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New GSU Senate Meeting Structure

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Approved by the Senate: 2/7/2018

Approved by the President: 2/12/2018

New GSU Senate Meeting Structure

Submitted by: Meca Williams-Johnson/OWG

11/3/2017

Motion:

OWG 5-1 Faculty Governance recommends that the Senate's work on a schedule of meetings of new Consolidated Senate, beginning AY 2018-19, including meeting locations and setting up any technology necessary to ensure inclusive participation among the campuses.

The SEC moves to accept the recommendation of OWG 5-1 for a consolidated faculty senate meeting arrangement for the new GSU.

Rationale:

The OWG 5-1 recognizes that scheduling of meetings and other technological or logistical matters are best performed by those directly involved, and as such the OWG presented to the SEC a possible approach to consolidating senate meetings. The OWG suggested the possibility of a hybrid meeting approach (video conferencing and alternate locations) to efficiently facilitate the Statesboro, Savannah, and Liberty campuses, as viable meeting arrangement for the new GSU institution.

The SEC agrees that faculty senate meetings can use both face-to-face meetings and video conference technology to conduct university business. It is possible to have two large face-to-face faculty senate meetings, one at the Savannah campus and one at the Statesboro campus per academic year. The face-to-face meetings will be useful to receive reports from university leadership and work through common issues within our colleges and campus concerns. Additionally, we can conduct five meetings where campus representatives will meet as a group on their local campus and the groups will manage the senate meetings via video conference (i.e. the Armstrong campus faculty senate members will connect with the Statesboro faculty senate members via WebEx -- or other video conferencing platform and we will conduct one meeting using the conference streaming technology). The rationale for considering a variety of meeting forums is to reduce travel, decrease cost, increase convenience and safety yet foster participation from a unified faculty senate although we are physically in different locations. By

using a hybrid approach the GSU senate can continue to conduct one meeting to address faculty issues and university concerns.

Possible schedule 2018-2019

September (LARGE GROUP F2F Statesboro Campus meeting)

October (Senate members at both campuses meet at the local campus and conduct meeting via video conference as one large group meeting)

November (Senate members at both campuses meet at the local campus and conduct meeting via video conference as one large group meeting)

February (LARGE GROUP F2F Savannah Campus meeting)

March (Senate members at both campuses meet at the local campus and conduct meeting via video conference as one large group meeting)

April (Senate members at both campuses meet at the local campus and conduct meeting via video conference as one large group meeting)

Summer May or June (Senate members at both campuses meet at the local campus and conduct meeting video conference as one large group meeting).

Response:

Senate Meeting, February 7, 2018. Georgia Southern University-Statesboro campus.

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Attachment: [Senate Meeting Structure Motion 6 11.2.2017](#)

Williams-Johnson noted the OWG recommended this “hybrid model . . . to reduce travel, decrease cost, increase convenience and safety, yet foster participation from a unified faculty senate although we are physically in different locations. By using a hybrid approach, the GSU senate can continue to conduct one meeting to address faculty issues and university concerns.” This model would have the Senate meet as a large group twice a year, once in Statesboro and once in Savannah, and then via online conference for the other meetings.

Moderator Pirro asked where the President, Provost, and Moderator would be for the online meetings.

Williams-Johnson said they could be wherever works best for them. Video conferencing will allow for that. Moderator Pirro thought the Moderator should be where the majority of Senators were present.

Marc Cyr (CLASS) noted that he was currently Senate Secretary and had performed that role many times over the years. He liked the plan but only if “we have (inaudible) on the technological end is worked out before. I can’t count how many times, this is no more difficult [than] karaoke and we have had numerous (inaudible) trying to get this set-up to work. How is this going to be broadcast? Where are the cameras going to be placed? (inaudible) How is the recording going to be made from which a transcript can be produced? Those things, I think, definitely have to be worked out. They have to be worked out, I think, by the President’s (inaudible) and if we don’t, if you don’t work it out, I don’t think it will be (inaudible) and that really [will] take some doing.”

Williams-Johnson said, “(inaudible) questions (inaudible) I did want the senate members to know that we have started the ball rolling on this (inaudible) what it might take (inaudible) talk to our (inaudible) on this campus as well as the young gentleman, Jeffrey, who is the person audiovisual (inaudible) make sure that there (inaudible) hot and told me that it will take some equipment, not the visual, but the audio in terms of (inaudible).”

Someone identifiable only as Jonathan said something inaudible.

Williams-Johnson said that “Jeffrey, who is the lead audiovisual staff member for the Russell Union, has done this, so he has put our documents together for us to review and if interested (inaudible).”

Robert Costomiris (CLASS) asked, “Where is the money (inaudible)?”

President Hebert responded, “We have an end of year budgeting process where we’ll prioritize the expenditures with end of year funds and I’m certain this will be a very (inaudible).”

Moderator Pirro noted, “I should add, by the way, that one of the Senate, (inaudible) there’s nothing, (inaudible) North Georgia said the, this is a quote now, ‘the University invested heavily in virtual teleconferencing communication software.’”

Someone unidentifiable noted that, even with alternates available, faculty should check the upcoming schedule of Senate meetings to make sure they can attend before they run for senate.

There was an inaudible exchange between Janice Stiern (CLASS) and Moderator Pirro. It may have been to do with the Moderator and the Senate President-Elect being at separate locations for teleconferenced meetings given that Fred Smith (LIB) then said, “This may be the second person we were talking about, sort of an Apprentice President, that take that role,” and Moderator Pirro said he assumed that there might be issues that will have to be worked out over the first year or two.

Ming Fang He (COE) said something inaudible to which Moderator Pirro replied, “I think there would have to be a room dedicated to this, whatever, this is not going to be (inaudible) this is why I think that in all likelihood we will probably be meeting in this larger group, I can’t think of a room that can hold all of us in rows, so anyway.”

The motion having been moved, was Approved.

Attachment: Senate Meeting Structure Motion 6 11-2-2017