



**Guests:**

Dr. David Biek, Dean, School of Education & Behavioral Sciences

subcommittees unless a school does not have two faculty members at the rank of professor. If this occurs, subcommittee vacancies may be filled by PTPTR members. The proposal also clarified who can and/or cannot vote because they are in lines of authority.

Dr. Pattillo motioned to approve PTPTR's proposal to update the MGA Faculty Handbook. Dr.

The Executive Committee proposed revising the MGA Statutes as suggested by Dr. Kevin Cantwell, Dean of Graduate Studies. The changes are related to SACSCOC accreditation, the Doctor of Science, and a new off-site location, etc. The changes were highlighted and provided to Senate prior to the meeting. Dr. Taylor motioned to accept the proposal; Mr. Day seconded. There was no discussion.

#### University Council

Ms. Renee Rainey, University Counsel, was invited to attend today's meeting after several faculty questioned the limitations of their actions related to COVID guidelines at September's meeting. Dr. Kilburn welcomed Ms. Rainey to the Faculty Senate. He also noted that she was new to the University. Ms. Rainey assured the senators that President Blake and Provost Jenks support faculty. She encouraged faculty to speak with their supervisors when they had scenario type questions related to COVID guidance.

Dr. Taylor asked how public health issues related to COVID were different than the tobacco ban on campuses years ago. Ms. Rainey responded that the USG has not issued guidance related to Dr. Taylor's question. Dr. Taylor asked if they had the authority to do so. Ms. Rainey responded that the USG's legal counsel would make that determination.

Ms. Rainey was asked to address the varying directions given to faculty among the schools about what they can and/or cannot ask students and others to do related to COVID. Ms. Rainey responded to multiple questions about asking and/or encouraging, versus requiring when it comes to COVID vaccines, masks, hand sanitizing, and/or in-person meetings, etc. She

Dr. Taylor moved to discuss the motions related to faculty as a group. Ms. Cater seconded his motion. The motion passed without objection. Various faculty commented on the motions including: administration knowledge and/or support of the motions, specific language within the motions, and degrading of local institutional control. Dr. Kilburn noted that the motions were not distributed to the Senate in time to act upon them. Dr. Taylor moved to suspend the rules in order to allow action upon the motions. Dr. Pattillo seconded his motion. The motion carried. Dr. Taylor moved to approve the first three proposals as one. Dr. Pattillo seconded. Discussion on approving the first three motions focused on next steps if approved by the Senate and using the word “demand” instead of “request.” Dr. Taylor accepted changing the language from “demand” to “request” as a friendly amendment to his original motion. The vote to approve these motions, as amended, passed without objection. There was no discussion on the last Georgia Institute of Technology proposal related to post tenure review and annual review standards.

Three proposals were related to COVID protocols. Dr. Taylor moved to approve the local control proposal as presented. Ms. Adams seconded his motion. Discussion ensued about the impact of or lack thereof of approving and/or supporting such a proposal. The commenters noted that it might not be impactful, but it is important to take a stand for local control. Discussion ensued about language of changes. Dr. Taylor amended his motion to include modifications to the original proposal to change the phrase about testing to “social distancing.” Ms. Cater seconded. Mr. Buffone asked if this