

East Georgia State College Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2015

1:00 p.m. PE Complex, D101, Swainsboro

Type of meeting: Regular meeting

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. Walt Mason, President

- I. **Open Pre-meeting Discussion (Unofficial)** – 12:30 meeting in PE Complex -D101.
- II. Call to order (1:00 p.m.)
- III. Roll call: Dr. Walt Mason, Dr. Reid Derr, Dr. Breana Simmons, Mr. John Blackburn, Mr. Bob Marsh, Mr. Lindy Blount, and Ms. Jessica Todd.
- IV. Greeting of Visitors – No visitors were present.
- V. Approval of minutes from August 4, 2015 meeting and Adoption of Agenda
 - a. A motion was made to approve the August 4 minutes; it was seconded. The minutes were approved.
- VI. Unfinished Business
 - a. Faculty Senate By-Laws
 - i. Dr. Simmons made a motion to approve the amended By-Laws; there was a call for discussion. A motion was made to have a clean copy of the By-Laws for the next meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.
 - b. EGSC Statutes
 - i. It was noted that the Critical Thinking Committee has been moved as per the Faculty Senate's request.
 - ii. Dr. Derr expressed his concern over some of the wording in certain sections of the Statutes: Dr. Derr moved that the revised EGSC Statute be approved with the removal of the following sections:
 - (1) "And Responsibility" from the title of the "Academic Freedom and Responsibility" section, Section H, page 24.
 - (2) the entire fifth paragraph in Section H, "Academic Freedom and Responsibility" on page 25, reading as follows:

“The universal responsibility of the teaching faculty member is effective teaching. A proper academic climate can be maintained only when members of the academic community meet their fundamental responsibilities regularly, such as preparing for and meeting their assignments, conferring with and advising students, evaluating fairly and reporting promptly in all student achievements, and participating in group deliberations which contribute to the growth and development of students and the institution. All members of the academic community also have the responsibility to accept those reasonable duties assigned to them within their fields of competency, whether curricular, co-curricular, or extra-curricular. Additionally, the concept of institutional loyalty still has a proper place within the academic community to accept, honestly and with good faith, to preserve and defend the institution and its goals, without restricting the rights to advocate change.”

(3) the recently added grounds for firing on page 27:

“Violation of the policies of the Board of Regents, including but not limited to Board Policy 8.2.1 (non-discrimination), Board Policy 8.2.16 (sexual harassment) and Board Policy 8.2.23 (amorous relationships).”

- iii. Mr. Bob Marsh noted that there are still a few sections in the Statutes where there are issues with the wording regarding electing faculty members from each school.
 - 1. Article V. Standing Committees, Section C, #5 Study Abroad Committee: “One faculty member from each academic division nominated by each Division and elected by the faculty” should be changed to read “One faculty member from each academic school nominated by each school and elected by the faculty.”
 - iv. There was a motion to approve the Statutes with the changes recommended by Dr. Derr and Mr. Marsh. Motion was seconded and approved.
- c. Proposed Academic Honesty Policy
 - i. Dr. Simmons made a motion to approve the Academic Honesty Policy, and it was seconded by Dr. Derr. The motion was approved.
 - d. Proposed Academic Freedom Policy
 - i. Dr. Derr made a motion to form a committee to review the President’s comments over the Academic Freedom Policy. Dr. Simmons seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Dr. Derr will ask Dr. Pittman, Dr. White, and Dr. Boudreaux if they are willing to serve with him on this committee.
 - e. Proposed Post tenure Policy

- i. 7.6 Post-Tenure Policy Rewards section: Dr. Derr noted that the word “should” is conditional by definition: “Faculty who pass post-tenure review should be rewarded in the form of merit pay increases and priority consideration for development opportunities.” He was responding to Dr. Boehmer’s comment that “this could be interpreted to require a merit pay increase in a year in which a faculty member passes post tenure review”[Quote from Memorandum: May 6, 2015].
- ii. Dr. Derr made a motion for the committee to review the feedback given by Dr. Boehmer; Dr. Simmons made a motion that she along with Mr. Blackburn look at the post-tenure revisions and report back to the Faculty Senate in Oct. This motion was seconded and approved.

VII. Open Issues - Athlete’s pre-midterm grade sheet. (discussed at 12:30)

VIII. New Business

a. APCC items (mailed 9/10)

- i. BIOL 3460: Plant Biology: Dr. Simmons made a motion to approve the course; it was seconded and approved.
- ii. Change to Area F in General Studies: Dr. Mason made a motion to approve; it was seconded and approved.
- iii. ENGL299/3000: Environmental Literature of the United States: Ms. Todd made a motion to approve; it was seconded. There was a call for discussion. Dr. Derr expressed that he felt the course may be narrative in scope and too specialized. Dr. Simmons discussed that the Biology students are requesting an upper level literature class in which they can learn to evaluate and appreciate scientific writing and environmental literature. There was a call to question by Dr. Derr. There was a vote, and the course was approved.
- iv. Certificate Program in Digital Photography: There was a motion to approve and a second. Mr. Blackburn called for discussion. He inquired if the college had the right to create certificate programs. Dr. Mason and Dr. Simmons assured him that the college can create certificate programs. There was a call to question and vote. The program was approved.
- v. Pre-Requisite for Introduction to Film: Dr. Simmons made a motion to approve as proposed. Mr. Marsh seconded. It was approved to remove the pre-requisite from Introduction to Film.
- vi. Communications of Production (COMM 1118, 1119, 1120): Mr. Blackburn made a motion to deny. The motion was seconded. There was a call for discussion. It

was noted that this proposal needed more clarification concerning its purpose, concepts learned, justification for the course (s), etc. Perhaps, it can be revised and resubmitted at a later date. There was a call to question. The motion to deny this course was approved.

IX. Announcements: Dr. Mason will invite the Chief of Security and the Athletic Director to our next meeting to discuss some issues regarding general student behavior and athletes' grades/progress.

X. Adjourn: Dr. Mason made a motion to adjourn; it was seconded and approved.