

7-17-2008

## AY 07-08 Meeting 2008-07-17

Faculty Senate

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# GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

## Faculty Senate Meeting

Minutes July 17, 2008

### Senators (Present = X):

<u>    </u> E. Alozie	<u>    </u> T. Kelly	<u>  X  </u> L. Proudfit
<u>  X  </u> P. Blobaum	<u>    </u> T. Kim	<u>    </u> W. Rudloff
<u>    </u> M. Clark	<u>    </u> J. Klomes	<u>  X  </u> A. Sanders
<u>    </u> E. Essex	<u>    </u> N. Lu	<u>  X  </u> J. Simon
<u>  X  </u> P. Guimond	<u>    </u> G. Lyon	<u>    </u> C. Tymkow
<u>    </u> D. Green	<u>    </u> C. Mietlicki	<u>  X  </u> E. Wignall
<u>  X  </u> H. Heino	<u>  X  </u> R. Muhammad	<u>  X  </u> B. Winicki
<u>    </u> M. Kasik	<u>    </u> B. Parin	<u>    </u> J. Zhao

**Guests Present:** Executive V.P. “Gebe” Ejigu, Provost Jane Hudak, Colleen Rock, Adam Taylor, Tracy Sullivan

### 1. Call to order, announcements, introductions – Pres. Paul Blobaum

Call to order at 1:10. Blobaum announced of loss of two faculty members (Helen Timpone and Joyce Mohberg) and a moment of silence in their memory was held. There was no quorum.

### 2. Approval of Minutes. Draft of minutes for the June meeting were not available.

(Because there was no quorum, discussion of the Honors Policy was postponed until later in the meeting.)

### 3. Administrative Reports:

Provost’s Update: Jane Hudak announced that Dr. Deborah Bordelon has accepted the position of Dean of the College of Education. She has the strong support of the faculty and of the search committee. Dr. Bordelon is currently the Dean of the COE at Nicholls State University in LA. She will arrive at GSU in late fall.

President’s and Executive Vice President’s Update: Dr. Ejigu spoke about the ongoing budget negotiations in Springfield. It appears certain that Gov. Blagojevich’s cuts will stand, including the cut of \$.5 million funding of the Criminal Justice and Technology project. GSU did receive the second highest increase among state universities, however, and the PBAC approved budget most likely will hold. Nevertheless, there is a possibility of governor’s recisions. State Senate President Emil Jones seems to understand GSU special needs due to its upper-division status, and he is also aware of the need for E and F Wing renovation.

### 4. Faculty Reports

UCC (Parin): Parin not present; no report.

APRC (Sanders): APRC will not hold meetings in July or August due to the difficulties in achieving quorums. Reports for the IBHE and reviews of RNUIs have been completed. Some RNUIs have been returned to programs with comments, and APRC is waiting for responses. APRC is currently working on the annual program reviews, and Sanders expects to be able to report on them to the Faculty Senate in September. There was a discussion of the problems APRC encountered with requests for data from Institutional Research. Limited access to data files and other problems occurred, and, therefore, APRC had to reduce the number of criteria used in their reviews. It was recommended that the Senate ask Dr. Maimon about the deletion of the Profiles of Academic Majors annual report. It is currently not even available on the intranet. This situation conflicts with President Maimon's stated desire for data driven decision making.

EPC (Essex): Essex not present; no report.

Graduate Studies Council: It was noted that Jun Zhao has left GSU for a position at another university. A liaison with the Faculty Senate is needed. Blobaum will contact Assistant Provost Sandra Mayfield about this. Heikki Heino presented a brief report. Provost Hudak has presented a draft of her vision of graduate studies at GSU, and she plans to present it in September. The Graduate Studies Council is working on Policy 16 Graduate Studies.

Bargaining Unit -- UPI (Katz): Katz reported that there is no data on equity funds yet, but a strategy for distributing equity funds to Unit A faculty has been developed. Katz noted that they are being careful about information received from Human Resources because errors were found in the information last year. In September, UPI will sponsor both the portfolio workshop and welcome back party. Katz noted that there has been a good response to her request for volunteers to work on the negotiating team. She said that it would be best to start negotiations as soon as possible. The current contract expires August 2009.

University Safety Committee (Lyon): Lyon not present; no report.

Executive Committee (Blobaum): Blobaum announced that Simon, Winicki, and he had counted the ballots for the UPC run-off election. Marian Marion won. There was a discussion of remaining vacancies on Senate committees. Heino said that he and Ralph Bell are willing to serve in the Senate At-Large seats that are currently vacant. CBPA and CAS still have vacancies. Beth Parin will fill one of the CAS vacancies. For APRC, Becky Wojcik will fill the CHP vacancy, and Michel Nguessan probably will fill the UL/UC vacancy. Heino noted that Linda Geller's term on UPC has expired, and she no longer wishes to serve. Tony Labriola is willing to fill that vacancy.

A discussion of which committees should be “staffed” by Faculty Senate election or appointment followed. Contractual committees, including the Academic Program Elimination Review Committee, meet rarely. Katz noted that it is better to have members for such committees ready to meet if the need arises. Blobaum noted that the current membership of IRB is unclear.

Appointments for these committees and faculty senate vacancies will take place in September.

- 5. New Business:** Heino distributed copies of his July 10 email to Provost Hudak. The email asks about the requirement of Article 5 of the current contract that requires a number of documents be sent to the UPI Chapter President and also be posted on the GSU intranet. In particular, minutes of the Dean’s Council meetings and the internal operating budget of the University have not been posted as required. Provost Hudak has replied that her office is working on this. It was decided that, if after an additional ten days (i.e., until July 27), the documents are still unavailable, the Faculty Senate will send a memo to Provost Hudak to inquire about where the documents can be found.
- 6. Old Business:** The Honors Policy was discussed. Muhammad commented that students should not be able to obtain honors with only 24 semester hours coursework. It was suggested that the Senate request data from Institutional Research on how many students graduate with so few semester hours at GSU. Most of the discussion centered on the percentage of graduates who would be/should obtain honors. Historical data from Institutional Research indicates that, if the proposed cut-offs for Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Cum Laude were used, a total of 33.89% of graduate over the past seven years would have obtained honors status. The consensus was that a smaller percentage of graduates should receive this designation. Winicki offered set of cut-offs that would result in approximately 25% honors, according to historical data. There was a proposal that those receiving honors must have a minimum 3.8 GPA during the final trimester. EPC will need to review the policy, especially with regard to GPA levels for honors. In addition, the student input is needed. (Mr. Adam Taylor attended this Senate meeting, but he was not able to stay until the discussion of the Honors Policy.)
- 7. Adjournment:** 3:00 p.m.

**Next Faculty Senate Meeting is August 21, 2008.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Winicki, Ph.D.