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NEW STANDING COMMITTEE-PLANNING, BUDGET, AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Meca Williams-Johnson/OWG
Georgia Southern University

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New Standing Committee - Planning, Budget, and Facilities Committee

Submitted by: Meca Williams-Johnson/OWG

11/3/2017

Motion:

Faculty Governance OWG 5-1 recommends formulating a combined Planning, Budget, and Facilities Committee. The recommended committee will be added to the new GSU bylaws.

The SEC moves to add the Planning, Budget and Facilities Committee as a standing committee for the new Georgia Southern. Duties and requirements of the Planning, Budget and Facilities Committee will be added to the new GSU bylaws.

Rationale:

The OWG 5-1 Faculty Governance met to discuss merging of bylaws for the new Georgia Southern University. In an effort to foster an environment of collaboration and promote continual improvement in bridging relationships between campuses, members of the OWG negotiated the structure of faculty senate and revised the bylaws of the old GSU to reflect modifications. University committees were discussed to merge common committees and isolate those that were distinct to their respective campus. The Planning, Budget and Facilities Committee was originally formed at the Armstrong Campus to increase faculty voice on decision making with regard to fiscal planning.

The OWG identifies the benefit of faculty involvement in the coordination of university planning and budgeting activities. Faculty can review and recommend to GSU administration various plans and their associated resource needs. The description of the Planning, Budget and Facilities Committee would be added to the new GSU bylaws.

Planning, Budget and Facilities Committee
The responsibilities of the PLANNING, BUDGET, AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE shall be as follows:

a. make recommendations concerning strategic planning, budgeting (including long-range planning and the annual budget prior to its submission to the Board of Regents);

b. make recommendations on the planning, development, and expansion of physical facilities when such endeavors affect the academic mission of the university.

c. report to the Librarian, the Senate Executive Committee, and the Senate as described in Article IV, Section 3.

Voting membership shall be composed of one senator appointed by the Senate Executive Committee and faculty members elected by and representing each college and the library, one per unit.

Response:


c. New standing committee – Student Success Committee

Meca Williams-Johnson (COE) noted that the OWG was of the opinion that the Student Success Committee would benefit all of our students by using analytics to produce data to guide informed decisions. At Armstrong, this has increased retention rates, and the committee was also instrumental in their course withdrawal policy and their course repeat policy. They would work closely with the new VP for Enrollment Management.

There were one or more inaudible comments.

Marc Cyr (CLASS) said that he liked both of these committees, noting that we have administrative functions working right now towards student success, but he didn’t think we had a coordinated faculty effort to help. He was also “very fond” of the Budget committee proposal, noting that when he was Moderator in 2004, we got something like this through the Senate, and then President Grube “torpedoed” it. He liked the idea of “the faculty having some notion of what the hell is going on with all those magic buckets” of money.
Moderator Pirro noted that the committee would not give faculty any statutory budget authority. But it would give faculty the ability “to ask questions of representatives from the VP Finance and also ask questions that might be stupid, but still worth asking and eventually building up the expertise [so] that the questions have . . . more nuance . . . because sometimes we get material from Finance that we don’t understand. It would be good to have people in this room who really have a better sense of [the issues].”

Williams-Johnson noted that similar committees exist at other USG institutions, such as Kennesaw, Valdosta, Columbus State, UGA, UGA, and North Georgia. An Armstrong faculty member had noted to her that the committee helped communication and transparency between administration and faculty regarding budgeting and facilities.

Dustin Anderson (CLASS) wanted reassurance on membership, that it would be staffed from the Faculty Senate and not appointed outside the Senate.

Williams-Johnson said a Senate faculty member will be on this committee, but its members will come from the colleges. The VP for Finance will also be on it.

The motions having been Moved separately were both Approved separately.