I. Call to Order:
The meeting was convened at 9.07 a.m. in the Townsend Center with President Beheruz N. Sethna presiding. Dr. Sethna welcomed the faculty and especially new members. He drew attention to the accomplishments of 2002-3 (see the State of the University Letter on the Web) and summarized the highlights; especially the many successes of our students and faculty. He also addressed concerns about the budget, growth at UWG and the Master Facilities Plan. He gave his enthusiastic endorsement to the American Democracy Project and to a proposed movie on our Cheerleaders. He encouraged everyone to take part in campus-wide discussions on the school mascot and identity that will be forthcoming. He closed by declaring his pride in being part of the faculty as well as president of the University of West Georgia. The complete text of Dr. Sethna’s remarks is given on the Web.

II. Approval of the Minutes:
Dr. Skip Clark, seconded by Dr. Don Rice moved approval of the minutes of the April 23, 2003 meeting of the General Faculty. The motion passed unanimously.

III. A Day for West Georgia:
Ms. Lisa Ledbetter spoke eloquently of the many ways that faculty and staff donate to their community. She provided a summary of unrestricted fund allocations by the Foundation for 2004 and encouraged everyone to contribute generously to ‘A Day’ on October 16.

IV. American Association of University Professors:
Dr. Denise Overfield, president of the local chapter of AAUP, reminded faculty of the association’s importance to academic freedom and of the effect of the economy on the University. She urged faculty to join AAUP in order to make their voice heard on these important issues.
V. EXCEL Center:
Ms. Cheryl Rice director of the EXCEL Center, presented the “First Year Student, Faculty Advocate Award” to Dr. Spencer Slattery of Chemistry, in recognition of his tireless efforts advising students at the EXCEL Center.

VI. Vice Presidents Remarks:
Dr Thomas Hynes addressed the following issues:

1. Budget cuts
2. University initiatives
   a) National Dialog on Democracy
   b) Honors Code
   c) Enrollment Management
   d) Diversity Leadership
   e) Assessment
   f) Improved Communication

The complete text of the Vice-Presidents remarks is also posted on the Web.

VII. Adjournment
Dr. Sethna wished everyone a wonderful year and encouraged us to continue our drive for educational excellence in a personal environment. The meeting adjourned at 10.05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted
Timothy M. Chowns
Secretary