

Middle Georgia State University Faculty Senate AY 2022~~2023~~
Meeting #4
Macon Campus, TEB 368 and Microsoft Teams
Friday, November 18, 2022
10:00 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Charlie Agnew, Professor of Art
Mr. Rex Andrews, Assistant Professor of Aviation Science and Management
Dr. Ervin Briones, Associate Professor of Psychology
Dr. Kathleen Burt, Associate Professor of English
Dr. William Gary Cole, Assistant Professor of Education
Dr

Mr. Chris Smith, Assistant Professor of Nursing

Guests:

Dr. Deepa Arora, Associate Provost, Professor of Biology
Dr. Loretta Clayton, Dean of Graduate Studies, Professor of English & Interdisciplinary Studies
Dr. Paul Gladden, Department Chair and Professor of Psychology
Dr. Alex Koohang, Dean of the School of Computing, Professor of Information Technology,
Peyton Anderson Endowed Chair
Dr. Rod McRae, Assistant Provost, Faculty Development
Dr. Marc Miller, Dean, School of Business
Dr. Rod McRae, Assistant Provost, Faculty Development
Dr. Andrew Reeves, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, Associate Professor of History
Mr. Chris Tsavatewa, Director of Institutional Effectiveness
Dr. Mary Wearn, Dean of the School of Arts & Letters, Professor of English
Dr. Steven Wallace, Chair of the Executive Committee, Associate Professor of Mathematics

Agenda

Dr. Dubuisson asked if a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Taylor moved; Mr. Agnew seconded. The agenda was approved without objection.

Dr. Taylor moved to approve the November 4 minutes. Ms. Day seconded. The minutes were approved.

Report from President Blake

Dr. Blake does not have a long report. Many of the events, including our budget hearing that mentioned at the last meeting have yet to occur. Dr. Jennifer Brannon, Vice President for Student Affairs, will speak to the Senate, later today, about the possibility of switching to National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) affiliation. Dr. Blake wished us a restful Thanksgiving holiday. He noted that returning after Thanksgiving is a particularly stressful time for both students and faculty because the semester ends, and final exams occur so quickly.

President Blake mentioned that he anticipates our Commencement guest speakers will be engaging.

In our sector within the US, even though our enrollment is down, we are the second best. President Blake encouraged faculty to do their best to assist with spring enrollment.

President Blake asked for questions.

Report from Provost Jenks

Dr. Jenks echoed President Blake's encouragement about spring enrollment. Faculty that make personal connections with students positively impact enrollment

The schools have been provided with guidance on how to align their practices with the new PTPTR policies. We are on track to have PTPTR finalized by the spring

An update to the Faculty Workload Policy independent study will be paid \$250.00 per student going forward. We will no longer stack independent studies and when faculty reach twelve We intend to pay for all outstanding independent studies by December, but it might not be until January. I olb

Dr. Taylor asked if limiting faculty to a single eCore course was a USG policy. Dr. Jenks thought the limitation originated with our Senate.

Dr. Stines asked if there was a pay differential between undergraduate and graduate independent study. Dr. Jenks responded, no.

Report from Senate Chair

Dr. Taylor met with the Executive Committee regarding a report on final exam schedules. Dr. Jenks will be meeting with the Calendar Committee soon for a potential administrative solution.

Ms. Crump, Chair of the Academic Quality Committee, reminded faculty that a survey associated with changes to faculty evaluations is closing soon. She requested faculty complete the survey by/before November 25. [MGA's Course Evaluation Instrument Survey](#)

the position (as long as they meet eligibility criteria) and that all fulltime faculty will vote on the position. Dr. Pattillo motioned to add electing our USG Faculty Council representative to our spring elections to coincide with our other elections as well as the other provisions in the proposal. Mr. Hammock seconded his motion. The motion passed without objection. Dr. Dubuisson noted that Senate's Vice Chair conducts this election.

Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee

Dr. Kevin Cantwell, Special Assistant to the President and Chair of the Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee, reported on the work of the ad hoc committee. The group has met eight times to review surveys and campus discussions. A town hall or a meet up was held at all five campuses. A smaller ad hoc writing committee will meet before the end of the semester to draft imperatives and priorities. The priorities identified at this point are: campus identity; student success; talent retention; community engagement and university branding. This list will need to be paired down to three or four imperatives. Afterwards, the plan will be named and metrics created. The Senate will review the plan, along with other stakeholders, in the spring. Dr. Langling asked about community engagement related to attending and/or hosting off campus, like creative events. Dr. Cantwell responded that off campus events should continue and are encouraged. We should not insulate ourselves on campus.

Report on Athletics

Dr. Brannon summarized the state of our athletic programs. A detailed feasibility study including budgets, facilities, sports, scholarships, student grade point averages, etc. was conducted recently to determine if we should apply for NCAA Division II membership instead of our current affiliation with the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). The study determined that other than concerns about our budgeting for athletic programs we should apply to the NCAA. The USG will have final approval. The timeline for transitioning would be the fall of 2025. Dr. Brannon asked for the Senate's support. The consensus was support for the change. Mr. Day asked if a change to the NCAA would impact student scholarships. Dr. Brannon responded that the process is slightly different but negligible. Dr. Stines asked about discussing this topic in public. Dr. Brannon mentioned that she continues to meet with stakeholders about the change. There is nothing secretive about the move, just that it is a work in progress, and it may not be finalized for years.

Academic Affairs

Dr. Reeves presented two new programs and program modifications from the Academic Affairs Committee. Dr. Pattillo moved to discuss the proposals. Dr. Hall seconded.

Doctorate in Public Safety (DPS) (new program). This new doctorate degree is intended for mid-career professionals. Dr. Pattillo moved to approve the proposals. Dr. Hall seconded. The program was approved without objection.

Physical Therapist Assistant Program (new program). Dr. Matson asked if this program could serve as a path to becoming a physical therapist. Dr. Reeves responded that he was not sure. Jenks noted that it is a pathway and it is also part of a larger academic master plan.

offer a physical therapy doctorate in 2027. Pattillo moved to approve the proposal. Dr. Hall secondedThe program was approved without objection.

Dr. Wallace explained the proposal from the EC to change delivery of committee/board charges. In summary at or before the final meeting of the spring semester, the committee shall create a charge for the next academic year. The committee will send a copy of this list to the chair of the Executive Committee and the Governance Historian. The reviewed charges will then be sent to the Office of the Provost. The Office of the Provost may add, alter, or change the suggested charge(s). Dr. Stines moved to approve this proposal; Dr. Taylor seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Dubuisson and others noted that this was an excellent change.

Academic Freedom

Considering the forthcoming changes to PTPTR, Dr. Taylor suggested we consider revising our academic freedom statement. Dr. Taylor thinks his proposed changes will strength and clarify academic freedom. He expressed gratitude to Provosts for proofing the changes and ensuring they are consistent with USG policy. Dr. Dubuisson mentioned that there are two minor changes to the proposed language she provided when she distributed documents associated with this meeting in her email dated November 11, 2022. We need to add the words "adapted from" whenever we reference the University of Minnesota, 2011. Also, in the third paragraph replace "public interest" with "public concern." Dr. Pattillo moved to accept the proposed language as amended. Mr. Agnew seconded. The motions passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Dr. Dubuisson asked for questions or announcements. There were none. Dr. Stines moved to adjourn.

Submitted by Ms. Lambert, Recorder