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NEW STANDING COMMITTEE-STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

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New standing committee - Student Success Committee

Submitted by: Meca Williams-Johnson/OWG

11/3/2017

Motion:

Faculty Governance OWG 5-1 recommends formulating a combined Student Success Committee as a standing committee and its inclusion into the new GSU bylaws.

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

Rationale:

The OWG 5-1 Faculty Governance met to discuss merging 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. All university senate committees were discussed to merge common committees and isolate those that were distinct to their respective campus. The Student Success Committee (SSC) is a committee originally formed at the Armstrong campus to further support retention and graduation among its students.

The SSC reviews the issues and trends in procedures on campus that effect student success. For example, the SSC committee at Armstrong reviewed how many fully online hours a first year student can enroll and progress through their program. The committee found that first year students who enrolled in a majority of online courses had lower retention rates and were not successful. Policy changes regarding online classes were then recommended and passed for all first year students. The SSC also contributes to work on academic benchmarks for degree programs to assist with predictive analytics in regards to student progression.
The OWG identifies the SSC as a distinct committee and different than the Academic Standards Committee (ASC). Currently, the ASC sets academic benchmarks for admittance, progression, suspension, graduation, etc. It also appeals for student reinstatement. The OWG recommends maintaining both, the SSC and the ASC for the new Georgia Southern as they sometimes may work together on projects. The Enrollment Management Committee may also be involved in projects from both SSC and ASC. Decisions of the SSC and ASC may influence enrollment and trends toward graduation, the OWG recognizes the benefit of having faculty serve on these committees. The description of the SSC committee would be added to the new GSU bylaws.

Student Success Committee
The responsibilities of the STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE shall be as follows:

a. evaluate, recruitment, admission and retention goals;

b. review current and proposed policies related to recruitment, admission, and retention;

c. identification of resource needs in those areas;

d. 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
d. New Standing Committee – Planning, Budget, and Facilities 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.