Date: August 17, 2005

1) Call to Order: President (Dr.) Beheruz N. Sethna, called the meeting to order at 9.00 am. The president welcomed everyone back to school and talked about the school’s 99th birthday which was on the 18th of August, 1906. He remarked about the faculty, students, and the overall growth of the institution. He congratulated the faculty and staff on a “job well done.” Among a host of other things, he also talked about the personal and societal benefits of higher education, for both the present and future generations. He commented on Tom Friedman’s book and our school’s 33% graduation rate (at the end of 6 years). He called upon all of us to improve on it and discussed the “RPG” initiative of the Board of Regents.

2) Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2005 meeting was made and seconded, and was approved unanimously.

3) Centennial Celebration: Dr’s. Fred and Ann Richards talked about the West Georgia centennial celebration planning (2006-07). The celebration format is broad and has wide latitude and will depend on what “we” the UWG family, want to make of it. One suggested theme for the school was “From Rural Roots to Global Reach.” Different means of raising funds and organizing the celebrations were also spelt out.

4) Student Success Initiatives: Dr. M. McClellan (Vice President of Student Services) talked about the Student Success Initiative. She talked about the “AASCU” study which is directed at raising the graduation rates in our state, which unfortunately ranks 42nd in the country.

5) AAUP Study Report: It was presented by Dr. C. Clark, the president of the AAUP chapter at West Georgia. He talked (among other things) about the threat to “academic freedom” and encouraged everyone to participate in the process.

6) A-Day: Dr. Tim Chowns talked about the fundraising for A-Day, scheduled for the 20th of October, 2005. Among other things he encouraged the faculty to participate more in A-Day, and help raise the faculty participation (in giving funds) from 39% (today) to an eventual 100%.
7) **EXCEL Presentation**: Ms. C. Rice spoke on the success of freshmen on campus and presented the “Student Advocate Award” to Dr. J. Bartley.

8) **Vice President’s Remarks**: Dr. T. Hynes remarked on the strengths and weaknesses of the institution, and how to improve upon it. He emphasized more “sharing” among the UWG family members which will raise scholarship and graduation rates on campus.

9) **President’s Closing Remarks**: The president wished everyone the best for the year ahead, and closed with that note.

**Adjournment: 10:45 am.**

Respectfully submitted by Swarna Dutt, Executive Secretary, Faculty Senate