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Faculty Senate Website-SharePoint

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Faculty Senate Website-SharePoint

Submitted by Patrick Novotny

1/10/2010

Question:

I would like to have clarification from the University’s administration of the decision to have the requirement of a Novell username and password at login to the Faculty Senate's Website.

Rationale:

SharePoint's "Authentication Requested" prompt ("A username and password are being requested by https://sharepoint.georgiasouthern.edu. The site says: 'sharepoint.georgiasouthern.edu'”) appears to raise important student and public accessibility issues with regard to the Faculty Senate's Minutes, Motions, Requests for Information, and related actions.

Response:

Michael Moore, Senate Moderator, responds: Patrick, what you ask is a good question. As you know we are just getting started with Sharepoint and learning what it can and cannot do. We had to move from our previous website as it was breaking down piece by piece. David Robinson had created the previous site and maintained it. However, David has since left Georgia Southern. Like you, we feel the Faculty Senate site should be open to the university and the public. We are in the process of removing the password protection. From now on, anyone can navigate to our site. Also, we are reworking our labels and tabs. Rfis will be under the heading "Current and Archived Requests." Finally, as folks use the site, please note ways to improve the website and pass these suggestions along to the Senate Moderator.

Michael Moore (COE) Chair, Senate Executive Committee, said that the SEC is in agreement with Patrick and has been trying to remove pass protection from the Senate website. Concerns remain with someone outside the University accessing the SharePoint site. He added that someone from outside the University who wishes to participate can contact Ginger for a username and password onto the site. At this stage, Moore said he believed
password protection had been removed for anyone who has a University Novell password and ID. Steve Burrell (IT Services) said that all requested restrictions had been removed.

Pat Humphrey (COST) commented that when she tried to print the agenda today, it asked for a username and password. Burrell said that IT Services would look into it.

Gary Means (Provost) asked that the Senate consider the implications of opening the Senate blog to public scrutiny, in terms of the need "to exercise some constraint" in blog postings. Burrell said the blog was still under password protection, but IT Services would remove it if it was the wish of the Senate. Moore said he would contact Senate Executive Committee for a vote on the matter.