

**Middle Georgia State University Faculty Senate AY 2019–2020**

**Meeting #4 TEB 231, Macon Campus**

**Friday, November 22 2019**

**Present:**

Mr. Richard Binkley, Assistant Professor of Aviation Science and Management

Mr. Kirby Swenson, Chair of the Faculty Senate, Assistant Professor of Biology

Dr. Stephen Taylor, Professor of History and Political Science

Dr. Steven Wallace, Associate Professor of Mathematics

Dr. Kelly Whiddon, Associate Professor of English

Dr. Lily Wang, Professor of Mathematics

Ms. Kathy Wilcox, Assistant Professor of Nursing

**Absent/Excused:**



added and proposed. Concerning the proposed PhD in IT, he hopes that the BOR will address this at their January or February meetings. This would put MGA on schedule with a March 15 SACS deadline for application for a level change. This would result in approval over the summer, and a SACS visit scheduled for the fall. The level change would be from a 3 to a 5.

Dr. Anderson applauded faculty and staff focus on student retention, and said that as of right now, the institution was at 64%, which puts things on track for 80% in the Spring.

He noted that the Provost's office is tasked with working on the newly solidified institutional mission. There has been a meeting with Academic Affairs on this as well, and the primary mission is that of a state university, and that we are making good progress on this with the new degrees being added. Work is ongoing for the Access part of the mission, including work being done on alternative admission pathways for the fall. There are many ways to get into MGA; for example a dual enrollment student can get admitted with a PSAT score, and a non-traditional student (over 25) can get in with a High School diploma or GED. Out of the approximately 8,000 students currently enrolled, 2250 have no SAT or ACT score on file. Students in the traditional range of 18-25 are currently required to have a high school credential and a test score (ACT, SAT). Dr. Anderson's office is currently looking at potential better predictors of success beyond admissions tests. Comparing grades in gateway courses (ENGL 1101, ENGL 1102, and Algebra) to GPA and test scores, GPA is a much better indicator than the tests as a prediction of success, and admissions tests like the SAT (the test taken by the majority of MGA students) can be a barrier.

Dr. Anderson said that his office is working on merging the advising process with Learning Support to streamline and make the admissions process to registration more efficient. For the access side of the institutional mission, no test is required and GPA is run through an algorithm to identify those with Learning Support needs or deficiencies in high school coursework. The new method will be to classify everyone initially as Learning Support, but then individuals can test out through a variety of means including test scores or high school GPA. This streamlined process will speed up the admissions and advising process, and is similar to other institutions in our area and with our type of mission including Albany State, Georgia State, and Georgia Southern. MGA directly competes with GA State and GA Southern for students, so this will also make us more competitive. The question was raised as to whether MGA would then have an access specific campus, the way GA State does. The answer was no. The observation was also made concerning the higher ends of the admissions standards for some of the other institutions, ours are still lower. The response was that even before our mission was clarified we were already in practice more flexible in some ways. The question was asked how this might affect students who might have multiple Learning Support deficiencies. The answer was that Learning Support

somewhat inefficient, but Dr. Anderson pointed out that a lot of these things are out of MGA's specific control. The question was raised what happens for a student without much of an existing

Dr. Trayers came to present her report from the Executive Committee. She presented the proposal concerning the need to adjust the bylaws, since after all the changes made last year, a problem had occurred concerning what was happening if a unit had too few members to cover all the required service spots including 11 committees, 5 boards, and 1 Senator. For example, Aviation has 7 FT faculty, which means that each person would be required to take on 3 service to roles, resulting in an unfair burden. The proposal designates 5 committees and 1 board requiring members, and the rest would be optional. The Executive Committee had chosen to

Essentially, this presents a change in course requirements within concentrations within the BS degree. Dr. Kilburn made the motion to consider; Dr. Dubuisson seconded. There was no discussion. The proposals were approved by unanimous consent.

The next proposal (P-EDSW-04-AA-2019-2020) concerns the Elementary/Special Education degree, and a reduction from 127 hrs to 120 hrs for the degree. This reflects a name change but the same contents moved around to comply with BOR policy. Dr. Kilburn made the motion to consider; Dr. Mears seconded. Dr. Matson raised the concern that some of the numbers for upper level course credits in the proposal did not add up clearly, and that many of the courses listed did not include specific credit hour amounts leading to potential lack of clarity. Dr. Wearn said that the proposal was actually mostly for the number hours, not for the exact courses and dividing up the hours, and the proposal was mostly just changes in subject codes. The vote was most in favor, 1 opposed. The proposal was approved.

The next 2 proposals add concentrations to the Mathematics B.S, an Applied Statistics concentration (P-MAST-01-AA-2019-2020) and a Mathematics Secondary Education Certification Track (P-MAST-02-AA-2019-2020). There are several programs and upcoming proposals that reflect this shift of the teaching track out of education and into the content area. Dr. Wang made the motion to consider; Ms. Hazlett seconded. Dr. Wallace noted that while this proposal does not directly say so, the Math BS is still present. The question was asked about whether the terms “track” and “concentration” were interchangeable. The answer was that a “track” gets a designation on the transcript, while a “concentration” is a way to focus electives on an area of interest. The proposals were approved by unanimous consent.

The next 2 proposals concern changes to the Financial Technology Associate of Science: aligning course prefixes and titles to currently taught courses (P-IT-06-AA-2019-2020) and alterations to the certificate to align with the new labels (P-IT-07-AA-2019-2020). These proposals re-designate existing courses from IT to FTA. Dr. Kilburn made the motion to consider; Dr. Burnett seconded. The proposals were approved by unanimous consent.

