

Georgia Southwestern State University
Faculty Senate Meeting

Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.
GSW Nursing Building, Room 106

Minutes – Approved April 22, 2024

Members in Attendance (12): John LeJeune (President), Amber Stovall (Vice-President), Ian Brown, Michael Crosby, Michelle Dykes, Leisa Easom, Chadwick Gugg, Anne Jacobs, Sai Mukkavilli, Thelma Sexton, Anh-Hue Tu, Keaton Wynn

Ex-officio Members in Attendance (2): President Neal Weaver, Provost Jill Drake

1. Call to Order: John LeJeune called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

a) Approval of Agenda: Michelle Dykes motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Keaton Wynn, and approved unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes

a) February 19, 2024: Thelma Sexton motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Lisa Easom, no discussion, and approved unanimously.

3. Senate Activity Updates

a) Academic Reorganization Examination Committee-Update: John LeJeune sent the unofficial academic reorganization report to the committee members so that there was a historical record including an analysis of the committee findings. No official report has yet been sent to Neal Weaver. The committee had voted to reorganize to three schools.

b) Agenda for the next Month: John LeJeune discussed the following upcoming agenda items: Elections, Bylaws Subcommittee, Senate and committee webpage development, General Faculty Meeting, Faculty Senate Handbook

4. Public Address (5 minutes each; not to exceed 20 minutes):

1. Jamie MacLennan (Sociology): In response to the vote of the Reorganization Committee, Dr. MacLennan said that more time is needed to consider dissolving A&S and there also needs to be a full faculty vote as there is not enough time and input to make an informed decision.

Referring to the three-college model, Dr. MacLennan asked what case has been made to meet objectives-such as saving money, protecting underperforming areas (LPPs), etc.

5. University Updates and Q+A

a) President Dr. Neal Weaver

-During legislative process, Senate did not fund science building although House of Representatives had it in their proposal. It is now in subcommittee, but will probably be pushed to next year. May be better with bond funding next year.

-Raises are approved. Those making less than \$80K will get \$3K and those making more than \$80K will get a prorated share, capped at \$3K.

-There have been no arguments over appropriations and budgets will be set in April at BOR meeting. GSW is looking at a \$980K decrease, but Dr. Weaver is hopeful we won't get entire cut.

-Summer enrollment strong- we are up 10% over this time last year.

-Fall enrollment is up 5% per recruiters, but this might be a conservative estimate and could be at 8-10%.

-FAFSA is a colossal failure-problems are at a federal level.

-Library project is coming along and there may be an additional \$1M in MMR.

-John LeJeune asked about future leadership-does Dr. Weaver know and Dr. Weaver said no, but he assumes a search committee will select a permanent president, perhaps by January.

-Anh-Hue Tu asked about the status of the Golf and Conference Center. Dr. Weaver said that it should be completed around this time next year.

-Leisa Easom asked about the search status for the Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Dr. Weaver and Dr. Drake confirmed that a search will be conducted this summer and are still on same timeline to fill position by January.

-John LeJeune asked Dr. Weaver if he had any response to the public address. Dr. Weaver said that Dr. MacLennan is smart and did an incredible job starting the conversation and that he agrees the entire faculty should be included in the conversation. Also believes that faculty need to have an internal instead of external locus of control and some LPPs are already gone except for about five. But the systems office is not even discussing this with the president or provost.

-John LeJeune asked about timeline of going from four to three colleges. Dr. Weaver says he is not making the decision but thinks it will take a year for the change. He also noted that we need department heads, associate deans, etc. anyways and we currently don't have much in upward mobility. He also conveyed that we must show how degrees fulfill workforce need.

b) Provost Dr. Jill Drake

- Recognized positive ASEN, AACSB, and SACS visits.
- Addressed reorganization and that she is not the final authority on making decision of reorganization. Stated reorganization committee role was to look at implications of going from four to three schools, not models.
- ASPIRE meeting-LPPs must improve or deactivate. Need to show significant improvement in two years. Ian Brown asked what happens to faculty and tenured faculty if LPPs deactivate, and Dr. Drake said that faculty will have to show work in other areas-certificates, new degrees, etc. If faculty were let go, it would be part time, then non-tenured first. As long as we are growing, tenured faculty would not be removed.
- Midterm grades and unlimited withdrawals will be kept.
- Director of Library Services has been posted.

6. Senate Discussion Items / Action Items

a) Faculty Senate Survey: Faculty Development Committee does not just handle faculty development grants. Recommendations regarding the committee's policy and charge have been forwarded to the committee chair, with response expected by next meeting.

b) Senate Response to Reorganization Committee Recommendation: A subcommittee was formed to make a recommendation for how the Senate ought to proceed regarding questions of reorganization and transition. Will have five members – LeJeune, Easom, Wynn, Crosby, and Stovall. Motion to approve subcommittee by John LeJeune. Seconded by Michelle Dykes. Unanimous Approval.

7. Committee Recommendations

a) Academic Affairs

- i. **Curriculum Change:** Elementary Education
- ii. **Curriculum Change:** Special Education
- iii. **Curriculum Change:** Health and P.E.
- iv. **Curriculum Change:** Middle Grades Education
- v. **Curriculum Change:** Secondary Math/B.S. Ed. with Math Major Concentration
- vi. **Curriculum Change:** Secondary English/B.S. Ed. with English Major Concentration
- vii. **Curriculum Change:** B.S. Ed. Political Science Major Concentration
- viii. **Curriculum Change:** B.S. Ed. History Major Concentration
- ix. **Curriculum Change:** B.A. in Music with Teacher Certification

- x. **Curriculum Change:** SOSC 2101 – IMPACTS Core Curriculum
- xi. **Curriculum Change:** DATA 1501 – IMPACTS Core Curriculum
- xii. **Curriculum Change:** B.A. in Comm. and Emerging Med. – Removing concentrations
- xiii. **Policy Subcommittee:** Midterm Grades and Withdrawal Policy

-John LeJeune motioned to consider i to xii as a block, Michelle Dykes seconded. Unanimous approval. John LeJeune motioned to approve the block, seconded by Chadwick Gugg. No discussion and approved unanimously.

-Item xiii needs clarification and was tabled.

b) Faculty Affairs

i. Action Item: Tenure and Pre-Tenure Policy

-John LeJeune motioned to approve, seconded by Anh-Hue Tu, and approved unanimously.

ii. Action Item: Student Success and Faculty Development Language

-John LeJeune motioned to approve, seconded by Ian Brown, and approved unanimously.

9. Announcements – Undergraduate Symposium April 19.

10. Adjourn

-Anne Jacobs motioned to Adjourn, seconded by Anh-Hue Tu, and approved unanimously. Adjourned at 6:15 p.m.