

Wearn concurred that as admissions standards have changed, graduation rates have gone down, then up, then down again.

The institution is judged on 6-

Dr. Bunker asked what action the Vice President for Academic Affairs is directing faculty to take regarding this data. Dr. Wearn stated that Dr. Venn primarily wants faculty to own the information; surveys show that second to peers, faculty are the biggest factor driving student retention.

degree when it is practical and appropriate for them to do so. Faculty members must be aware of the importance of degree completion.

Dr. Wallace moved that the Senate approve the creation of a standing committee for Academic Affairs for Online Education. Dr. Brennan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bunker introduced President Blake, who swore in Dr. Maritza Bell-Corrales as the new senator for the Department of Media, Culture, and the Arts.

President Blake then addressed the Senate and thanked the Senate for its service. He stated that the practice of shared governance is critical and unique to the academy, and that it should be pursued in a spirit of professionalism, candor, and civility. He noted that British universities use faculty as administrators, whereas in the American system the two groups are more separated but maintain a dialogic relationship based on mutual respect. He added that the College is poised at a unique moment, ready for transition to university status, with articulation of curriculum the most important part of that transition. He explained that he and Dr. Bunker will co-chair the

emphasized his main message that we are all one institution and the work going on in all locations is equally important. President Blake then invited questions.

Dr. Wallace asked how best to reconcile the emphasis on recruiting non-traditional students and distance learning with Complete College Georgia retention and progression requirements. President Blake responded that the idea of all degrees in all locations is a general principle, requiring not pure duplication but a sophisticated approach that will include distance learning. As faculty leaders, the Senate should be considering ways to advance this goal, including use of technology, while being mindful of the additional goal of degree completion. Working adults represent a large untapped market for Middle Georgia State College, and they often have the ability as well as the need to be more flexible as they pursue degrees. The Office of Academic Affairs will develop the details of this approach.

Dr. Taylor asked whether competency-based education would have a place in the future of the institution. President Blake agreed that it does: while MGSC will not be purely skills-focused and evaluated. g competencies should be addressed

14.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Laura E. Thomason, Senate Recorder
February 13, 2014