Recommendations of the Faculty Senate Task Force on the Role of the Faculty in Shared Governance

The Faculty Senate Task Force on the Role of the Faculty in Shared Governance has published its report in both frequency distributions and a brief summary of results on the following website: http://www2.gasou.edu/FacultySenate/. The report includes: information about procedures followed, including the charge from the Senate Executive Committee; a summary of the resulting data; and the following recommendations:

1. All policies regarding faculty must be in writing, whether they are at the departmental, college, or university level. These policies include, but are not limited to: hiring; annual evaluation; pre-tenure review; review for tenure, promotion, and post-tenure evaluation; establishment of committees; and committee appointments.

2. All faculty should be aware of written policies of their department and college and Georgia Southern University, as well as those of the Board of Regents.

3. Each department and college must submit to the Provost its current written policies regarding hiring; annual evaluation; pre-tenure review; review for tenure, promotion, and post-tenure evaluation; establishment of committees; and committee appointments.

4. In consultation with the chair and full-time faculty in each department, each dean should verify the existence of, review and, when necessary, initiate revision of, current policies of all departments in the college to guarantee their consistency with university-wide policies for annual evaluation; pre-tenure review; and review for tenure, promotion, and post-tenure evaluation (2002-2003 Faculty Handbook, pp. 22-28).

5. In consultation with the dean of each college, the Provost should review and, when necessary, initiate revision of current policies of each college to guarantee their consistency with university-wide policies for annual evaluation; pre-tenure review; and review for tenure, promotion, and post-tenure evaluation (2002-2003 Faculty Handbook, pp. 22-28).

6. All faculty must have access to written departmental and college policies related to the personnel decisions mentioned in item #1 above. We recommend that policies appear on each department and college website and in print in the departmental and college offices.

7. The faculty must have a role in developing and implementing all policies that affect them. They include, but are not limited to, policies related to: hiring; annual evaluation; pre-tenure review; review for tenure, promotion, and post-
tenure evaluation; establishment of committees; and committee appointments.

8. The statement in item #7 above must appear in the 2003-2004 Faculty Handbook. We recommend that it be included in Section 203.02, “Faculty as Participants in the Shaping of University Policies” (2002-2003 Faculty Handbook, p. 22).

9. There may be some merit in examining the existing written departmental and college policies and the results of the Task Force’s survey to determine the availability of these policies and faculty perception of their role in governance at the departmental and college levels.