Date: February 20, 2004

Call to Order: The meeting was convened in room 1-301 of the Technology-Enhanced Learning Center. President Beheruz N. Sethna called the meeting to order at 3.01 pm.

Role Call: Best, Binion, Bush, Caress, Cao, Clark, Crenshaw, Cuomo (for Elman), Doheny, Dutt, Gainey (for Lankford), Halsall, Hansen, MacComb, Overfield, Payne, Putney, Reigner, Rickard, Smith, S., Stafford, Stone (for Purk), Turner, Vinson, Yoder, Hynes.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2004 meeting of the Faculty Senate was made by Skip Clark, seconded by Debra MacComb, and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Committee I: Undergraduate Academic Programs Committee (Susan Smith, chair)

Action Item: On behalf of the committee Ms Smith moved the following program change:

A. College of Arts & Sciences
   1. Dept of Political Science
      a) Delete temporary BS in Secondary Education (Political Science)

The motion carried unanimously.

Information Items: Ms. Smith also announced the following minor changes:

A. College of Arts & Sciences
   1. Art Dept.
      a) ART 4011, 4012, 4013 - Modify grading
   2. Dept. of Mathematics
      a) MATH 2703 - Modify Description
      b) MATH 3703 - Modify Title & Prerequisites
      c) MATH 3803 - Modify Title & Prerequisites
      d) MATH 4713 - Modify Title & Prerequisites
      e) MATH 4773 - Modify Title & Prerequisite
      f) MATH 4863 - Modify Title
   3. Sociology / Criminology Dept.
      a) CRIM 1100 - Add to Area F2 for Sociology Majors
B. College of Education

1. Physical Education
   a) Delete PWLA 1611
   b) Delete PWLA 1621
   c) Delete PWLA 1622
   d) Delete PWLA 1641
   e) Delete PWLA 1661
   f) Delete PHED 3672
   g) Delete PHED 3673
   h) Modify PHED 3675 (Title & Prerequisites)
   i) Modify PHED 3618 (Prerequisites)
   j) Modify PHED 3671 (Prerequisite)
   k) Modify PHED 4608 (Prerequisites)
   l) Modify PHED 3628 (Number & Description)
   m) Delete PHED 4671 (Description and Prerequisite)

2. Leisure
   a) Delete LEIS 3600
   b) Delete LEIS 3620
   c) Delete LEIS 3625
   d) Delete LEIS 3630
   e) Delete LEIS 3640
   f) Delete LEIS 3650
   g) Delete LEIS 3660
   h) Delete LEIS 3670
   i) Delete LEIS 3674
   j) Delete LEIS 3680
   k) Delete LEIS 4610
   l) Delete LEIS 4634
   m) Delete LEIS 4635
   n) Delete LEIS 4642
   o) Delete LEIS 4644
   p) Delete LEIS 4676
   q) Delete LEIS 4680
   r) Delete LEIS 4682

3. Speech Language Pathology
   a) Modify SLPA 3702 - Prerequisite
   b) Modify SLPA 3703 - Description & Prerequisite
   c) Modify SLPA 3704 - Description & Prerequisite
   d) Modify SLPA 3705 - Description & Prerequisite
   e) Modify SLPA 3760 - Prerequisite
   f) Modify SLPA 3761 - Description & Prerequisite
   g) Modify SLPA 4703 - Description
   h) Modify SLPA 4786 - Description
4. Special Education
   a) Modify SPED 4765 - Description

5. Sport Management
   a) Add SPMG 3665
   b) Add SPMG 4668
   c) Modify SPMG 3661 - Title & Description
   d) Modify SPMG 3662 - Title & Description
   e) Modify SPMG 3663 - Description
   f) Modify SPMG 3664 - Title & Description
   g) Modify SPMG 3670 - Credit hours & Prerequisite
   h) Modify SPMG 4665 - Title

6. Curriculum & Instruction
   a) ECED 3214- Modify prerequisite
   b) ECED 3264- Modify prerequisite
   c) PTED 4514 - Delete
   d) PTED 4571 - Modify number and prerequisite
   e) PTED 4585 - Modify number and prerequisite
   f) READ 4285 - Modify prerequisite
   g) SEED 4238 - Modify description
   h) SEED 4242 - Modify description
   i) SEED 4243 - Modify description
   j) SEED 4288 - Modify description
   k) SEED 4537 - Delete

Committee II, Academic Policies and Procedures (Dr. Charles Clarke, chair)

On behalf of the committee Dr. Clark introduced the following motion:

To amend the statement on Class Absence found on page 98 of the undergraduate catalog by replacing the italicized statement with the statement in bold:

“Class attendance policies are determined by each instructor for his or her own classes, subject to the following principles: .......the assessment of academic penalties for absence in addition to responsibility for all work covered is discouraged, but not prohibited; students absent from class while officially representing the University should not be penalized in the calculation of final grades;”

The motion passed unanimously.