Dr. Taylor called for Dr. Cantwell to present the next set of 9 proposals: PY-ACAD-01-AA-2019-2020, M-PY-ACAD-03-AA-2019-2020, M-PY-ACAD-08-AA-2019-2020, M-PY-ACAD-03-AA-2019-2020, M-PY-ACAD-09-AA-2019-2020, M-PY-ACAD-05-AA-2019-2020, M-PY-ACAD-02-AA-2019-2020, M-PY-ACAD-06-AA-2019-2020, and M-PY-

The 2 Transfer of Credits proposals (PY-ACAD-01-AA-2019-2020 and M-PY-ACAD-03-AA-2019-2020) clarify and simplify policies which track progression, and who has the power to accept transfer credits.

The Completion of Graduate Degree proposal (M-PY-ACAD-08-AA-2019-2020) provides new, streamlined wording provides better clarity of policy, particularly in relation to catalog requirements for degree completion and clarifies the term “matriculation”. The question was asked what, if any, changes to the graduate catalog are included? Dr. Cantwell said the change was that the catalog could not be older than 3 years. Another question was raised whether the 3 year rule was exclusive to the Graduate School. Dr. Cantwell said yes, the Graduate School has a separate catalog and policy set, which is reviewed by the Graduate Council and Academic Affairs.

M-PY-ACAD-03-AA-2019-2020 provides a clearer policy on repeating graduate courses

M-PY-ACAD-09-AA-2019-2020 addresses Graduate Academic Probation, and the change to 6 completed hours (from 9 completed hours) in assessing graduate coursework GPA to address students beginning graduate programs mid-semester.

M-PY-ACAD-05-AA-2019-2020 addressed removal from probation for Graduate students, and aligns with financial aid rules for graduate GPA and addresses students in multiple graduate degree programs.

M-PY-ACAD-02-AA-2019-2020 clarifies the process for students to notify their intent to request reinstatement to their master’s program.

M-PY-ACAD-



Dr. Taylor brought up two proposals concerning the Health Services Administration Bachelor of Science: P-HSA-01-AA-2019-2020 which allows students more latitude in choosing major electives, and P-HSA-02-AA-2019-2020 which removes courses from Area D: ANTH 1102, BIOL 1114K, BIOL 1124K, and BIOL 1134K since they are used elsewhere and do not meet the goals of Area D anyway. The proposals were approved by unanimous consent.

Dr. Taylor brought up PY-NURS-01-AA-2019-2020 which clarifies that Nursing applicants must get a minimum score of “proficient” on the TEAS VI Entrance Exam which must be taken within 12 months prior to the closing date of the application period. This brings policy in line with practice. The proposal was approved by unanimous consent.

Dr. Taylor introduced P-HIST-01-AA-2019-2020 which would establish eight required courses for the Bachelor of Arts in History. This would help ensure consistency between campuses, establish a core for the major, and set up concentrations in documentary film and secondary education. These changes would improve marketability as well as allow students flexibility if their plans changed. The proposal was approved by unanimous consent.

Dr. Keith suggested that the next two proposals, although they might appear similar, should be addressed separately as they are quite different in content.

Dr. Taylor introduced P-EDSW-03-AA-2019-2020 which changes the Math requirement for the Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies. It was pointed out that this requirement may cause some trouble in the future due to a shifting away from 1101 towards offering more sections of Elementary Statistics for non-STEM majors. Dr. Wearn noted that the proposal was a recommendation to students and that Area A was not so prescriptive as to demand specific math courses for the requirement. Dr. Anderson said that the distinction between BA and BS was not especially clear, and this was an important conversation the institution would need to have. The proposal was approved by unanimous consent.

Dr. Taylor brought forward P-MCA-04-AA-2019-2020 which expands the pool of advisor approved electives for the Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies and removed requirement for 15 hours of 4000 level courses. Dr. Keith explained this was being done to remove an impediment for students to graduate, and removed the sometimes arbitrary distinction between 3000 and 4000 level courses. The proposal was approved by unanimous consent.

Dr. Taylor introduced M-P-EDSW-01-AA-2019-2020 which proposes a course substitution to increase instruction in classroom management for the Master of Arts in Teacher Education. This removes th

2019-2020 brings the Area F requirements for the Associate of Arts in Music in line with BOR recommendations. P-MCA-05-AA-2019-

admissions process would be highly valuable to MGA. The proposal was approved by unanimous consent.

Dr. Cantwell made a final clarification that proposal PY-ACAD-01-AA-2019-2020 which clarified transfer credit policy and had already been approved represented a broad expansion of policy for the undergraduate level (not graduate), and that Academic Affairs, the Provost's office, and International Studies had all been involved in the proposal.

### **New Business**

Mr. Swenson reminded that Senate that the first meeting of the Spring semester would be the first Friday in February, Feb. 7, and that that meeting would include the election of the Chair of the Senate for AY 2020-21. All other officers would be elected at the final meeting of the year.

Dr. Dubuisson announced that on December 2, all Senators would receive an email asking them about the recently implemented addition of Senators being assigned to committees. She said that this was to see how the new policy was working, and asked everyone to complete the survey as it was brief.

### **Other Announcements or Reports**

Mr. Swenson concluded the meeting. There were no objections.

Kathleen Burt, Recorder