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AY 02-03 Meeting 2003-06-19

Faculty Senate

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**Governors State University
Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes, June 19, 2003**

Senators Present: Michael Dimitroff, Russ Carter, Ralph Bell, Jane Wells, Heikki Heino, Dalsang Chung, Kyusuk Chung, Beth Hansen Shaw, Donald Culverson, Gary Lyon, Maribeth Kasik, MariEllen Leverage, Linda Geller, Rashidah Muhammad

Guests: Stuart Fagan, Paul Keys, Colleen Rock Cawthon, Jeff Slovak, Deborah Holdstein, Lisa Hendrickson

Dimitroff called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Reports

Administration/Provost (Fagan)

President Fagan thanked Dimitroff and the Senate for all their hard work during the past year. He commented on several positive items, including the following:

- ✓ The 2003 commencement was terrific.
- ✓ The speakers for the 2004 commencement—Johnnetta Cole and Jesse Jackson, Sr.—have been confirmed.
- ✓ An agreement was reached with the faculty union.
- ✓ The nursing program received accreditation for eight years; MSW received accreditation for four years, and the ISBE/NCATE team recommended accreditation, with a finding of no weaknesses.
- ✓ The Faculty Office Center (FOC) is near completion. Faculty will be moved before fall classes begin.
- ✓ The administration believes it is important to move forward with the Strategic Plan. The funds from the Strategic Academic Enhancement Fees can be used after consultation with the Student Senate.

Fagan also stated that, on the downside, appropriated funds for FY04 were decreased by 8.2%, and 8.1% of the income fund was targeted for a reserve. That is an approximately \$3.2 million cut for GSU. GSU has to again pay health insurance costs (approximately \$656,000). As a result, tuition was raised (although GSU is still among the lowest in the state) and 16 employees were laid off.

Comments/questions from the Senate (responses in parentheses):

- CHP was reorganized, from two divisions to seven departments, which includes administrative raises for the chairs—is that a necessary expense? (Fagan responded that it is necessary. Program autonomy is an accreditation issue that has been and is raised during the accreditation process for each program.)
- Were other colleges' budgets cut to find the money for the administrative raises in CHP? (Fagan replied that no other colleges gave up funds to CHP. Each unit's budget was cut approximately the same percentage.)
- Given all the problems, the pluses are tremendous accomplishments—in normal times, let alone in hard times.

- Need clarification about the academic computing lab issue—the perception is that decisions were made by the administration and the discussions with faculty and others were an afterthought. (Fagan responded that the vice presidents and others are working on the computer lab situation. The decision is not final; it is a work in progress. Keys added that tours of the labs have begun and discussions are continuing. It is an open process now.)
- There needs to be a better way of communicating.
- At the Finance and Budget Board committee meeting, there was a resolution to establish a reserve of \$500,000 from fees—can you explain? (Slovak stated that the Board of Trustees approved the Strategic Academic Enhancement Fee, to be used for enhancement of the academic experience of students. Students were charged the fee beginning in January. None of those fees have been spent yet. If the FY03 mid-year rescission had been larger, those fees would have been needed to meet it. Since the fees were not used, the administration would like to begin to use the fees for the purposes for which they were established. Fagan added that the administration will go to the Student Senate for input on recommendations.)
- Will the FOC collapse once everyone moves it? (Fagan responded no, it won't.)
- There was not enough input from faculty regarding the FOC office furniture.

Minutes

Muhammad moved to approve the minutes from the May 15 meeting. Kasik seconded the motion. Wells suggested that the exact wording of the proposed Seventh Goal for the Illinois Commitment be added to the minutes. Kasik reminded the Senate that information regarding the IBHE FAC is posted at www.ibhefac.org. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Committee Reports

Copies of the IBHE FAC and UCC reports were distributed.

Announcements

Dimitroff, on behalf of the Senate, thanked Dalsang Chung for the excellent work he did in designing the Faculty Senate website.

There will be no July Faculty Senate meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for August 21.

Ralph Bell and Russ Carter will be moving from faculty to administrative (program chair) positions.

The proposed bylaw changes will be e-mailed to the faculty. There was a question raised as to whether the policy regarding the graduate council should be changed. The issue will be discussed at a future Senate meeting.

Adjournment

Muhammad moved to adjourn the meeting. Carter seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.