I. Call to Order: President Beheruz N. Sethna called the meeting to order at 9.05 a.m. in the Townsend Center. He reminded us that the legislation that instituted A&M schools in Georgia (including West Georgia) was passed 98 years ago and that he has now served ten years as president. He welcomed everyone and especially new faculty.

II. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April 28, 2004 meeting were approved upon a motion by Dr. Gaytan seconded by Dr. Gustafson.

III. President’s Remarks: Dr. Sethna spoke of the challenges and opportunities facing higher education. He drew attention to the huge turnover that has occurred in the State legislature and the need to maintain support and enthusiasm for higher education, in spite of budgetary constraints. He warned that another budget cut is expected. Budgetary inequities among schools are being addressed by the Board of Regents but more work needs to be done. He emphasized the importance of higher education to the culture and economy of the State and region. He also alerted the faculty to the dangers posed by a so-called “Academic Bill of Rights” that was recently introduced as legislation but fortunately defeated.

IV. Introduction to myUWG: Dr. Sethna encouraged everyone to make use of the new campus web portal.

V. A Day for West Georgia: Dr. Katherine Grams reminded everyone of the “A Day” campaign beginning on August 26. She drew attention to a pie diagram of unrestricted fund allocations and emphasized that the bulk of donations are used for student scholarships. She hoped that once again we would top our previous year’s record giving. This year’s campaign is supported by AirTrans who will provide special travel incentives.

VI. AAUP: Dr. Georges Gaytan, incoming president of AAUP, encouraged faculty to become members. There are important issues that need to be addressed. Amongst these he emphasized Salary Compression and the Academic Bill of Rights.

VII. Excel Center: According to Ms. Cheryl Rice the Excel center has now been assisting the success of first year students for eight years. She thanked the faculty volunteers who advise undeclared majors and presented this year’s service award to Dr. David Boldt of Economics.

VIII. Vice President's Remarks: Dr. Thomas J. Hynes Jr. outlined the values that organize our many efforts at the university and addressed particular concerns that will be the focus of dialog in the coming year. The complete text of his remarks is available on his website.
Adjournment: Dr. Sethna acknowledged his gratitude to faculty and staff and expressed his pride in being a colleague. He then adjourned the meeting at 10.23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Dr. Tim Chowns, Secretary