I. Call to Order and Welcome

President Beheruz N. Sethna convened the general faculty meeting at 3.02 p.m. in the Townsend Center. He congratulated all departments for an exceptional year in spite of unprecedented budget cuts (now spanning more than three years). He thanked everyone for their dedication to research, service and most especially teaching.

Dr. Sethna drew particular attention to a new University System Initiative related to Retention and Graduation Rates. Low graduation rates are a System-wide problem. The baccalaureate graduation rate for all Georgia System schools averages 43.7% (after six years) with a range between 13 & 71%; 42nd in the nation. The rate at West Georgia is 31%; very low when compared with similar schools nationwide. Administration, faculty & staff, all, share a responsibility to solve this problem. We are already participating in an AASCU study and Dr. Sethna will initiate a campus-wide dialog on ways to address this problem. We must work to create a campus culture that expects and encourages success.

(For complete statistics see the president’s PowerPoint presentation on the Web)

II. Approval of Minutes

Dr Paul Philips, seconded by Dr. Jorge Gaytan, moved approval of the minutes of the General Faculty meeting of August 18, 2004. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Recognition of Retirees

Dr. Sethna introduced the following faculty retirees and hailed their incredible contributions:

- Dr. Joel Auble, (34 years) English & Philosophy
- Bruce Bobick, (29 years) Art (Chair)
- Cameron Covert, (34 years) Art
- Mary Erickson, (30 years) Nursing
- Dr. Charles (Sam) Lopeman, (11 years) Political Science & Planning
- Dr. Nancy Pollard, (29 years) Special Education & Speech Pathology
Dr. Carl Quertermus, (33 years) Biology
Dr. George Rolle, (21 years) Counseling & Educational Psychology
Dr. Richard Sanders, (31 years) Geosciences

IV. Faculty and Staff Service Awards

Dr. Tara Singer, Vice President for University Advancement, presented the following service awards:

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Oneal Barnes Custodial Services
Kimberly L. Bird Financial Aid
Diane C. Boothe Curriculum & Instruction
Randall M. Burson Traffic Operations
Janet M. Clark Political Science & Planning
Anita M. Cline Geosciences
Becky K. Cole Accounting & Finance
Dale K. Driver College of Arts & Sciences
Swarna D. Dutt Economics
Wanda L. Eidson Registrar
Camilla V. Gant Mass Communications & Theatre Arts
Margaret A. Gauthier Mass Communications & Theatre Arts
Martha E. Gibbs Health Services
Robert M. Gray Athletics Administration
Tobin R. Hart Psychology
James A. Hembree Landscape & Ground Maintenance
Robert Hilliard Curriculum & Instruction
Elaine W. Holmes Learning Support
Steve L. Jackson Landscape & Ground Maintenance
Robert S. Johnson Admissions
Farooq A. Khan Chemistry
Eric A. Kidd Custodial Services
Charles S. Lopeman Political Science & Planning
Sandra S. Nix Football
Betty A. Norman  Custodial Services
Alexa B. North  Management & Business Systems
Rebecca D. Pearce  Counseling and Educational Psychology
Judith E. Petty  Arts & Sciences - Technical Support
Linda D. Putney  Media & Instructional Technology
Debrah A. Santini  Art
Paul M. Smith, Jr.  Special Programs
Wilma S. Terrell  Custodial Services
Teresa V. Walker  Building Maintenance

15 YEARS OF SERVICE
J. Steven Broome  Public Relations
James H. Burton  Marketing & Real Estate
John S. Clower  Residence Life
James R. Colley  Accounting & Finance
Sharon C. Eggleston  Learning Support
Joel B. Haynes  Marketing & Real Estate
Maxine B. House  Alumni Services
Teri K. Lewis  External Degree Newnan
Thomas J. Mackel  Public Safety
Ronnie J. Mayfield  Landscape & Ground Maintenance
Sheryl B. Marlar  Public Relations
John W. Myers  Curriculum & Instruction
Mary S. O'Neil  Nursing
Shelia F. Phillips  Health Services
Daniel C. Pittman  Learning Support
Gloria D. Reid  Custodial Services
Anita L. Saunders  Purchasing
Sherry M. Walls  College of Education
Richard D. Watts  Building Maintenance

20 YEARS OF SERVICE
June A. Barry  Curriculum & Instruction
George S. Busby, III  Building Maintenance
Donnie M. Grizzard Building Maintenance
Margaret O. Hughes Library
Rebecca M. McGee Human Resources
Helen D. Moore Registrar
J. W. Pate Publications & Printing
Michael D. Raper Economics
George E. Rolle, Sr. Counseling and Educational Psychology
Walter C. Todd Student Activities
John R. Wells College of Business
Carol B. Wilson Nursing
Howard L. Winters Custodial Services
Rebecca E. Zenefski Office of the Comptroller

25 YEARS OF SERVICE
Linda S. Brown Custodial Services
Patricia A. Causey Residence Life
Romeree Cospy Custodial Services
Myron W. House Library
Tamara P. Lane Student Financial Services
Carol M. O'Neal Physics
William C. Schaniel Economics

30 YEARS OF SERVICE
Daniel F. Bakos Music
Mary S. Erickson Nursing
Carolyn M. Hammock Information Technology
Vivian S. Stapler Auxiliary Services
Donald R. Wagner Special Programs

35 YEARS OF SERVICE
Fran E. Chalfant English
Jerome T. Mock Auxiliary Services
V. Election of Officers of the General Faculty

The following nominations were received from the floor:

Secretary  Dr. Basu Dutt
Parliamentarian  Dr. Skip Clark

There being no other nominations Drs. Dutt and Clark were elected by unanimous consent.

VI. Remarks by Vice President Thomas J. Hynes.

Dr. Hynes expressed his gratitude to faculty and staff. He is continually impressed by their persistent and consistent dedication to the institution even during difficult times of great change. Important administrative changes are underway in Arts & Sciences, the Richard’s College of Business and the Library. Dr. Hynes thanked Pauline Gagnon, Faye McIntyre and Mark McManus who have served in the interim. The anticipated change in the University mascot is of considerable importance to the larger West Georgia community. The political environment is also changing with important debates over the balance between public and private funding for higher education. He emphasized the need for effective and sensitive communication at such times.

He closed by thanking his staff for their service and support.

Dr. Hynes presented Special Awards to the following faculty advisers of Big Night:

Dr. John Ponder  (Curriculum & Instruction)
Eilis Crean (Art)
Dr. Michael Raper (Economics)
Dr. Lisa Gezon (Anthropology)
Dr. Greg Payne (Biology)
Dr. Muriel Cormican (Foreign Languages)

VII. Closing Remarks by President Beheruz N. Sethna

Dr. Sethna announced an upcoming meeting on salary compression and thanked the faculty who first drew attention to this situation. He also thanked Dr. Hynes and Dr. Luna for their work in addressing the problem. He expressed his appreciation to the deans and vice presidents and especially to his secretary Tina Bennett.

VIII. Adjournment

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

Submitted by:

Timothy M. Chowns, Secretary