

# East Georgia State College Faculty Senate

## Meeting Minutes

August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

9:00AM via Zoom

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Type of meeting: Regular Meeting

Meeting Facilitator: Breana Simmons, President

- I. Open Pre-meeting discussion **NA**
- II. Call to order (9:48am) – regular meeting. Original meeting link was not answered by host. Dr. Whelan sent an alternate Zoom meeting link. Laura Chambers suggested that we put forth an email vote on agenda items. Meeting was not officially called to order, but agenda items were discussed starting at 9:25
- III. Roll call: in attendance, Dr. Carmine Palumbo, Laura Chambers, Dan Mancill, Dr. Catherine Whelan, Natasha Goss, and Christian Kraus. Dr. Breana Simmons, President arrived in the meeting at 9:45.
- IV. Greeting of Visitors: Dr. Catherine Whelan was recognized as visitor.
- V. Approval of minutes from May and Adoption of Agenda: May minutes were approved.
- VI. Committee Reports NA
- VII. Open Issues NA
- VIII. New Business: Each of these agenda items were covered by Dr. Whelan and discussion was offered.
  - a. Changes to Academic Honesty Policy: Motion was sought to put these changes to a committee headed by Dr. Ren Denton (including representatives from each discipline) to discuss necessary changes to the official academic honesty policy. Dr. Palumbo questioned how the general faculty might be able to offer input into that policy. Motion was made and senate voted to approve sending policy changes to committee for study and discussion.

- b. Honorary Degrees Policy: Motion and second to approve policy change passed.
  - c. Academic Freedom Policy: Policy discussion was had. Dr. Palumbo suggested that since the policy was delivered from the Board of Regents, that faculty senate approve the policy changes as soon as possible. Laura pointed out the fact that part of our jobs as faculty is to introduce students to challenging material, so faculty should not be afraid to discuss potentially provocative or controversial topics. Motion and second to approve policy changes passed.
  - d. Update to Standing Committees: Dr. Whelan reviewed the proposed changes to standing committees. Laura Chambers questioned whether or not it would be necessary and appropriate to have faculty members included in the Student Success committee membership, especially since Student Success matrices are now such a major part of faculty annual evaluation and tenure/promotion application and approval. Dr. Whelan assured the senate that subcommittees were going to be established to include faculty representation on Student Success committee. Motion and second to approve policy changes passed.
  - e. Changes to Syllabus Requirements: Changes to syllabus requirements are being sent through APCC for proper approval since changes came from the Board of Regents.
- IX. Unfinished Business: No unfinished business. Dr. Whelan noted that USG is making changes to the core curriculum and that impending syllabus changes in those core courses will be necessary. Changes will be voted on by Board of Regents in the coming weeks, so it is likely senate will be discussing the changes within the next couple of meetings. Dr. Whelan noted that she did “push back” on some of the proposed core curriculum changes, one which was the “shorthand” term for the political science course naming...as proposed it is “Georgia Roots,” and the inappropriateness of that term “roots” and its connotations related to slavery was noted as the rationale for needing a different shorthand term. She also questioned the use of “career competency” wording on the changes.
- X. Adjournment: Motion and second to adjourn meeting made at 10:20AM