

4-16-2009

## AY 08-09 Meeting 2009-04-16

Faculty Senate

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**Governors State University  
Faculty Senate  
Minutes April 16, 2009**

**Senators (Present = X):**

<u>      </u> N. Adam	<u>      </u> H. Heino	<u>  X  </u> B. Parin
<u>      </u> E. Alozie	<u>      </u> M. Kasik	<u>      </u> L. Proudfit
<u>      </u> R. Bell	<u>  X  </u> T. Kelly	<u>  X  </u> W. Rudloff
<u>      </u> P. Blobaum	<u>  X  </u> T. Kim	<u>  X  </u> A. Sanders
<u>  X  </u> M. Bruce	<u>  X  </u> J. Klomes	<u>  X  </u> J. Simon
<u>  X  </u> B. Essex	<u>  X  </u> C. Luo	<u>  X  </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, David Curtis, Executive Vice President Gebe Ejigu, Colleen Rock, Marsha Katz, Kyusuk Chung, Linda Samson, Becky Wojcik, Sandra Estep

**Call to Order**

Winicki called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. The agenda was revised to begin with the information items since there was not a quorum.

**Announcement**

Winicki announced that the Senate website has been updated. If anyone has comments or suggestions about the website, inform Blobaum.

**Administration Reports**

**President Report**

Maimon deferred her report.

**Provost Report**

David Curtis, Professor on Special Assignment to the President, will fulfill the responsibilities of the Provost until his retirement at the end of June. Immediately upon his retirement, he will be appointed Interim Provost until a permanent Provost is hired. He looks forward to working with the Faculty Senate. Curtis indicated that he would like to attend the Senate meetings in the future and would like to stay for the whole meeting. If confidential issues are discussed, the Senate can request that he excuse himself from the meeting.

**Executive Vice President Report**

Ejigu deferred his report.

**Faculty Reports**

**University Curriculum Committee (UCC)**

Parin, Chair of UCC, did not report.

**Academic Program Review Committee (APRC)**

Sanders, APRC Chair, reported that APRC recommended the Ed.D. in Counseling. The committee is continuing to review the IBHE reports and then plans to do the program reviews during May and June.

### **Educational Policies Committee (EPC)**

Essex, EPC Chair, reported that John Stoll attended a recent meeting to discuss the IT policies, how they fit with educational policies, and what type of coordination is needed between the committees. If anyone wants to propose a revision to a policy or a new policy, there is a form on the EPC website to complete and submit. Essex stressed the need for the administration to review the revised and new policies in a timely manner.

### **Graduate Studies Council**

Green reported that the council is reviewing policies, including Policies 9, 14, 19, and 26. The council encourages the administration to review the recommended policy revisions in a timely manner. The council recommended that a task force be established to review the course numbering system.

### **IBHE Faculty Advisory Committee (IBHE FAC)**

Wojcik distributed a report. The IBHE FAC attended the IBHE meeting on April 7. Following the Board meeting, the FAC met with the Board to discuss the integration of the Public Agenda into Board meeting agenda and IBHE staff activities. GSU will host the IBHE meeting on June 2, 2009.

### **Bargaining Unit**

Katz, UPI Chapter President, reported that the work on negotiations continues.

A major issue of concern is the pension—there is talk about raising the contribution from 8.5% to 10.5%, with no additional benefits. There will be a Higher Education Lobby Day on April 22 in Springfield. The union will have representatives there to explain that the 2% increase will not help the state. Katz thanked the administration for supplying a van to take people to Lobby Day. If anyone wants to ride, contact Katz. There is also a proposal for a two-tier pension system in which new hires would go under the defined contribution. This will not save the state money, but will put it in a non-competitive position. There is also a proposal to significantly increase the cost of health insurance.

Katz believes that there should be a representative from the union on the Provost Search Committee since the Provost is the contract administrator and the UPI Chapter President regularly meets with the Provost. However, since there will not be a union representative, Katz would like to work with the faculty representatives on the committee.

Curtis sent an email to Blobaum asking for one representative from the Faculty Senate to serve on the Provost Search Committee.

### **Executive Committee**

Winicki distributed a copy of the *Program Accreditation and IBHE Program Review Status* table that Associate Provost Mayfield updated. If anyone has questions about the information, bring them to the next Senate meeting.

### **Minutes**

There being a quorum, the Senate reviewed the March 19, 2009 meeting minutes. Wignall moved to approve the minutes. Essex seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **Old Business**

#### **Faculty Senate and Faculty Senate Committee Elections**

Winicki stated that there will be three runoff elections. Veronica Hunt, Provost's Office, will prepare the ballots, which will be sent soon. Seats that are not filled will be filled by appointment after the new Senate convenes in the fall.

