

11-20-2008

AY 08-09 Meeting 2008-11-20

Faculty Senate

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Governors State University
Faculty Senate
Minutes November 20, 2008

Senators (Present = X):

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

Guests: President Elaine Maimon, Provost Jane Rhoades Hudak, Executive VP Gebe Ejigu, Colleen Rock, Marsha Katz, Catherine Brady

Call to Order

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

Announcements

Brady distributed a hard copy of a short survey that was sent to program chairs and coordinators. She clarified that this survey was to gather information for the planning of the implementation of a new academic calendar in 2010-2011 and beyond. It is very important that the faculty and program coordinators respond to the survey to identify any barriers, issues, or benefits that would result from the proposed calendar. Brady will send the original email to Blobaum for distribution to faculty. Responses are due December 1.

Minutes

Muhammad moved to approve the September 18 minutes. Heino seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. Klomes moved to approve the October 16 minutes. Clark seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Administration Reports

Provost Report

Hudak reported that two searches for the director of the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research were unsuccessful. Therefore, Hudak appointed Linda Samson, CHHS Dean, as the interim Vice Provost of Research and Graduate Studies. Samson brings expertise and experience to the position. CHHS has been awarded a significant amount of grant money since Samson became dean. Hudak believes that Samson is the person who can get the two areas (grants and graduate studies) organized.

President and Executive Vice President Report

Maimon reported that, in her opinion the global economic crisis has affected every state and every public university. This week, the Governor sent a memo to the state university presidents informing them that he will request an 8% rescission in this fiscal year, FY09. A rescission means taking back funds that have already been allocated. The Illinois House met today (Nov.

20) and took no action on Governor's request. GSU basically has two sources of revenue: state appropriations and tuition and fees. GSU is increasingly more dependent on revenue from tuition and fees, which is why the administration has been discussing strategic enrollment management (SEM). Maimon expects to receive more information from the Governor's office before Christmas. It is anticipated that there will be a rescission, but hopefully at a percentage lower than what the Governor requested. If there is a rescission, the administration will not make across-the-board cuts. Protecting instruction will be at the top of the list.

Ejigu added that the state supports GSU at about \$28 million per fiscal year, but it is on a reimbursement basis. GSU submits payroll and expenditures that have been paid to the state for reimbursement. The state is about three months behind in reimbursing and currently owes GSU about \$6.2 million for expenditures. The latest reports indicate that the state is facing a budget deficit of more than \$2.5 billion. The state has a backlog of unpaid bills of \$4 billion that could balloon to \$5 billion by March 2009. GSU is doing fine for time being. If enrollment continues to track at the rate it has been for fall, GSU will continue to do fine, unless the state fails to reimburse for payroll expenditures. PBAC will meet on November 25 to consider what steps need to be taken if a rescission occurs and to develop a plan. If the legislature approves the Governor's request, the administration will be ready to take action. The President, Provost and Ejigu met with the deans this week to ask that they think strategically and use prudence in their purchases. An 8% rescission for GSU would mean about \$2.4 million. If the Governor's request is approved, the state would hold back the amount of the rescission from the unpaid reimbursement request and release the balance.

Maimon added that there is some ambiguity about whether the Governor needs legislative action or not. In FY02, the governor's budget person called the university presidents together and asked for an agreement about the amount to hold back; it was 2%. In FY03, Filan called the presidents together again, and the presidents agreed to 2% that year. One scenario might be that Filan will call the presidents together before Christmas to discuss the issue. The university presidents will meet on December 8 in executive session to determine a collective response.

Ejigu noted that in considering a strategy to address the rescission, the administration will not take actions that will adversely affect GSU's primary mission of instruction. The administration will talk with every major budget unit and ask questions such as "what can you live without, without adversely affecting instruction?" Over the last 15 months, GSU has been taking steps that are helping us right now, including the tuition & fees increase and putting the PBAC process into place. If unit heads manage their resources prudently and have balances at the end of the year, those amounts will not be swept; units will be able to use those funds in the next fiscal year.

Maimon stated that GSU will have some very real challenges. This is the time for leadership and unity and for taking the GSU mission and strategic plan very seriously.

