Middle Georgia State University
Faculty Affairs Committee
October 21, 2022

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(1) Call to Order

The Faculty Affairs Committee ("the Committee") was called to order at 9:00am on Friday, October 21, 2022 on Microsoft Teams.

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(2) Roll Call

Present	Not Present
Ashford, Tina	
Briones, Ervin	
Buffenmyer, Luke	
Cole, Gary (Chair)	
Frazier, Javan	
Fuller, Dawn	
Funches, Amanda	
Hagler, James	
Hornung, Chris	
Lanning, Rebecca	
Matson, Charles	
McRae, Rod	
Wallace, Steve	
Watson, Annie (Recorder)	
Whiddon, Kelly	

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(3) Approval of the Agenda

James Hagler moved to approve the meeting's agenda.
Tina Ashford seconded the motion.
The motion **passed unanimously**.

B. Report from ad hoc Committee (Luke Buffenmyer, Steve Wallace, James Hagler) on Honoring Faculty Work

Luke Buffenmyer (ad hoc committee chair) reported that the ad hoc committee determined that while awards for different campuses would be too unwieldy, a general MGA award (with components for research, teaching, and service) would be more achievable, in addition to awards established for different schools within MGA.

Steve Wallace added that the nominating process (for nominators and nominees) should be more streamlined and convenient. For example, the teaching award requires that a student write a letter of nomination, but that can be very difficult to arrange. The ad hoc committee has no concrete solutions yet, but they should be considered.

Rod McRae noted that there is a system for awards at the USG level that MGA might be able to adopt to make its own awards nomination/selection processes more efficient. The Regents' teaching excellence awards occur on a regular basis (for a variety of teaching and institutional categories). For these awards, applications/nominations at the local level do not require very detailed information, whereas state-level candidates require much more detailed application packets. MGA might be able to adopt some part of this process to help streamline our own system. McRae offered to look more into these processes and follow up with the ad hoc committee.

Luke Buffenmyer moved to table this until our November meeting.

James Hagler seconded the motion.

The motion **passed unanimously**.

C. Faculty Handbook Review: Sections 1-3

Gary Cole reviewed the collaborative document used to review Sections 1-3 of the faculty handbook.

The first change discussed: changing "he or she" throughout the document to the more inclusive "they."

Kelly Whiddon noted that both MLA and APA now have the singular "they" as a standard of gender inclusion.

Cole noted that given the changed guidelines, the Committee would proceed with making this change.

The next change to address: Current language suggests that all members of the corps of instruction (including non-tenure track faculty) have the ability to serve on committees. Should this be the case?

Cole noted that while they are typically allowed to serve on committees, they are generally not required to do so.

Steve Wallace added that any full-time faculty (including non-tenure-track faculty and chairs but not including associate deans or deans) are part of the head count for each

academic unit. It is currently left to the schools/departments to determine who will serve on committees. They are encouraged to serve, since they are part of the constituency for senators, but they should not be required to carry the same service load as full-time faculty.

Cole responded that the current wording appears to be general/vague enough to allow for this perspective.

The doctoral IT degree's accreditation is not currently listed.

Wallace asked if that meant that the accreditation had not yet been completed.

Tina Ashford reported that she was not aware of the accreditation being completed for either the doctoral or master's degrees—they are still pending.

Should the handbook contain information about student success?

Javan Frazier responded that this information is still pending from the Academic Quality Committee. The Committee shouldn't worry about student success until it is given the content to include.

Is the content about the Georgia Academy still current?

Frazier identified that this is currently in flux. It was previously an active program, and there is some degree of support for making it active again, but no final decision has been made. He suggested it would be best to leave the content in the handbook as it is for now.

Rod McRae offered to check with Dr. Arora on the latest for this matter.

Counter to current language, all votes of instituti(i)-2 (l)-TrilioTJ0 Tc 0aTj1.31 0-4T3tu5acie(h v)Tj1on hasa/0.