

Middle Georgia State College Faculty Senate  
AY 2013-2014  
Minutes of Meeting No. 3 (Called Emergency Meeting)  
PSC 112  
Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Present:

Mr. Charlie Agnew (Associate Professor of Art)

Ms. Tina Ashford (Associate Professor of Information Technology)

Ms. Liz Aycock (Professor of Nursing)

Dr. Charla Baker

Guests:

Mr. Albert Abrams (Vice President for External Affairs)

Mr. James Colquitt

Ms. Stroud explained the \$2.2 million budget shortfall in this fiscal year because of the drop in tuition and fees. Enrollment is down a little over 8%, which is a loss of about 720 students. Some of the loss is in mandatory fee accounts (student activity fees, technology fees, athletic fees) but most of it, about \$1.56\$1.8 million, is from the general operating fund. Ms. Stroud reported these figures to the University System last Friday. The College is in better shape than other institutions due to consolidation. We have vacant positions that will be left unfilled; of the \$1.5 million in cuts already reported, 74% come from permanently vacant positions and 26% will come from selective reductions to operating, travel, and equipment costs to make up the budget shortfall in this fiscal year. The University System is now asking for a further 8% (\$2.7 million) cut from the portion of our budget that is based on state appropriations. In reporting on these cuts we must emphasize that we are redirecting resources toward student support services such as advising and tutoring. System-wide, enrollment was down 2.4%; because of the way the legislature funds the USG as a lump sum and the USG uses a formula to fund institutions, estimates are that the USG will lose a total of \$20 million in state appropriations this year. For this reason we are asked to cut \$2.7 million over the next 3 years. We will not be able to make these cuts in the same ways we made the previous ones; there are not enough vacant positions left. The Chancellor wants to see us doing things in new ways. The declines in state support are likely to be permanent.

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Ms. Stroud introduced some ideas for cutting expenses, emphasizing that the report is due Monday, October 21. The projected cuts in the report will be estimates and suggestions must be received quickly. Ou0"Uvtqwføu"kf gcu" y gtg

- Consolidation-related efficiencies such as consolidating administrative assistants.
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- Facilities reduction and utilities savings.
- Eliminating underused programs, degrees, and classes including certificate programs.
- Differentiated workloads for teaching emphasis versus scholarship emphasis.
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- Use of release time.
- Replacing retirees with lecturers.
- Increasing mandatory fees.
- Examining class size and scheduling, including the use of distance learning.
- Reconsidering staffing at the Robins Residence Center.
- Reducing travel between campuses.

Dr. Shinn pointed out that many of the suggestions have to do with leaving positions vacant. If a position is left vacant, does that money go back into the general operating fund?

Ms. Stroud clarified that what she has been asked to do is to offer a plan to cut expenses.

Dr. Shinn concurred that a vacant position would represent a cut in expenses. He asked how many vacant positions were available and how much their vacancy saves.

Ms. Stroud explained that 19 positions have already been eliminated, saving \$1.1 million. That is a good contribution but the College must do more to arrive at the total of \$2.7 million.

Dr. Wallace asked if it is still the case that the College is hiring advisors to advance the goals of Complete College Georgia.

Ms. Stroud confirmed that the College is currently hiring advisors and must report on their effectiveness. Their pay is earmarked for that specific purpose.

Dr. Wallace asked about other sources of revenue such as parking fees.

Dr. Shinn asked how many faculty will be retiring next year; Ms. Stroud responded that she has the total but did not have it available at the meeting. Dr. Shinn then indicated concerns about quality of education if an experienced senior faculty member is replaced with a lecturer. Ms. Stroud responded that hiring a junior tenure-track faculty member to replace a senior full professor could still represent a cost savings.

Mr. Tsavatewa asked about the impact of using contractors to provide certain services. Ms. Uvtqwf"cpu ygtgf"vj cv"vj g"Eqnng i gøu"eqpvtcevgf"ugtxkegu"ctg"ucxkp i "qt" o cmkpi " o qpg{"hqt"vj g" College, particularly in the bookstore.

Dr. Bunker asked about the possibility of shutting down a building. Ms. Stroud indicated that the only building that could be permanently closed is the Wellness Center, but an outside organization has expressed interest in renting it. Relocating employees at least temporarily to allow certain floors or offices is a possibility.

President Black remkpf gf"vj g"hcwv{"qh"Htgf" J knnøu"tgegpv"tgegkrv"qh"vj g"University System of Georgia Sustainability Award for Energy Reduction. Ot0" J knnøu"qp i qkpi " y qtm"qp"ghhkekge{"j cu" dggp" c" o clqt"eqpvtkdwvqt"vq"vj g"Eqnng i gøu"equv"ucxkp i u0"Rtgukf gpv"Dncem"pqvgf"vj cv"Ugpctors serve as representatives for our colleagues and that the Deans have also been providing satisfactory input including reconsideration of the summer schedule to attract more transient students. If enrollment does not improve, force reduction may become necessary.

Ft0"Ujkpp"cumgf" y jgvjgt"vj g" gptqnn o gpv"ftqr" y cu"eqpukuvgpv"cetquu"cnm"qh"Okf fng" I ggt ikc"Uvcvgøu" campuses. President Black responded that differences between campuses are not a factor because we are a single institution.

Dr. Sherry asked which ðrqv"qh" o qpg{"ö"vj g"pgeguuct {"ewvu" o wuv"eq o g"htq o 0" Ou0"Uvtqwf" explained that they come from the general operating fund. The cuts resulting from the drop in tuition and fee revenue have already been reported to the Board of Regents. The current plan addresses the additional \$2.7 million loss in state appropriations. Mr. Abrams reminded the Ugpvcg"vj cv"kv"ku"pqv" rquukdng"vq" o qxg" o qpg {"htq o "qpg"ðrqvö"vq"cpqvjgt0"Rtgukf gpv"Dncem"cf f gf" vj cv"vj g"Eqnng i gøu"tgegpvn {"cf f gf"&422"hggecwugf" r tqdng o u"cv"vj g" I gpgtcn"Cusembly.

Dr. Wallace pointed out that students seem to prefer online classes. President Black noted that the Deans also mentioned online classes as a potential growth opportunity.

Dr. Sherry added that online classes sometimes show poorer results for retention, progression,

Dr. Wallace moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Laura E. Thomason, Senate Recorder  
October 15, 2013