

Middle Georgia State University Faculty Senate AY 2018–2019
Meeting #1 TEB 231, Macon Campus
Friday, September 7, 2018

Present:

Dr. Donna Balding, Assistant Chair of Natural Sciences
Dr. Shannon Beasley, Assistant Professor of Information Technology
Dr. Maritza Bell-Corrales, Professor of Spanish
Ms. Jasmine Brown, Assistant Professor of Respiratory Therapy
Dr. Kathleen Burt, Senate Recorder, Assistant Professor of English
Dr. Shirley Camp, Assistant Professor of Nursing
Mr. Adam Craig, Instructor of Aviation Maintenance and Structural Technology
Ms. Vanessa Paige Crump, Associate Professor of Spanish
Dr. Lorraine Dubuisson, Associate Professor of English
Dr. Greg George, Associate Professor of Economics
Ms. Robin Grant, Electronic Resources Librarian
Ms. Lisa Henry, Assistant Professor of Air Traffic Management
Dr. Chris Hill, Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Dr. Mary Mears, Associate Professor of English
Dr. Anthony Narsing, Professor of Management
Dr. Evaristus Obinyan, Assistant Professor of Education and Behavioral Sciences
Dr. John Pattillo, Associate Professor of Biology
Dr. Randy Spaid, Professor of Education
Mr. Lee Simmons, Assistant Professor of Art
Dr. Kara Svonavec, Lecturer of History and Political Science
Mr. Kirby Swenson, Chair of the Faculty Senate, Assistant Professor of Biology
Dr. Stephen Taylor, Professor of History and Political Science
Ms. Lacey Turner-Wallace, Department of Nursing
Mr. Edwynn Wallace, Parliamentarian of the Faculty Senate, Associate Professor of Physics
Dr. Steven Wallace, Vice-Chair of the Faculty Senate, Associate Professor of Mathematics
Dr. Lily Wang, Associate Professor of Mathematics
Dr. Kelly Whiddon, Associate Professor of Media, Culture, Arts

Absent/Excused:

Ms. Patsy Butts, Assistant Professor of Nursing
Dr. Kimberley Pickens, Associate Professor of Biology

Guests:

Dr. Jon Anderson, Provost
Dr. Christopher Blake, President
Dr. Victoria Guarisco, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, Associate Professor of Chemistry
Dr. Alex Koochang, Dean of the School of Information Technology, Professor of Information Technology
Dr. Charles Matson, Associate Professor of Respiratory Therapy
Dr. Mary Wearn, Professor of English, Assistant Provost for Academic Planning & Policy

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Mr. Swenson called the meeting to order at 10:05am. After welcoming everyone to the new academic year, he called for a motion to rearrange the agenda. First, the new senators need to be sworn in in order to vote on the minutes from the previous meeting, and second, Dr. Wearn could demonstrate the new curriculum management site before Academic Affairs presents proposals for voting.

Dr. Beasley made the motion to moving the swearing in, and Dr. Pattillo seconded. A voice vote approved the motion by unanimous consent.

Mr. Simmons made the motion to allow Dr. Wearn to speak before the Academic Affairs proposals, and Dr. Camp seconded. A voice vote approved the motion by unanimous consent.

Swearing in of New Senators

Dr. Blake administered the oath of office to new Senators, and congratulated and thanked all for their service.

The following new Senators were sworn in:

Ms. Jasmine Brown
Dr. Lorraine Dubuisson
Dr. Chris Hill
Dr. Mary Mears
Dr. Evaristus Obinyan
Dr. Kara Svonavec
Dr. Stephen Taylor
Dr. Lily Wang
Dr. Kelly Whiddon

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Spaid made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting (April 27, 2018). Dr. Hill seconded. A voice vote approved the motion by unanimous consent.

Report from Dr. Blake

Dr. Blake came forward to present his report to the Senate. He began by stating his thanks for the work of the Senate and his belief in the importance of shared governance. He noted that the Senate

Will need to ensure that we are fully in line with the updates. The EC and PTPTR will be among those groups checking and ensuring all policies are in compliance.

Academic Affairs oversaw 200 changes to 65 programs last year, and an effort will be made to distinguish between those changes which can be handled administratively, and those requiring committee and Senate attention.

Academic Personnel Policy Committee will formalize and clean up processes; Campus Safety Committee will work with Chief Douglas to address any concerns; Diversity and Faculty Development will maintain status quo; Graduate Studies will also continue their work (there are plans for three new MAs); Institutional Effectiveness Board has collected assessments and will review the information; Inter-Campus Speaker Committee has no charge for now; Intercollegiate Athletics and International Studies will continue their work; the Library is considering adding Maker spaces for student use; PTPTR will work on cleaning up guidelines and expectations for new faculty on all tracks and levels, which will take at least a year; Strategic Planning has a new plan to begin to implement; Student Conduct, and Student Honors and Awards will continue as they have; Technology Resources has no charge for now; Student Media Advisory will be revived heavily this upcoming year.

