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CONSOLIDATED SENATE APPORTIONMENT AND MEMBERSHIP FOR NEW GEORGIA SOUTHERN

Meca Williams-Johnson/OWG

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Motion: To determine the new Senate structure for the institution the OWG 5-1 Faculty Governance recommends apportioned faculty senate membership based on the current Statutes of Georgia Southern University. In addition to maintaining the current faculty apportionment policy, the OWG recommends that there will be at least one faculty member serving at the different location to represent each college, we will have at least one senator from both the Statesboro and Armstrong campus to serve on faculty senate executive committee. One representative from the Liberty campus is also recommended.

The SEC moves to add these revisions to senate bylaws on membership to reflect apportionment for all colleges and senate representative for the Liberty campus.

Rationale:

The OWG 5-1 Faculty Governance is charged with consolidating the governance structure for the new GSU, presented the following recommendations to the CIC on August 7th 2017.

OWG 5-1: Faculty Governance – Co-chairs: Richard Flynn (GSU) and David Bringman (ASU) The following recommendations were approved by consensus of the CIC with no objections.

1. Recommend consolidation of the two faculty senates with additional seats designated to represent the ARM and Liberty campuses based on Georgia Southern’s current method of apportionment. It is important that there be one faculty senate for the new institution.

2. Under the current apportionment method (spelled out in Article II of the current Georgia Southern Bylaws) there will be approximately twenty additional senators

The motion presented to the current GSU faculty senate is to discuss our framework for moving forward in consolidating faculty senate members across our different location. Based on the criteria above the new faculty members representing Armstrong would be 23 senators and 1 from Liberty campus. Many of our faculty members are shifting between campuses this number may change pending the number of faculty members that will be housed on the Armstrong campus. Below represents a chart for senators by college and location to further illustrate how this would look for voting purposes in Spring 2018 (elections for senators starting in Fall 2018).

Response:


e.  Consolidated Senate Apportionment and Membership for New Georgia Southern
Attachment: Consolidating Senate Membership – Motion 5 11.3.2017

Meca Williams-Johnson (COE) said the OWG on Faculty Governance discussed several possibilities for consolidating the senate and arrived at “consolidation of the two faculty senates with additional seats and designated to represent the Armstrong and Liberty campuses based on Georgia Southern’s current method of apportionment . . .there will be approximately twenty additional senators designated to represent the Armstrong and Liberty campuses.” This will increase Senate membership to about 80 senators.

One comment that she received from Katherine at Kennesaw University, who also served on the OWG, was that moving through consolidation is tough, but if it was not broken, don’t fix it, which means that if apportionment worked at the largest institution we should stick with it.

Someone unidentifiable and mostly inaudibly supported the motion.

Williams-Johnson said, “Thank you, and I just (inaudible) so for the first year we wanted to make sure that it was clearly indicated where these new senators (inaudible) to make sure they (inaudible) understand that by majority voting that they might not be (inaudible). Every college, several colleges run their election differently so to make sure that they have seats available. Then the following year in 2019 we (inaudible) the colleges vote as they (inaudible).”
Moderator Pirro said he thought that, especially given that some people will be teaching on both campuses, this will help create the organic feeling that all are part of one university.

The motion having been moved was Approved.

Minutes, March 6, 2018

b. Correction to supporting documents for Consolidating Senate Membership Motion

In the raft of motions that we passed to consolidate the Senate, one of them was about the apportionment of Senators, and there was an error in one of the supporting documents where the Lane Library staff was listed as having four members to be represented, while in fact there are nine. That change has been made to the supporting documents, but it doesn’t change their representation on the Senate: they will still get one Senator.

On the subject of the Consolidated Senate, he noted that we hadn’t had an election of the Senate President for next year or the President-Elect. Armstrong needs to establish who the senators are for next year and we should have a list by mid-March. Then we’ll know who is eligible, we’ll get nominations for Senate President for next year and the President-elect, and strive for the election as soon as possible thereafter, partly because the Senate President-elect will have a course release and we don’t want to inconvenience students. He noted that if senators have at least one year left, they are eligible for President for next year, and if they have two years, they are eligible for President-Elect. He added that he would help those elected as much as possible, and that he thought the more faculty who had such an experience, the better.