**Georgia Southwestern State University**

Unapproved Faculty Senate Minutes

Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at 4pm

Nursing 106

Present: Michael Crosby, Anne Jacobs, Jill Drake (ex-officio), John LeJeune, Jamie MacLennan, Alaina Kaus, Justin Hodges (Proxy for Keaton Wynn), Jonathan Carter, Michelle Johnston (ex-officio), Michele McKie, Lesia Easom, Amber Stovall, Ian Brown, Sai Mukkavilli,

1. Call to Order at 404 pm.
	1. Approval of Agenda. Motion to approve by LeJeune. Seconded by Stovall. Unanimous approval
2. Minutes
	1. September 25, 2024. Motion to approve by Easom. Second LeJeune. Approved Unanimously
3. Senate Activity Updates
	1. Ad-Hoc Transition Committee Meetings Report (covered topics from Sept 30th and Oct 22nd meetings).
4. Aspire and LPPs: USG knows we are not acting except for proposals that were already in motion. Administration and Senate will continue to monitor issues.
	1. LPPs will present status updates to President and Provost so we can make a comprehensive plan.
5. Policy for program deactivation. President Johnston reads the policy as requiring normal faculty governance. There are small language revisions that will come to the senate pending review by Dr. Johnston.
6. Assessment of the IMPACTS domain. Was discussion of the role of senate committees and their role in assessment. Focused on the question of policy review vs performing advising. Conclusion is under discussion.
7. Southwestern week survey. There will be at least one other meeting about the future of it. If there are issues about the bring them to the senate or be involved in the process.
8. Some statute changes will be proposed by the President’s office. Senate asked for a formal request to go to the appropriate committee(s).
9. The Transition committee may take a new form or phase out soon. There was discussion concerning annual reviews and the perception of evaluation inflation.
	* 1. LeJeune asked about faculty Work Profiles
		2. Drake said the reorganization put those on hold, but they need to be updated.
		3. Changes to faculty evaluation will take time and will not be implemented in a way that impacts the evaluations the year of announcement.
		4. Other pending issues were listed for the record: Pay inequity and compression. Career services office. Strategic planning process. AI Taskforce. Future of Graduate School. Student recruitment.
	1. President’s Cabinet Meeting-MacLennan noted most was covered in the presidential report
		1. Reminder for faculty to be aware of the new BOR guidelines on political activity.
		2. Reminder that open enrollment is coming
		3. Reminder to keep an eye on IT security initiatives and Teams VIOP
	2. Update on Action Items Sent to Committees
		1. Graduate affairs is doing their own withdrawal policy – the one before the senate only covers undergraduates.
		2. Faculty Affairs is working on probationary credit for new faculty and reviewing the USG core values statement. Meeting is next week.
10. Public Address - None
11. University Updates and Q+A
	1. President Michelle Johnston
		1. Regarding the possibility of an office to support graduate studies. The leadership is discussing. Whatever decisions will come out of the strategic planning process.
		2. Nursing Dean search is going well.
		3. Campus Wide initiatives. Strategic/Master plan review is coming. It will include a lot of senate input. NISS (3-year process) and current conversations are part of planning. Official efforts will begin next semester.
			1. Will also be aligned around the capital campaign. Its goals are built around student access, success (student support services programs etc.) and faculty excellence.
		4. Thank you to participants in Give Southwestern. Impressive response.
		5. Enrollment: we are way up! Surpassed 3700 students. says a large part is Dual Enrollment. Johnston will provide more details to senate on the breakdown (campus vs online, specific college trends, etc.)
		6. Budget: we should see budget increases. It is a long and unclear process. Estimates will be after we get budget numbers in April. Hearings were productive. This budgeting will play into strategic plan.
			1. Followed up on faculty requests. They made up 4.4 million in immediate requests (will likely have 1.5 million to spend).
			2. A reminder that some funds will be needed to replace funds that we are losing (e.g. COVID). We are making plans for donors and grants along with the budget.
		7. Goals: 10-year master plan, increasing retention, increase a sense of belonging. Do not lower standards to increase retention. Have a stronger plan for professionalization (more HIPS). Compensation study – not sure on the funding – ask to also consider part-time, adjunct and overload.
		8. President’s Announcements
			1. Tailgate for homecoming, 3-5 on Saturday of homecoming.
			2. Holiday part – Dec 5 4:30-630
			3. Commencement Dec 12 – Theresa McCartney is speaker.
			4. Open forum will happen soon (virtual and in-person) will happen soon
			5. Drake will update on facilities.
		9. Questions:
			1. Conversation about communication strategies around day of giving—potential disclosures of individual’s giving status.
	2. Provost Jill Drake
		1. Briefed the senate on the system provost RAC meeting.
			1. Big focus on international education and HIPs. GSW will get someone from USG office to our campus for taste of the world event. Interest in expanding study abroad.
			2. Our HIPs report is very wrong, we are working on correcting the record and our HIPs coding.
			3. QEP is going great
			4. Micro-credentialing dashboard is coming. Includes for things that are not on the DMA. The provost will get us more information.
			5. AI - other institutions have standing bodies that are doing work on this. We need a more mature body on this. Our taskforce is about achieving these goals.
			6. Core IMPACTS – Need to navigate the transferability of these. Programs may need to change curriculum if they cannot require specific core classes.
			7. Faculty evaluations – there will be a presentation to the board of regents in November on the data they collected about scores. The system believes scores are inflated.
			8. Government relations talked about their process. Does not look like we will go back to quarters.
			9. State wants more health care professionals.
		2. Library Updates
			1. There is a task force trying to plan student and faculty resources.
			2. Library will be out of the MSC during the renovation.
			3. Creating a webpage to direct students in the renovation.
			4. First floor was underbudget, so there will be second floor work as well.
			5. Closes Dec 11. Opens in the fall.
		3. There are new video resources for academic alerts.
			1. Drake will check on the ability to reply or get notes as part of alerts.
			2. Some questions on the software costs of MyGSW. Open to other product ideas.
			3. New teaching and learning librarian search is moving along. Currently completing virtual interviews.
			4. Senate Transition committee has helped bring forward academic affairs issues.
12. Senate Discussion Items / Future Action Items
	1. Senate Handbook revisions
		1. MacLennan moved to remove section on proxy voting. Carter seconded. It passed unanimously.
		2. Carter motioned to table while friendly amendments and wording issues were worked out in committee. Brown seconded. Passed unanimously.
13. 7. Committee Recommendations
	1. Graduate Affairs
		1. M.Ed. Middle Grades Language Arts – Deactivation.
			1. Brown moved to approve. Easom Seconded. Passed unanimously.
		2. M.Ed. Middle Grades Mathematics - Deactivation.
			1. McKie moved to approve. Easom seconded. Passed unanimously.
	2. Faculty Affairs
		1. Policy to change the date of Withdrawals
			1. Jacobs moved to approve. Carter seconded. Passed unanimously.
14. Announcements
	1. Reminders about homecoming events.
15. Adjourned at 6:36 PM

Submitted by Jonathan Carter