

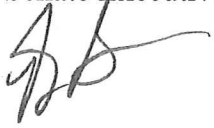
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Notebook

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<http://welcome.georgiasouthern.edu/president/>

TO: Dr. Marc D. Cyr, Chair, Senate Executive Committee
FROM: Bruce Grube, President 
DATE: November 18, 2008
SUBJECT: Faculty Senate Recommendation: October 20, 2008
Ad-Hoc Committee, Re: Summer Issues

To ensure that understanding is enhanced among faculty regarding the planning, scheduling, and funding mechanisms for Summer School, the Provost will sponsor two well-publicized forums for faculty. In addition, pertinent information regarding Summer School will be made available on the Provost's Office website at <http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/provost/>.

If substantive questions remain among the faculty following the forums, the recommendation regarding the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee will be considered.

MOTION:

That the Faculty Senate appoint an ad-hoc committee to examine the bases and methods for, and impacts of summer curriculum/course selection and deletion, including impacts on faculty, students, and programs.

RATIONALES:

Section 110 of the *Faculty Handbook*, based on BOR policies, gives the faculty the right and responsibility to be involved in academic/curricular decisions and any elements relating to faculty welfare. These aspects of shared governance do not seem to be in place re: summer sessions at GSU:

- Faculty have been told there is funding formula in place for summer – The reasons for this formula, or even by whom this formula was arrived at and imposed, are unknown to faculty, yet it is the driving force behind curricular decisions – in particular, choices of what classes to offer and what classes to delete – that impact faculty, students, and programs. For example, it seems that in COBA in summer 2007, Accounting was directed to delete two classes to meet this profit formula; rather than damage the students and the program, two members of the department

taught these classes for no extra pay, in essence funding the profit formula out of their own pockets (and the pockets of the faculty members originally hired for those classes).

- Section 216 of the *Faculty Handbook* states flatly that faculty will be paid 3% of their annualized Spring salary per credit hour for summer teaching, yet this pay rate was unilaterally reduced at the last moment in some departments of COBA during the summer of 2008, and there is a proposal that in at least some departments and courses in CLASS pay will be on a per student basis beginning summer 2009, and that the number of students per class will be increased from the number in those classes during Fall and Spring. The increase in the number of students per class can/will negatively impact a class's quality; it certainly increases faculty workload, and can decrease the number of faculty used by the University (more students per class means fewer classes – and fewer faculty to be paid). This committee should investigate the use of a budget formula to drive class size and thereby impact class quality, and should investigate the terms of contractual obligations/protections for summer terms, including the “handshake” nature of the current faculty employment agreement: Some form of clear written statement noting an individual's summer schedule and his/her compensation is needed.

- Section 216 of the *Faculty Handbook* seems to make deletion of a class the only way to meet the financial formula strictures, and this situation should be examined.

gm

c: Dr. Linda Bleicken
Dr. Amy Heaston
Ms. Candace Griffith
Dr. Jill Lockwood
Dean Fred Whitt
Ms. Virginia Samiratedu