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Discussion of move to change title Associate Vice President for Government Relations to Vice President for Government Relations and Community Engagement.

Submitted by: Provost Ted Moore

1/31/2012

Discussion:

Historically the Associate Vice President for Government Relations has served as an advocate for Georgia Southern in the state legislature and the governor's office. The position has included liaison with the federal legislative delegation as well.

Rationale:

The position has been expanded in scope to include the functions previously performed, and to add to them extensive efforts to increase the impact Georgia Southern University has on the region and the state. The enhanced function serves as a catalyst for casting a new role for the University in state and community engagement activities. This will include working closely with the Governor's Office, the Georgia Department of Economic Development and other state and regional agencies as the University's legislative liaison. The Vice President for Governmental Relations and Community Engagement will continue to serve as the University's advocate in the State Capitol and will work as a liaison for the university to facilitate campus/community partnerships with regional governmental entities as well.

SEC Response:

The SEC decided that this item is more appropriate as a component of the Provost's Report at the Faculty Senate meeting.

Senate Response:

Minutes 2/14/2012: Provost's Report: Historically, the Associate Vice President for Government Relations has served as an advocate for Georgia Southern in the state legislature and the governor's office.

The position has included liaison with the federal legislative delegation as well. Mr. Russell Keen is now the Associate Vice President, and during his time in office, the position has been expanded in scope to include the functions previously performed, and to add to them extensive efforts to increase the impact Georgia Southern University has on the region and the state.

The enhanced function serves as a catalyst for casting a new role for the University in state and community engagement activities. This includes, but is not limited to, working closely with the Governor's Office, the Georgia Department of Economic Development, and other state and regional agencies as the University's legislative liaison. In recognition of this expanded role, President Keel has approved changing the position from Associate Vice President for Government Relations to the Vice President for Government Relations and Community Engagement.

Marc Cyr (CLASS) noted the announcements of a couple of title changes for jobs, with another one coming up on the agenda, and that in at least a couple of the cases he gathered that the duties are not changing, just the title. He wondered if there would be pay changes for these positions.

President Keel said the duties have in fact changed for the Vice President for Government Relations and Community Engagement, quite a bit to reflect the Vice President level that this individual has been placed in. With regard to the officers in Economic Development, we have refined and focused the duties that were already there, but there is really not much difference in terms of what's happening today and what happened yesterday with that office. That title change really was just more of a clarification of what was already going on in the particular office.

Cyr reiterated his question re: whether there will be pay changes for any of these positions. President Keel said, "I'm not going to discuss personal issues for a variety of reasons . . . But for any promotion including the pay would be proportionate to the title and the job description."