The Executive Committee will review the Bylaws and Handbook, looking for challenges in structure. Dr. Anderson noted as an example that some Senators do not serve on committees, and that the EC will look at possible changes to ensure that the needs of the institution can be met in the most constructive way possible.

Dr. Wallace pointed out that the Dean of Arts and Sciences has been going around to all department faculty meetings to gauge reaction to possible class size increases accompanied by raises. He asked Dr. Anderson what his thoughts on that, noting that Math was apprehensive, and also wondering where the funds would come from. Dr. Anderson said that that was one of several possible considerations on institutional financial models. MGA is the low cost option in the USG system. And USG probably sees little need to change that. As such, we get less revenue. Credit hour production has to be a source of generating revenue, alongside state funds. Dr. Anderson noted the possibility for shifting the money allocated for vacant lines to better faculty pay, and that such decisions would be up to MGA, conversations need to be had. Student retention is a main issue. Currently, 20% of the grades given are not passing, and MGA needs to work on supporting student success wherever possible.

Dr. Taylor noted that the state has shifted around between using seat filling versus retention to determine money allocation, and he asked how could MGA best position itself for whatever is decided next? Dr. Anderson responded that as long as we do what is in the best interests of our students, we'll be in a good position whatever

New Business

Dr. Guarisco presented PY-AVIA-01-AA2018-2019 which is a policy change granted through special permission from USG. It allows the Accuplacer test to serve as an admission standard only for the Aviation Certificate. If a student gets a certificate and wishes to work for a degree, then they must meet the usual university admission standards. Dr. Dubuisson made the motion for a vote, and Dr. Pattillo seconded. A voice vote approved the motion by unanimous consent.

Dr. Guarisco presented PY-MGA-01-AA-2018-2019 which is a policy modification that addressed repeated courses. The policy would make the highest grade achieved, not the most recently taken, the grade used in GPA calculation, while others would be listed on the transcript. Dr. Hill made the motion to consider the proposal, and Dr. Taylor seconded. Dr. Taylor asked if this policy would meet with the latest BOR requirements. Dr. Wearn was not sure, and said she would check. Dr. Pattillo asked if there were any concerns this policy would encourage unnecessary re-taking. Dr. Wearn pointed out that there were already policies in place to address that. The rules state that a student can only retake a course two times without needing permission from a Dean. Dr. Camp observed that in Nursing, if a student fails some courses, they are removed from the program. Dr. Wearn said that this new policy would not negate program rules like that, but would be in lieu of program specific policies. The question concerning BOR compliance was raised again. Mr. Wallace moved to table this proposal to further clarify compliance, and Dr. Wallace seconded. 24 were in favor, none opposed. The policy vote was tabled.

Dr. Guarisco presented P-RESP-01-AA-2018-2019 which would allow students with an AS in Respiratory Therapy to transfer some credits into a BS program based on certification, and changes some course numbers. Dr. Spaid asked how many students this problem impacted. Dr. Matson explained that since MGA no longer has an AS, and people who completed an AS and want a BS already have met certain standards of qualification including a certification. This proposal creates a path for students with the AS to get credit for content they already have covered. A voice vote approved the motion by unanimous consent.

Other Reports

Mr. Swenson announced that new procedure for approving the minutes of the Senate meetings were going to be considered and tested. First up will be electronic means to encourage approval within two weeks of a meeting. Other options may also be tried.

Mr. Swenson also presented the charge to the whole Senate that all Senators keep an ear out for problems that the Senate might address.

Dr. Spaid asked if the template for the agenda would need to be changed if the minutes approval process is changed. Mr. Swenson said that the goal would be to have the approval listed as already done.

The question was raised if this would require a suspension of the Bylaws. Mr. Wallace will check to be sure.

Dr. Beasley asked why a change was necessary. Mr. Swenson explained that if the minutes are approved earlier, the proposals voted on can be enacted earlier. The concern was raised that going electronic for approval might mean losing valuable discussion. Mr. Simmons pointed out that electronic approval could be designated as a special session of the Senate and that if questions or problems were noted, then the vote could be tabled until the next in-person meeting.

Dr. Spaid made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 7, 2018 meeting within 7-10 business days. 23 were in favor, 1 opposed. The motion passed.

Mr. Swenson announced that Mr. Wallace was ready to step down from his position as USG Faculty