

Middle Georgia State University Faculty Senate AY 2022~~2023~~  
Meeting #1  
Macon Campus, TEB 368 and Microsoft Teams  
Friday, September 2, 2022  
10:00 a.m.

Present:

Ms. Angela Denise Adams, Assistant Professor of Nursing  
Mr. Charlie Agnew, Professor of Art  
Mr. Rex Andrews, Assistant Professor of Aviation Science and Management  
Dr. Ervin Briones, Associate Professor of Psychology  
Dr. Kathleen Burt, Associate Professor of English  
Dr. William Gary Cole, Assistant Professor of Education  
Ms. Vanessa "Paige" Crump, Associate Professor of Spanish  
Ms. Shannon Daly, Assistant Professor of Nursing  
Mr. Andy Davidson, Assistant Professor of English  
Mr. Duane Day, Assistant Professor of Mathematics  
Dr. Lorraine Dubuisson, Chair of the Faculty Senate, Associate Professor of English  
Ms. Tabitha Floyd, Assistant Professor of Accounting & Finance

Absent:

Mr. Adam Craig, Lecturer of Aviation Maintenance and Structural Technology

Guests:

Dr. Deepa Arora, Associate Provost, Professor of Biology

Dr. Loretta Clayton, Interim Dean of Graduate Studies, Professor of English & Interdisciplinary Studies

Mr. Jon Coder, Audio Visual Coordinator

Dr. David Fuller, Special Assistant to the Provost

Dr. Rod McRae, Assistant Provost

Dr. Steven Wallace, Chair of the Executive Committee, Associate Professor of Mathematics

Oath

Provost Jenks led the new senators in the oath swearing. The new senators repeated the oath. Drs. Jenks and Dubuisson welcomed our new senators.

Agenda

Dr. Dubuisson asked for a motion to amend the agenda. President Blake is not able to attend today's meeting. He sent a statement to Dr. Dubuisson for her to share with the Senate. Mr. Agnew moved to amend the agenda. Mr. Day seconded. Dr. Dubuisson read President Blake's statement. He welcomed, thanked, and congratulated the Senators. He authorized Provost Jenks to administer the Senate oath on his behalf.

President Blake noted that enrollment continues to be a challenge, however there is some good news. Given our enrollment uptick late last year our FY24 budget will be cut by \$2.86 million and not the original estimated \$3.4 million. The second fall session, and spring semester, are critical to our fiscal health. Please work diligently to retain and increase enrollment.

President Blake's performance will be evaluated by Chancellor Purdue on October 25.

At Convocation President Blake announced the formation of a new strategic planning process to create a committee to develop a new long-term plan for MGA. Dr. Kevin Cantwell will lead the committee. President Blake will hold at least two Town Hall meetings in Cochran and Macon to receive comments, ideas, suggestions, etc. regarding our new strategic plan.

Report from Provost Jenks

Provost Jenks apologized for not attending in person. He welcomed the Senators back.

We are still awaiting a response from the System Office regarding our PTPTR proposal

Provost Jenks has been working alongside a small subcommittee to develop a campus presence strategy for Warner Robins. The Georgia Academy will be hosted on Warner Robins Campus. We are working alongside the Houston County School District to create associate degrees for high performing HoCo students that will be dual enrolled at WR. The subcommittee is also working on other ideas to increase the presence on the WR Campus like a general's Retention rates are up across all six schools. We have the largest number of new students with a 12% increase

The Provost is reviewing the five year Academic Master Plan with the Deans. Please submit any budget requests for reallocation and/or new money to your dean.

Provost Jenks asked for questions. None were received

### Outstanding Senate Business

Dr. Dubuisson summarized the items on the "Closed Old Business" document that was provided to the Senators electronically alongside today's agenda. Governor Historical Dr. Kara Sonavec, compiled a list of items that appear to be outstanding since 2019:

Vaping – while the word "vaping" does not appear in current policy "electronic cigarettes" are prohibited by the policy. This item is considered closed

Supervisor evaluations & non-terminal degree faculty tenure – both items are being addressed by the PTPTR revision(s) that are still outstanding with the USG

Final exam grading time – the consensus was that it remains a problem. Faculty have less than 48 hours (about 2 days) to submit grades after the last final exam. Dr. Taylor is going to follow up on this topic and report back to the Senate.

MGA class cancellations. eCore yes, eCore classes remain open when MGA classes are cancelled. Many Senators expressed frustration by this practice, which was deemed to be outside of our control and not worth pursuing. This item is considered closed

IRB Chair course release Dr. Dubuisson is still investigating this matter. She will follow up at future meeting. Dr. Patillo moved: Dr. Taylor seconded, allowing Dr. Wallace to speak. Wallace mentioned that the current IRB Chair does not want a course release. Dr. Dubuisson noted that she was aware that the current chair does want a release. She continues to investigate the details associated with the course release or lack thereof and will report back once she has more information.

