communities are an effort begun Fall 21 and continued in 2022 as an extension of First Year

Experienc e .

Dr.

Dr. Dubuisson asked that, because there is Senate representation on the Committees and Boards,
when a proposal is brought to the Senate that changes language in the faculty handbook, that the
proposal should please include the location of the affected language, either page number or section
reference.

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website is being updated, and that Sheron Smith is going to start adding a Senator feature to in
InsideMGA, that all Senators review their directory information to make sure it is accurate and that
there is a picture of yourself included. She also added that any administrators should make sure
their contact information and location is listed in their profiles.

Dr. ǯ
about possible sabbatical options, and what that might look like at MGA. The first step would be to
explore what other institutions in our sector do, and figure out which committee to give the charge
to do that research to, and report back their findings. She asked the senate and Dr. Wallace for
suggestions. Dr. Wallace suggested possibly PTPTR or Faculty Affairs, and Dr. Dubuisson thought
possibly Institutional Affairs? Dr. Wallace said the decision was up to the Senate, and that the
Senate should send the decision to him and he would send it on. Dr. Dubuisson and Dr. Wallace will
check into who to give the charge to, and let the Senate know. Dr. Taylor added that it seems like
this might also be something for Executive Committee to assign. Dr. Dubuisson asked if there were
any objections to that idea; there were none.

New Business

Academic Affairs

Dr. Reeves presented the MEd memo; he explained that this was not something that requires a vote,
but was more a matter of sharing information for transparency. The MEd degree was approved last
year, but it was recalled because the state legislature and the Georgia Professional Standards
Commission adjusted their requirements, meaning that degree needed to be updated to reflect the
changes, specifically those addressing literacy, reading, and language instruction.
Dr. Tsavatewa added that this presentation serves as official notice to the Senate of the updates.
The notice was received and acknowledged without objection. Dr. Clayton added that the memo
next goes to the Graduate Council as notification at their next meeting.

Stephen Schultheis, VP of Enrollment Management, came to present information about the
Foundation GAP fund impact because this program is not as well known as it deserves to be. The
fund, sponsored by the Foundation, provides financial assistance to students with a balance due
beyond what is covered by their aid or funding. There is a guaranteed amount to protect students
with balances due between $250-$600 from being dropped from their schedules. The program
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have. The goal is to increase the fund from $36,00 up to $125,000, and increase the upper balance
range from $600 to $1,000.

Dr. Taylor asked if students have to apply to the program; the answer was that it is done behind the
scenes. Any student within the amount range who meets a few other criteria is automatically
protected. They are notified, and in some cases the student might be given some assistance from
other forms of aid to get them into the allowable range. The questions was also raised whether this
program affects both the first and second drops; the response was that for the first drop, everyone
is eligible, but for the second, additional criteria apply. The program does not apply to prior term
balances.

The question was asked how many students fall into the allowable range; the answer that this fall,
the number is somewhere in the 50s. Summer terms seem to have less, likely because there are
fewer classes which means students tend to have lower balances. The criteria for eligibility include
being in good academic and financial standing, not transient, not post-baccalaureate, and not
auditing; an eligible student can be international or domestic.
Ms. Lambert asked if all fees count; the response was that yes they do, although textbooks do not
because those fees are applied later.

Dr. Schultheis pointed out that the Annual Campaign is starting up, and that this is a great cause
that can be supported financially through that drive.

Elaine Martin presented her Assessment and Care Team report so that the faculty might be made
aware of the services the team provides. Ms. Martin is a Student Care Case Manager, and she gave
an overview of the services her group provides. If a faculty member is concerned about a student
whose basic needs might not be met, the faculty member can refer them to sit down with a case
manager who can provide information and assistance about things like food insecurity, secure
housing, mental health assessment, and risk assessment. The goal is to prevent a crisis and get the
student help before the problem becomes critical. The Assessment and Care website has a lot of
information for students and has a Faculty Resources section as well. The question was asked
whether the referral might be recorded in the student permanent record somewhere; the response
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Dr. Taylor asked for some ideas about how to approach students who might be resistant to such
assistance because of perceived stigma. Ms. Martin said that it can be useful to point out that these
resources are available to everyone and if they do not get used, they go to waste (waste might
include food or grant money that expires). The question was also raised whether the program
coordinates with the police. The response was that Chief Mitchell is part of the team, as are several
other key members of the campus community including Dr. Stewart.
Other Reports
Dr. Dubuisson reminded the Senate of her assignment for everyone to check their directory profiles
for accuracy and pictures. She asked if there were any other questions or announcements; there
were none.
Dr. Dubuisson wished everyone a good holiday weekend and called for a motion to adjourn. Mr.
Agnew made the motion; Ms. Guyse seconded. The meeting was adjourned.
Kathleen Burt, Recorder