

Annual Report of the Middle Georgia State College Faculty Senate
July 1, 2014

The Middle Georgia State College Faculty Senate convened its first meeting September 6, 2013.

Although the Bylaws require meetings at least twice a semester, the Senate continued its practice of meeting on the first Friday of each month. The Minutes of Senate follow the established format of providing the quality of transcripts; these detailed accounts of Senate meetings, published for the campus community, comply with *Robert's Rules*. The Minutes reveal a level of detail that serves as both the record and a report of Senate deliberations. The Senate discussed and responded to issues from Standing Committees which include the Promotion and Tenure process, annual evaluation of faculty, credentials of faculty, evaluation of administrators, governance practices, and policy changes.

The Shared Governance page on the MGSC web site serves as a repository for the Agenda, Minutes, proposals, recommendations, policy statements, and budget items, as well as reports of the Faculty Senate, the Standing Committees and Boards of the Senate, and the ancillary documents that provide input for governance decisions. The Senate's fall activity shows a sub-committee to study the tobacco-free college and recommendations for establishing this policy. Senate approved a revised Student Infraction Form, a document that enables students to learn from their errors and accept a resolution that fits within the expectations of the Student Code of Conduct. We began the testing of software for electronic elections, endorsed the social media policy and formulated a direction for best practices when utilizing social media systems. In an emergency called meeting, Senate was asked to provide to Chief Financial Officer Nancy Stroud suggestions for reducing college-wide expenses. The final meeting of 2013 was conducted using a video conference and a *Collaborate* meeting. The Faculty Senate, chairs, and chairs-elect of each Standing Committee jointly took part in a technology training session, creating a critical mass of governance leaders who can utilize *Collaborate* software for meetings across the five campuses.

The spring Senate engaged the ongoing data for Complete College Georgia and Blackboard Analytics. Senators passed the Ad Hoc Committee for Faculty Evaluation of Administrators document, which was utilized in the spring semester. We sent a sub-committee to Nancy Stroud and Marti Venn to recommend a formula for summer school compensation. Senators also began working within their departments on ideas for creating new pathways for non-traditional students after learning of the Georgia Department of Corrections partnership that will begin this fall. Six current and two former Senators volunteered to serve on VPAA Venn's Work Load Task force, a much needed group after more than two years of discussion regarding the differences among faculty members' assignments. Revisions to MGSC policy and process on issues brought before the senate will be placed in the Faculty Handbook at the start of the new academic year. Dr. Houston Davis, Vice Chancellor of the University System of Georgia was a guest of the Senate at its last meeting. Dr. Davis spoke to initiatives and updates from the system office and answered Senators' questions.

During 2013-2014 the Senate voted on 160 proposals from Academic Affairs including the academic curriculum in all Schools, course titles and designations, pre-requisites, co-requisites, and program considerations for the associate degrees, baccalaureate degrees, certificate programs, and a wide range of adjustments to align degree offerings for with BOR requirements, state, and national licensure/certification. Adjustments to core curriculum were approved. Additional Area B courses will be offered beginning fall 2014.

MGSC Standing Committees are committees of the Senate. A sampling of Standing Committee Minutes shows the Executive Committee reviewed recommendations from standing committees, coordinated projects among standing committees, and participated with Faculty Senate in recommendations that needed Senate approval. The Faculty Recognition Committee conducted the nomination and selection process for faculty awards in teaching, scholarship, and service, and the Faculty Development Committee awarded professional development and travel awards. Academic Personnel Policies created a new form for students to evaluate faculty teaching, and reviewed the Faculty Handbook, noting instances for policy and language revision. Student Affairs managed its customary programs with the newly-approved reduced budget. The institution's first college-wide Promotion and Tenure committee, comprised of two full Professors, three Department Chairs, and two Associate Professors enacted the institution's initial sub-committee process for the 22 faculty and 1 administrator who were awarded tenure/and or promoted. The Post Tenure Review process will be conducted in fall 2014.

The Boards of the college are also Boards of the Senate. The Student Conduct Board, a panel of students, staff, and faculty representing the five-campus college community participated in training for this board. The 2013-2014 year saw 170 violations of the Student Code of Conduct. Under the direction of Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, Michael Stewart, 91% of the violations were settled by faculty resolutions and conduct officer Stewart's management (56%). The hearing process adjudicated five students (3%) of total violations; eight student violations (5%) are pending from the spring semester.

The Student Media Advisory Board, chaired by the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, furthered its role as a review board and facilitated three media outlets for the college: *The Statement* newspaper, *The Fall Line Review* creative writing publication, and KnightTVision television. The Intercollegiate Athletics Board did not meet formally this year as the college made application to the NAIA conference. I received regular updates from the board's chair, Charles Mullis and the college's faculty liaison, Bill Hervey in order to remain apprised of compliance issues. In fall 2014, two faculty members will be elected at large to serve on the