School level handbooks yes, all Schools have a handbook. The content was updated when PTPTR revisions are finalized and announced some schools will have to update handbook. Each school was to keep a roster of membership of all school level, department level, and program level committees, and maintain and publish all meeting minutes. The Faculty Affairs committee

was charged with working on monitoring school handbooks Taylor affirmed that this is still important but acknowledged this was difficult to prioritize as this was approved just prior to COVID teleworking Dr. Khatmullin asked if the Faculty Affairs Committee would continue to be responsible for ensuring these items are included and maintained in school handbooks Drs. Jenks and Dubuisson will discuss the best process accountability Dr. Lanning asked for clarification regarding if program level committees must keep minutes For example, if the music faculty get together to make recommendations for curricular improvements minutes need to be recorded The consensus was if the meeting is formal yes minutes should be recorded and submitted Dr. Taylor noted the minutes could be brief, in the form of a summary memo. There was some discussion about where the minutes should/would be stored. Dr. Svonavec noted the handbooks are on school webpages Suggested the minutes might be stored online along with the handbooks O'Leary Davidson asked if the minutes were published on the website they would be available to the public Dr. Svonavec and others affirmed that everything that is published is available to the public Taylor noted that this policy was to ensure the same level of transparency among the Schools Dubuisson asked if there was a motion related to this topic Dr. Patillo thinks we need more time to discuss this topic and review the minutes to discern the intent from the time Dr. Dubuisson will locate the minutes associated with this topic, distribute them to the Senate and add this topic to next agenda

New faculty mentoring program Dr. LaVette Burnette chaired some type of committee, perhaps an ad hoc one to review our practices compared to best practices regarding new faculty mentoring The group did good work. Dr. Dubuisson asked Dr. Jenks if he was aware of this work. He replied that he was and that this topic falls under Dr. McRae's purview Dr. McRae noted that the recently created New Faculty Academy has an informal mentoring component Dr. McRae has not worked with the deans yet to look for cross disciplinary mentoring Dr. McRae's previous experience is that there are usually too many faculty wanting mentorship but not enough mentors We can build out something formal but we need to create a program to support it Dr. Dubuisson mentioned that there have been times when faculty received no onboarding in the past She acknowledged that under Dr. McRae's leadership faculty are receiving information and training Ms. Guyse noted that there was a cross disciplinary mentoring group that included senior faculty when she was newly hired She thought the group was beneficial Dr. Dubuisson will track down the work that Dr. Burnette's group did, the minutes from the appropriate meeting and confer with Dr. McRae on what elements might be included in the New Faculty Academy and/or a mentoring program Dr. Svonavec noted that the relevant minutes are from April 2020. This topic will be added to our next agenda

### Committee Charges

Dr. Dubuisson referenced the "Delivering Charges to Committees/Boards" document that was distributed to Senators via email alongside the agenda Charges are provided to some committees and boards at the beginning of the fall semester from the Office of the Provost. Other committees and boards have a self-evident charge like the Executive and IRB committees Dr. Dubuisson is

concerned about fostering meaningful communications from the Senate to the committees and board and among the faculty in general. Dr. Dubuisson noted that we are in a stable position and should work to be proactive towards administration instead of reactive.

Dr. Dubuisson reviewed three problems with our current methodology of involving committees and boards: meaningful work among all committees/boards; top-down structure; lack of agency/proactivity and/or connection to the faculty. Our shared governance should encourage good and meaningful work among the committees and boards.

Dr. Wallace thinks there is a misconception that proposals should be submitted to the Executive Committee before they are received by the Senate. Our shared governance allows committees and boards to send proposals directly to the Senate. DeLanning asked that we not bypass committees. She suggested that we should use/task them more so that they are more involved in the shared governance process.

### Senate Reporting Structure

Dr. Dubuisson explained that she, President Blake, and Provost Jenks have been discussing a change to the bylaws that would modify the reporting structure to include the Office of the Provost. The current language reads: The Senate Chair shall send all formal recommendations of the Senate to the President (Bylaws of the P State).

from an individual or a group. Dr. Dubuisson asked in consideration of time if the Senate wanted to table this issue or if Provost Jenks thought this might be an issue requiring administrative intervention. Provost Jenks agreed to speak directly with Ms. Amanda Funches, Interim Vice President, Finance & Business about the Senate bookstore concern. Dr. Dubuisson will provide Provost Jenks with a list of outstanding concerns. Dr. Dubuisson noted that he has Ms. Crumps' concerns in writing. She asked Dr. Matson and any other Senators with bookstore concerns to send them to her in writing. She will compile them and send them to Dr. Jenks.

#### Adjournment

Dr. Dubuisson asked for questions or announcements. There were none. Dr. Svonavec moved to adjourn. Dr. Paillo seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Submitted by Ms. Lambert, Recorder