

3-20-2003

AY 02-03 Meeting 2003-03-20

Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate, "AY 02-03 Meeting 2003-03-20" (2003). *Faculty Senate Minutes*. Paper 7.
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Governors State University
Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes, March 20, 2003

Senators Present: Michael Dimitroff, Russ Carter, Mercedes Graf, Ralph Bell, Jeannine Klomes, Heikki Heino, Dalsang Chung, Winfried Rudloff, Kyusuk Chung, Donald Culverson, Linda Proudfit, Catherine Brady, Maribeth Kasik

Guests: Peggy Woodard, Colleen Rock Cawthon, Virginia Eysenbach, Lisa Hendrickson, Mike Hopkins

Dimitroff called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Rock Cawthon stated that faculty marshals are needed for the 2003 Commencement ceremonies, which are scheduled for Sunday, June 1. If anyone would like to volunteer, contact her.

Reports

Administration (Woodard)

Associate Provost Woodard reported on the negotiations issues that are on the table and budget issues. Woodard informed the Senate that the administrative and faculty union negotiating teams met with the federal mediator for a third time on March 17. She outlined some issues that were put on the table during negotiations. The administration believes that initiating rank will make GSU more in line with the majority of universities throughout the US, will help to attract and retain faculty, and is a quality issue. The administration gave the faculty union a counterproposal on March 17 that included salary increases for AY03-04, AY04-05, and AY05-6; a workload reduction; and a small pool of CUEs for non-tenured faculty who could be caught in the transition to rank and who might need time to increase their research/scholarship activities to meet the standard for promotion. The proposal included “walking down” the CUE range from 28-32 to 24-27. There would be transition payments for tenured faculty members who choose rank and there would be promotional increases. Effective AY04-05, non-tenured Unit A faculty who receive scholarship CUEs (from the pool) could request to teach all courses in two trimesters, if program need allows; the third trimester would be dedicated to research. Division Criteria (DCs) would be reviewed and revised and the criteria to move into the rank system would be finalized during AY03-04. Research standards, as defined by the DCs, would be higher; service standards would be lower. Unit B members would be eligible for Faculty Excellence Awards.

Woodard reported that Jeff Slovak, Budget Director, and John Tuohy, Vice President of Administration and Planning, met with the Bureau of the Budget on March 19. Four primary topics were discussed: 1) Legislation has been introduced that would require line item appropriations. IBHE would offer a budget proposal. 2) Regarding FY04: it appears a reduction of about 10% will occur. The 10% will likely be calculated against appropriated and income funds; in the past it has not been calculated against the income

fund. 3) Regarding FY03 budget: the directive to create an 8% reserve still stands. 4) Regarding health insurance: in December of 2001, public universities were directed to pay \$45 million to CMS to cover the health insurance shortfall for employees, retirees, etc; GSU's share was \$656,000. For FY03, the same amount has been requested (\$656,000 for GSU). The Bureau of the Budget is considering increasing the amount for next year.

The "tuition cap" bill was passed by the House. The "Joyce" bill states that once a student is admitted, tuition will remain the same for four years. A bill has been presented to have the control of the income fund (tuition) taken from each public university and controlled by the Bureau of the Budget/Governor's Office. This would reduce the University's flexibility.

IBHE Faculty Advisory Committee (Kasik)

Kasik reported that the committee has been discussing budget issues. The message that the IBHE FAC is trying to send is that the past budget cuts and rescissions have impaired the ability of the faculty to maintain quality and have jeopardized the goal of the Illinois Commitment. The IBHE FAC is meeting again on the 28th. E-mail any comments/questions you may have to Kasik. The issue of the budget has been the number one priority.

There were no other committee reports.

New Business (Dimitroff)

Discussion of Administration's Report: Dimitroff stated that perhaps ballots regarding the issue of rank should be sent to the faculty. A Senator stated that how the faculty votes on rank may depend on the criteria that will be used to determine how the faculty moves into the rank system. Some comments/questions by the Senate were: 1) would rank be tied to the change to a 10-month contract, 2) why not change to a semester system, 3) if CUEs are walked down, would more full-time faculty need to be hired or would more adjuncts be hired, 4) some faculty do not teach more than 10 months, some do, 5) the current contract allows for one month of assigned professional development and one month of assigned vacation, 6) is there a guarantee of the rank transition payments, and 7) GSU is in survival mode and it is not the best time to implement rank. Kasik offered to prepare a faculty survey regarding rank; she requested that the faculty send questions/comments for the survey to her by e-mail by Wednesday, March 26.

Calendar: Dimitroff spoke with Peggy Woodard, Associate Provost, and Dora Smith, Registrar, about the deadline to submit grades. Smith will have a special grace period for those faculty members who teach on Monday. The Senate agreed that faculty would like to have input into developing the academic calendar schedule.

Faculty Senate Website: Dalsung Chung volunteered to develop a Faculty Senate website. It was suggested that, in the future, the committee reports be posted on the website or e-mailed to the faculty prior to the meeting.

Adjournment

Carter moved to adjourn the meeting. Bell seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.