

Georgia Southwester State University

Faculty Senate Minutes

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

Present: Jamie MacLennan, Keaton Wynn, John LeJeune, Alaina Kaus, Anne Jacobs, Michele McKie, Leisa Easom, Michael Crosby, Amber Stovall, Anh-Hue Tu, Ian Brown, Ramona Mulleins-Foreman, Jonathan Carter, Michelle Johnston (ex-officio).

- 1) Called to order at 2:03
- 2) Approval of Agenda
 - a. LeJeune moves to approve, Jacobs seconds.
 - b. Passes unanimously.
- 3) Approval minutes from April 22, 2024 meeting
 - a. LeJeune moves to approve, Stovall seconds.
 - b. Passes unanimously John approve minutes,
- 4) Senate activity updates
 - a. Ad-Hoc Transition Committee Summer Meetings Report and upcoming meeting with President Johnston (August 19th) by MacLennan.
 - i. Minutes for the second transition meeting are available to senate members
 - ii. Issues covered
 1. Aspire document clarification/LPP based
 2. Deans' Council
 - a. President Johnston Clarified Will get agenda and minutes. Under faculty resources in myGSW.
 3. Next meeting on the 8.19.24
 - b. President Cabinet meeting report by MacLennan
 - i. Is a good process for transparency
 - ii. Next meeting the 20th. Call for agenda items.
 1. MacLennan asked President Johnston about thoughts about senate roll on the cabinet. asked about goals for our roll on cabinet
 - a. President Johnston: the cabinet adds input and decision making. Should be driven by agenda.
 - b. Should be about communicating to/from campus.
 - c. Minutes and agenda will be public
 - c. Senate Website report by LeJeune
 - i. New website is up. It was done quickly.
 1. Clear tabs for important items – Meeting Dates, Agendas, Minutes, Communication Form etc.
 2. Archive of committee minutes
 3. LeJeune will reach out to University Relations about making links to and from the page more clear.
- 5) Discussion items/future action
 - a. Handbook

- i. LeJeune showed the Senate the draft of the handbook, highlighting key policies, and invited the membership to review a draft of the handbook.
 - ii. Members will review and make suggestions for revision by the next meeting. Carter will call for those materials via email.
- b. Senate Communication forms/norms
 - i. LeJeune highlighted new communication channels on the website.
 - ii. Called for Senate members to encourage Faculty to use address, form and public address section.
 - iii. Clarified senate collection of committee minutes every semester. Secretary will collect.
 - iv. Clarified that SCA committee member participation was brought into line with university policy.
 - v. Carter will email committee heads about expected communication norms.
- c. Outstanding Committee Items
 - i. Academic Affairs – Curriculum Changes to B.I.S. Degree
 - 1. Referred to Academic Affairs
 - ii. Academic Affairs – Withdrawal Policy
 - 1. Clarified that old proposal was voted down in spring
 - a. Advisor permission to withdraw was added to form.
 - 2. USG has new withdrawal policy to move date.
 - a. Senate referred consideration of moving withdraw date to the Academic Affairs Committee.
 - iii. Faculty Affairs – USG Academic Freedom Policy
 - 1. Handbook has a non-approved policy statement at the request of H.R. – Citing USG request for inclusion.
 - 2. Referred to Faculty Affairs.
 - iv. Faculty Affairs – Probationary Credit Policy
 - 1. Tabled at a senate meeting due to concern that it requestion annual reviews that those requesting credit may not have.
 - a. Also a concern about demanding so much material during the offer/negotiation phase of the job process.
 - 2. Returned to Faculty Affairs with those comments
 - v. Faculty Affairs – University statue re: Senate Membership
 - 1. The committee appointment process highlighted some conflicts between norms and handbook procedure
 - a. Grad affairs
 - i. Should apportionment be by grad programs, faculty, all faculty, etc.
 - b. Institutional effectiveness committee
 - i. Should they be chosen by senate or are the deans involved?
 - 2. Senate member numbers and library membership are inconsistent with policy.

3. Referred to Faculty Affairs to revisit ideal composition so we can bring practice inline with policy.
- 6) New Business - Verifying student identity in online classes.
 - a. Questions were raised about the need for this to various committees and senate members
 - i. Provost's office will offer policy guidance and which will then be referred to the Academic Affairs Committee.
- 7) Questions for president
 - a. Questions were asked about the change to transcript holds mentioned by the Registrar at Southwestern Week.
 - i. President Johnston will look into this and report back.
 - b. Questions were asked about the status of the Library collection during and after the renovation.
 - i. President Johnston expressed commitment to strong book holdings.
 1. Most books should be back after renovation
 2. Will encourage a stronger holdings review process.
- 8) Scheduling future meetings
 - a. Carter will send out a poll
- 9) Adjourned at 3:30 pm