

Middle Georgia State University AY 2024-2025 Faculty Senate Minutes

Meeting #1 TEB 231, Macon Campus and Teams

Guests:

Dr. Rhonda Amerson, Dept. Chair of Teacher Education and Social Work

Dr. Deepa Arora, Senior Associate Provost of Student Success

Dr. Monica Baloga, Special Assistant to the President for Accreditation and Strategic Planning

Dr. David Biek, Dean of School of Education and Social Sciences

Dr. Loretta Clayton, Dean of Graduate Studies

Dr. Paul Gladden, Department Chair of Psychology and Criminal Justice

Jennifer Jones, Faculty Affairs Manager, Office of the Provost

Dr. Alex Koochang, Dean of School of Computing

Elaine Martin, Student Care Case Manager, Office of Student Affairs

Dr. Rod McRae, Associate Provost for Faculty Development

Angela O'Neal, University Registrar

Dr. Mary Roberts, Executive Director, Career and Leadership Development

Dr. Chris Tsavatewa, Assistant Provost of Institutional Effectiveness

Dr. Tara Underwood, Dean of School of Health and Natural Sciences

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Senate Chair Dr. Renat Khatmullin welcomed senators and guests to the ~~2025~~ Faculty Senate and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Dr. Khatmullin reported that the April 26th meeting minutes were approved digitally on May 3, 2024.

Swearing-In of New Senators

Dr. Blake thanked the Senate for a productive and collegial working relationship in 2023-2024, commending especially the Senate's open and effective communication with administration and faculty.

Dr. Blake administered the oath and swore in four new faculty senators.

Approval of Agenda

Dr. Stephen Taylor moved that the meeting agenda be approved, Dr. Stines seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Report from President Dr. Blake

Dr. Blake's report included:

- Notice that the USG will be collecting budget requests over the coming weeks and that we can expect budget updates in future senate meetings.
- An overview of significant complications in this year's FAFSA processes, causing large numbers of non-payment registration drops and affecting universities across the country. Dr. Blake encouraged patience and understanding with students experiencing registration issues as we face a second non-payment drop in the coming week.
- An update of current enrollment at nearly 8,500 students, which reflects well on the university, although Dr. Blake noted that the more critical numbers to consider are credit hour production and the numbers of students paying fees, taking face-to-face classes, and living in residence halls.
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solution might be meeting with students before their scheduled exam period—with the stipulation that students be able and willing to meet at an earlier time and that classroom space can be reserved.

- On the question of Promotion and Tenure for faculty without terminal degrees: Dr. Jenks suggests that we follow existing guidelines from professional organizations, where available; ultimately, we must follow BOR requirements of terminal degrees for tenure.
- The Institutional Policies and Campus Affairs Committee has been deactivated, as approved by a two-thirds vote in the April 26, 2024 Senate meeting.
- The request to amend requirements for on-campus Faculty office hours was tabled. We must ensure student needs on campus are met (including timely response to email). We may continue to discuss flexibility in modality of office hours, but no reduction below the current standard of eight hours is likely to be implemented.
- Following Dr. John Patillo's investigation of Faculty Sabbatical possibilities last year, we determined to form an *ad hoc* committee on how sabbaticals might work at MGA. Dr. Rod McRae, Dean Tara Underwood, and Dr. Patillo have expressed willingness to serve on this committee.
- The USG asked in March that we consider the weighting of annual evaluation categories (70% teaching, 20% research, etc.). Dr. Blake indicated that we should research the matter further before responding. Dr. Jenks and Dr. McRae will work together on this request and Dr. McRae will update the Senate on progress.
- Dr. Khatmullin shared faculty questions about how the university supports our many international students with the Provost and Dr. Kee

Academic Affairs

Dr. Tammy Haislip presented two policies approved in spring by the Academic Affairs Committee:

- a) Dual Concentrations or Tracks in graduate programs.

The policy would benefit students by permitting more options; students would still need to meet maximum time-to-graduation and financial aid caps (five years and 150% of program credit hours, respectively).

Dr. Stephen Taylor moved to discuss the policy, Dr. John Patillo seconded. Following discussion, Dr. Steven Wallace moved to vote, Dr. John Patillo seconded, and the Senate approved the policy unanimously.

- b) Request for Change of Program procedure in graduate programs.

The policy would allow changes of graduate programs without requiring separate formal application to the new program.
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SACSCOC Reaffirmation Update

Dr. Monica Baloga presented a broad overview (o)3aiedga