Committee IX, Graduate Studies (Dr Jack Jenkins, chair)

Information Item: Dr. Jenkins introduced the approved minutes of COGS for November 19, 2003 and January 28, 2004.
New Business
Dr. Denise Overfield, president of the AAUP, seconded by Dr Skip Clark, introduced the following motion concerning Georgia Senate Bill 661 “Academic Bill of Rights”:

The University Senate of the State University of West Georgia expresses its deep concern regarding SR 661. The University Senate respectfully submits that the resolution, as presently written, would have the consequences of threatening to impose administrative and legislative oversight on the professional judgment of faculty, depriving professors of the authority necessary for teaching, and prohibiting academic institutions from making the decisions that are necessary for the advancement of knowledge. For these reasons, the University Senate of the State University of West Georgia requests that the Academic Bill of Rights (SR 661) not be passed.

After brief discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

1. Scott Huffman, Interim Vice-President for University Advancement gave a brief overview of the West Georgia Foundation, Development and Alumni Services and fund-raising at West Georgia.

   The West Georgia Foundation, Inc. was founded in 1967 to exclusively raise, administer, invest, and transfer private gifts in support of the State University of West Georgia. It is part of the Division of Development and Alumni Services and is governed by a Board of Trustees (39 voting members) and an Executive Committee of eight including President Sethna. There are a number of committees, but Mr. Huffman wanted to emphasize the fine work of the investment committee that handles endowments. The committee is chaired by Anna Berry, a former treasurer of Southwire, and seeks to achieve an annual return of at least 3% over inflation. This team of eight money managers has been extremely successful in reducing losses in down years and taking full advantage of bull markets. 2003 was an outstanding year with a return of over 21% after fees.

   Since 1994 total assets have grown from around $2.5 million to about $12 million. This outstanding record is the result of generous donations and much hard work by the finance committee. Just last year, the University received a record-breaking $2.6 million in restricted funds (earmarked for specific scholarships etc.) and $250,000 in unrestricted gifts. Currently the Foundation is allocating 5% of it’s assets in support of scholarships (316 total with 191 endowed), 1% to administration, and the remainder to increasing the overall endowment.

   Major fund raising efforts include:
   “A Day”, a multi-month effort involving community-wide solicitations as well as the faculty and staff fund drive. Faculty and staff give generously (65% donated last year).
A ‘Phonothon’ initiated in 1999 by which students update our alumni and solicit donations four evenings a week during fall & spring semesters.

‘Annual Giving’ in amounts less than $10,000.

‘Major Gifts’ (over $10,000). Last year the University received 21 major gifts.

‘Planned Giving’ including wills and trusts.

Solicitations of major gifts and annual gifts are made by the trustees, the president, administration, faculty and staff. The Foundation has developed a priority list of 40 top projects for which financial funds are sought. If you have a pet project that you would like to see funded, meet with a development officer from the Foundation and develop a plan. To prevent duplication and to avoid inconvenience to donors it is important to use procedure forms provided at the Alumni House and to keep Department Chairs and Deans appraised in order to co-ordinate effort.

Dr. Sethna thanked faculty and staff for their generous giving, which increased last year in spite of difficult financial times. He encouraged everyone to consider dividing their donations so that a least a part goes to unrestricted funds, which are greatly need to enhance the University environment.

2. In view of current discussion about Georgia Senate Resolution 595 banning same-sex unions, Dr. Crenshaw enquired whether or not the University Senate should express its concern over this issue. Dr. Clark, as parliamentarian, noted that while discussion was appropriate the Senate could not act on such a statement from the floor without suspending its rules. Dr. Hynes advised that in the past our Senate has avoided making public policy statements not directly related to educational issues. Mr. Hester concurred that it would be unwise for the University to make a general statement about such a controversial and divisive issue unless there were particular concerns related to education. President Sethna enquired whether Dr. Crenshaw was aware of any action at our sister universities. Dr. Crenshaw replied that she knew of a statement at the Mt. Holyoke College in Massachusetts but not in Georgia. She was most concerned that there be dialog about this important issue and thanked the senators for their comments.

3. Dr Hynes drew attention to a House Bill concerning textbook adoptions. The Bill requires that once selected textbooks continue in use for at least six semesters. After discussion it was agreed that while the object of saving students money was worthy, such a mandate was fraught with dangers. Dr Hynes offered to send a copy of the Bill via the allfaculty list and to gather faculty comments. He would then draft a letter to the Regents’ staff enumerating our misgivings. During discussion Dr. Hansen protested the large discrepancy between what students are offered for used books and the selling price of used texts.

Adjournment
There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3.50 p.m.