The Board of Trustees meeting on December 12 was canceled because Chair Samuels will be out of the country and there were no action items. The traditional Holiday Party is however scheduled for December 12, 2008 3:30 -5pm. Board members of various GSU related boards will be in attendance.

Faculty Reports

University Curriculum Committee (UCC)

Simon reported that the UCC continues to review the curriculum requests from the colleges. If anyone has questions, he/she should contact Beth Parin, UCC Chair.

Academic Program Review Committee (APRC)

There was no report.

Graduate Studies Council

Green and Winicki reported that Samson, in her expanded role as the Interim Vice Provost of Research and Graduate Studies, led the council meeting. The composition of membership was discussed. It was suggested that each college have three faculty representatives in the Graduate Council, either appointed or elected by the Senate. The council is an advisory group to the Provost. It was also suggested that meeting information be emailed to all chairs and coordinators of programs as information items. Blobaum reported that Samson met with him, as Senate President, to discuss some ideas about the council and to discuss the need for faculty to participate on the council.

The Senate would like to know the charge to the Graduate Studies Council, its mission, and the composition of its membership.

IBHE Faculty Advisory Committee (IBHE FAC)

A written report was distributed. The IBHE FAC met on November 7. Members heard an update on the following: IBHE's consideration of the American Diploma Project, hiring of the new Deputy Director for Academic Affairs, development of the Public Agenda, IBHE support for FAC activities, and IBHE meeting calendar for 2009.

Bargaining Unit

Katz reported that the union has had a training series. The union sent a survey and held focus groups. The union negotiation team will meet during the first week of December. The team will have a representative from Unit B and the ASPs, in addition to Unit A representatives. The team will prepare a list of priorities. The administration contacted the union and requested to meet to discuss intra-space negotiations. The union will host a portfolio workshop on December 1.

During the union report, it was noted that it does not appear that the GSU budgets for FY08 and FY09 are posted. The Senate would like to know if copies are available and why they are not posted.

University Safety Committee

There was no report.

Educational Policies Committee (EPC)

There was no report.

Executive Committee

Blobaum attended a meeting of the Council of Illinois University Senates on October 24. The chairs of academic senates from the state universities are invited to attend the council meetings. The Executive Committee prepared a resolution about the role and responsibilities of permanent (Unit A, tenured/ tenure track) GSU faculty. The resolution is meant to address various areas of shared academic life. Heino moved to approve the resolution. Rudloff seconded the motion. The resolution was discussed and friendly amendments (define faculty as permanent and change the

wording in the last sentence in the next to the last paragraph) were made and accepted. The amended resolution is attached. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. It was agreed that Blobaum would distribute the resolution by email.

Old Business

The revised academic calendar for 2009-2010 was reviewed. A Senator noted that the end date for the winter holiday was incorrect (Jan. 3 is not a Thursday). Blobaum will inform the Registrar.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

Rudloff moved to adjourn the meeting and Clark seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

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FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION
AND STATEMENT ON SHARED GOVERNANCE
Governors State University
November 20, 2008

In recent months there have been developments in various areas of our shared academic life, including the abolishment of division curriculum committees, changes in the make up of academic college level committees, proposals at the university level to restructure shared governance structures, and changes in admission criteria to various programs. These events have raised serious concerns regarding the principle of shared governance.

At its November 20, 2008 meeting, the Governors State University Faculty Senate passed a resolution endorsing the American Association of University Professors Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities (AAUP, 10th Ed., 2006)

“The [permanent not contingent] faculty has primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status, and those aspects of student life which relate to the educational process”. The AAUP further states, “the faculty should have a meaningful role in establishing institutional policies, setting of standards for admission, and should be afforded opportunity for oversight of the entire admissions process”.

In its May 2005 meeting, the Governors State University Faculty Senate passed a resolution affirming these principles.

“Tenured/tenure-track faculty shall have the sole authority to develop and implement academic policies and by-laws at the program, division, department, and college levels.”

The current faculty senate (2008-9) wishes to reemphasize these general principles and therefore endorses the position that it is in the best interest of the university and its students to have academic issues and issues of student life that affect academics implemented by a relatively independent body of experts in their respective fields, which is to say that these responsibilities lie with tenured/tenure track [permanent] faculty.

The faculty senate’s stance on faculty control of academic issues and implementation of them seems consistent with the evolution of the university.