fewer students mean not just lost tuition but also lost fees. However, he suggested that there is a silver lining in that the USG is now going to allow a full recruitment cycle of 3.2 GPA high school based recruitment without SAT or other tests. That means that for spring 2023, we may be looking at enrollment numbers much closer to spring 2022 than fall 2023 is to fall 2022. He indicated that the PBFC committee, which has recently received an updated charge, met with Ron Stalmaker and Justin Janney with the goal of helping faculty have a better understanding of the financial situation of the university.
- i. President Marrero closed his updates by saying that the consulting firm Segal will be presenting the latest salary study at the next faculty senate meeting.

VIII. PROVOST'S REPORT (Dr. Carl Reiber)

- a. Provost Carl Reiber began his report by saying that he had asked for clarification of comparisons in the Segal salary study, and that it would be published on My Georgia Southern before Segal presented their findings, so we would all see the data in advance.
- b. Regarding the Armstrong Task Force, Provost Reiber indicated that since Scott Lingrell will be leaving the committee as he is leaving the university, Amy Ballagh is cycling in to

take his space. He is pleased with the work of the committee, and he said that the task force is finishing phase 1 and is moving into phase 2, which takes a longer view. He believes that the task force has led to a spread of really creative ideas that could benefit the entire university.

- c. Last, Provost Reiber said that the Post Tenure Review document was submitted to the Board of Regents, and as soon as administration hears back, he will communicate with the ad hoc committee chaired by Dr. Van Willigen (CBSS).

IX. QUESTION AND ANSWER

- a. Bill Dawers then opened the senate to questions at 5:04pm.
- b. Leigh Rich (WCHP) asked for a clarification of the nine programs that had been selected for promotion at the Armstrong. President Marrero clarified that the nine included bachelor degrees as well as several associate programs. Asked if he would consider all nine, he indicated that it would come down to resources.
- c. Chris Caplinger (CAH) asked about the pending update to the Fall 2023 calendar. Carl Reiber said that the Calendar Committee had some recommendations, and those recommendations would be brought to President Marrero soon, noting that elements were delayed because of Hurricane Ian.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Following a motion by Betsy Barrow and seconded by Mike Nielsen, the senate was adjourned at 5:11pm.