

East Georgia State College Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2013

1:14 p.m. in Swainsboro

Type of Meeting: Scheduled monthly meeting

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. Sandra Sharman, president

I. Call to order: Dr. Sharman called the meeting to order at 1:14 pm (a few members were running late).

II. Roll call: Members present – Dr. Reid Derr, Dr. Walt Mason, Dr. Sandra Sharman, Dr. Tori Kearns, and Jessica Todd.

III. Greeting of Visitors: N/A

It was noted that there would be an addition to the agenda. Dr. Sharman began by thanking Dr. Derr for facilitating the last meeting. In addition, she noted that there was a small grammatical change that she and Reid noted in the FS bylaws in section 3.1.1- the second line should read “The Humanities Representatives” in the plural. There was an executive decision made to fix this small error.

IV. Approval of minutes from last meeting: The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Dr. Derr made a motion to adjust the agenda to include a discussion of 1) how teaching schedules of faculty senate members affect their meeting schedules and 2) the possibility of moving the May 3rd meeting due to the Spring Faculty Meeting (it was also noted that the time of the Spring Faculty Meeting was problematic, especially for faculty with children who needed to be picked up from school).

V. Open issues

1. Report on progress of election of Humanities senators (Reid): It was noted that Alan Brasher was the tenured faculty member from Swainsboro who was nominated, and that the election on the Statesboro campus was between Pat Homer and Shawna Williams for the non-tenured senate member. It was also noted that a new secretary would need to be elected since Jessica would be the non-tenured Humanities member that would be rotating out of the FS.

2. Report from Reid on Academic Freedom subcommittee: Reid expressed that he had emailed all of the subcommittee members some information to read through in order for them to have a basis for a conversation/discussion for their first meeting.

3. Report on Gym Usage issue: Dr. Mason relayed that so far things are progressing well with the new process of giving 2 weeks prior notice for gym usage. However, it is a little problematic due to the fact that there are so many requests for the gym. He also expressed concern that some departments are still not following procedure and infringing on academic time in the gym. Dr. Mason also was concerned because some classes have had to be dismissed/cancelled due to not having a place to meet (i.e. gym) because of basketball tryouts (classes needed the gym due to inclement weather and could not get into the gym due to intramurals). In addition, Dr. Mason expressed concern that some athletic players have been disrupting classes that are occurring in the gym complex by being loud and playing in the hallways outside classrooms. Dr. Sharman asked that Dr. Mason document each of the following incidents concerning gym usage and disturbances and take them to the next meeting with Dr. Boehmer.
4. Cell phone repeater to come to Statesboro: The FS is very grateful to Dr. Boehmer for taking this concern of the faculty on himself. Dr. Derr moved that the FS write a letter to Dr. Boehmer thanking him for looking after the safety and well-being of the faculty/staff in regard to cell phone service. [Jessica will send the thank you letter on the FS's behalf]

VI. New business

1. Teaching Schedules for FS Members: Dr. Derr reminded the FS members that it is important to discuss with their Department Chairs the need for their teaching schedules to be MW/ TR, so that they have Fridays open for FS meetings. Dr. Kearns made a motion to send a letter to the Department Chairs regarding consideration for FS schedules. The motion was carried and approved. Dr. Derr will draft the letter to the Division Chairs.
2. Business from Academic Policies Committee (RSD--make copies)
 - a. Film 1100: The course proposal for FILM 1100 was reviewed, and the FS made a motion to approve it. The motion was seconded and approved.
 - b. SPED 2000: There was a motion to table the discussion of SPED 2000 pending further information. The FS needed to see a fuller application (i.e. syllabus, specifications of the course, who would be teaching the course, etc...). Dr. Kearns volunteered to contact Dr. Goodman in regard to the course to see if this was part of a new program or program qualifications.
 - c. ACCT 2001 and 2002 prerequisites: It was discussed that a C or better would be needed as a prerequisite for entering the courses above. There was a motion to accept this proposal. The motion was seconded and approved. It was noted that Dr. Kearns would notify Dr. Goodman about the approval of the FILM and ACCT decisions since they pertain to the Academic Policy Committee.
3. Act on Amendments to FS Bylaws: Dr. Derr discussed that the election/voting procedures are in need of revision. The FS needs to rewrite the bylaws for the at large Senator election to take place 2 weeks after the division Senator. There was a motion to go over the bylaws and get approval for the change at the Spring Faculty Meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Dr. Derr will contact Dr. Goodman about placing this item on the agenda for the Spring Faculty Meeting.

4. Discussion of Academic Honesty Policy as presented in March: There were some questions regarding the clarity and the roles that the V.P.P.A and Conduct Officer play in the process. In addition, it was noted that the wording at times seems to call the Faculty member's judgment into question. For instance, "If those reviewing the matter agree with the interpretation..." It was noted that a trial or mock accusation would be a good idea to see how and if the process actually works.

Procedures for Violations: Dr. Derr noted that under section #1, "with evidence" needed to be added. Dr. Sharman stated that students have to follow the chain of command for appeals or the appeal is invalid. A motion was made to discuss the A.H.P. in further detail with the faculty. Dr. Sharman made a motion to invite Alan Brasher to the next meeting to discuss it. The motion was seconded and approved.

5. Discussion of procedure for putting into effect decisions made by Faculty Senate: The FS needs to designate someone to inform the appropriate people about the decisions made by the FS. Jessica Todd volunteered to send Dr. Boehmer and Susan Gray the minutes from each FS meeting and the items that have been approved. Dr. Kearns volunteered to contact Steve concerning the approval of his FILM class.

6. Policy on EGSC provision of scantrons: It was noted that providing scantrons to students diminishes their personal responsibility and makes the college look like a "high school." Dr. Kearns expressed an interest in how this substantive change occurred without any faculty input; she stated that this type of change without any faculty input goes against what the FS represents. It was noted that the FS should ask Dr. Boehmer where this decision originated. Dr. Derr made a motion to draft a statement/resolution on how the Faculty feel about this issue and send it to Dr. Boehmer. The motion was seconded and approved. Dr. Sharman will send a statement concerning the scantron issue to Dr. Boehmer.

7. May FS Meeting: The May FS meeting will be moved. A discussion was held and a decision was made to move the meeting to 4 pm on May 10th. The meeting will be a working dinner and take place at Ware's restaurant in Swainsboro. This will allow the FS to meet and eat before graduation that evening.

VII. Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn at 2:35 pm.