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Senate Moderator David Allen's Report

David Allen
Georgia Southern University

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Report from David Allen, Senate Moderator Allen felt compelled as the moderator in surveying the situation today to try to the read the climate and consider what challenges we have ahead for the coming year; he invited later responses or objections to his remarks.

Allen believes the shared governance situation has improved dramatically in the last two years, and the Faculty Handbook has become a more reliable guide than in the past. However, overall faculty morale remains low and there is continued cynicism, fear, and trepidation regarding an unacknowledged ratcheting up of standards regarding tenure and promotion, and the existence of hidden administration agendas. He believes that we now have a more accessible and transparent process and that the administration is not trying to do anything sneaky and underhanded. But we have a self-perpetuating problem:

Faculty who are not involved in the governance system perceive little to have changed, and because of that perception they remain uninvolved. Allen wants the Senate to find more creative ways to involve faculty in the process and suggested the Strategic Planning Council hold open faculty forums; he also asked the Faculty Welfare Committee to consider ways to raise morale. Further, the standing committees, which are wholly composed of faculty, should move quickly to address their charges actively.

He further mentioned that with the College of Information Technology coming into being, the Senate will be expanding and we need to consider proportional representation. A final point was that he wants faculty more actively included in physical and environmental planning for the campus.

Krug, noting that she had been asked by colleagues to bring two questions to the Senate concerning lack of transparency and contradictory messages in the Handbook, asked when rebuttals of Allen's remarks might be appropriately made, and specifically disagreed with his remarks about transparency, that while sometimes administrators think decisions they make are being communicated to those at lower levels, they are not. She also questioned how the SEC could speak of transparency without having recently surveyed faculty.

Allen clarified that his remarks were his own, not the SEC's; the SEC only approved as an appropriate agenda item the new moderator offering his ideas. Much discussion ensued regarding the appropriate way for making responses to Allen's remarks; John Brown (COBA) and

Jeff McLellan (Parliamentarian) suggested bringing the issue up under "New Business."