#### **Calendar Change Reports**

Copies of 1) the July 23, 2008 memo from the Calendar Options Task Force to the Provost; 2) the January 16, 2009 memo from the Calendar Implementation Task Force to the Provost; 3) a draft format of the proposed semester calendar; and 4) the results from the *GSU Faculty Senate Survey Regarding Calendar Changes* were distributed. The study of the calendar system started over a year ago. The administration asked the first task force to analyze calendar options and make a recommendation of which calendar(s) would provide the greatest accessibility to the greatest number of students with the understanding that the calendar must maintain academic integrity. The administration asked that the second task force determine whether there were insurmountable barriers to implementing a semester calendar. Upon completion of the work of each task force, recommendations were submitted to the Provost.

Samson, who chaired both task forces, stated that the dates on the draft calendar are not finalized. The draft allows everyone to see how the summer sessions can be scheduled and what types of breaks will be included in the semester calendar. The task force also recommended that a minimum of three years of calendars be posted.

Faculty comments/questions and administration responses included:

- The positive faculty responses on the survey may have been influenced by a misunderstanding by some faculty that the proposed semester calendar implied that there would be a change in working conditions/contracts (summer session would be optional). Samson replied that it was clearly written and stated in all presentations that working conditions and the length of the faculty contracts are negotiated issues and were not part of the consideration of either task force.
- Cohort programs in education depend on the trimester system, and the students take classes during Block 2 of the spring/summer trimester. Samson replied that there will still be an 8-week session in the summer, which should accommodate those students.
- Is there data about current/projected enrollment by students from community colleges? Samson responded that there is not, but information about the calendar has been received through student questions/concerns and from comments by community college

administrators. Currently the spring/summer trimester starts before other institutions end their spring semester. The proposed summer schedule will offer flexibility.

- Can students receive financial aid without taking a minimum of six credit hours during the summer session? The administration will check with Financial Aid.
- Program coordinators may have difficulty in scheduling classes so that degree completion is not delayed. A concern is whether the students will be able to get in enough credit hours to move forward timely in a program.
- Perhaps there should be another discussion session about the proposed calendar. Curtis responded that the administration has repeatedly tried to get input. The evidence, anecdotal as it may well be, is very persuasive.
- There doesn't seem to be anything that addresses the pedagogical difficulty of teaching in six weeks during the summer. The administration responded that there will be summer session options that include 12 week, 8 week, 6 week, or 4 week blocks.
- Although the results of the faculty survey are generally favorable, some of the program coordinators, who are invested in program design, were a little more negative.
- It appears that the concerns are about logistical issues that can be resolved.

Curtis stated that accessibility to students is very important. The proposed semester calendar will not change the length of the current fall and winter trimesters. The summer session will allow a great amount of flexibility. There does not seem to be anything that could make the change insurmountable. Maimon stated that this University was founded as an upper-division institution to serve not only adults, but also to serve community college graduates. One of GSU goals is to greatly increase our undergraduate population. GSU needs to make it seamless for the community college students to complete their bachelor's degrees.

### **President Report**

(Deferred from earlier in the meeting) Maimon reported that working with Governor Quinn and his staff is a more positive experience. The Governor's staff projects to have a budget by May 31. The Governor's budget proposes a 1% increase for higher education. The Governor's proposal requires a revenue stream (taxes, lottery, etc). If there isn't a revenue stream to support the operating budget, universities will have a difficult time. There has been some discussion about the federal stimulus funds; some funds will be competitive and some will be distributed by formula. The state will begin working on a state capital budget. The GSU E/F wings renovation should still be eligible for funding. The President will ensure that the legislators know the importance the renovation. The photographic study of the E/F wings is helpful when the administration discusses the need for the renovation. GSU is held in high regard by the legislators, in part because of all of the work of the faculty and GSU's 40-year commitment to serve underserved students.

### **Executive Vice President Report**

(Deferred from earlier in the meeting) Ejigu reported that there should be no more scheduled power outages. GSU sold the last \$10 million bond issue, which will allow for the completion of several projects, including a complete beautification of the front of the campus, renovation of the FOC basement to be used for labs, and renovation of the front main entry to create a "one stop shop" for students.

**New Business****Supervision of graduate practica**

A faculty member stated that at one time, there was an attempt made, in the College of Education, to remove capstone courses from Unit A or full-time Unit B faculty and give them to adjuncts. When the labor relations group met last summer the issue was discussed, and it was agreed that the issue seemed to be resolved so no further action was taken. The issue has surfaced again. Estep asked the Senate to consider passing a resolution to support the practice of having Unit A, and if necessary full-time Unit B, faculty teach capstone courses. Policy 16 defines capstone course at the graduate level. Winicki and Estep will draft a resolution and present it to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. A Senator stressed the importance of faculty members having earned the appropriate degrees to teach at the graduate level.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

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