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Principle to Guide Senate Composition

Georgia Southern University

Senate Restructuring Task Force

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Principle to Guide Senate Composition

3/22/2000

Motion:

On behalf of the Senate Restructuring Task Force, Dr. Mutter (CHPS) moved that the Senate approve the following statement as a guiding principle for the development of proposed changes to the Senate Bylaws and GSU Statutes: The Faculty Senate shall be composed of at least forty regular full-time members of the Corps of Instruction holding the rank of instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, or professor who have been members of the faculty of the University for at least one year at the beginning of their elected terms. The University President, the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, and one student member shall be ex-officio members. The motion was seconded.

Rationale:

Dr. Mutter explained the rationale and justification for the motion. Senators asked several questions and suggested several minor modifications to the language of the principle.

Dr. Jake Simon (COBA) spoke in favor of maintaining membership of the Faculty Senate as it currently stands. Dr. Mutter pointed out that this guiding principle does not preclude most administrators from election to the Senate. Administrators who hold academic rank in a particular college could stand for election in that college. Modifications to the Principle included adding the word "elected" to the first sentence of the Principle between the words "forty" and "regular," removing the word "elected" from the end of that sentence, and adding the statement "appointed by the Student Government Association" after "one student member" in the second sentence.

Dr. Mark Kostin (COE) recommended that the rationale for removing all but two administrators from the Senate be more fully articulated by the Task Force when they bring this item back to the Senate for a vote as a Bylaws/Statutes change. In addition, he recommended that the Task Force describe in
practical terms how the Senate would be changed/redefined per this Guiding Principle. The motion was approved.