I. Call to order and Opening Remarks:

President Beheruz Sethna called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm and welcomed those present. Noting that he assumed it better to get the “bad parts” over early, he announced that he would make his general presentation as part of his opening remarks.

Dr. Sethna noted he wanted to address two items of significant importance to the general faculty. The first item was the ongoing self-study for SACS re-accreditation. He noted that we will all hear this topic discussed several times in the near future; some faculty will be working on the self-study through the summer.

He started by expressing his strong support for the SACS process and the many benefits that accrue from it. He noted that the process, while perhaps not pleasant, was of great value in examining what works, what doesn’t work, and how to improve our policies and processes. He encouraged all to work diligently on the project (particularly on underlying components – measures of assessment, etc.). He noted that as unwelcome as the process may be, it is certainly worth doing well; if not done correctly, it will have to be done again. He congratulated the faculty for the good work that has been done to date.

Dr. Sethna noted that SACS, as part of the process, requires four major elements in place in the area of institutional effectiveness. Every area of the institution must address this issue of institutional effectiveness. Every office, department, program, division must:

1. Define what it wants to accomplish, and how those goals correspond to the University’s goals;

2. Outline how those goals are going to be accomplished;

3. Describe how success in reaching goals is measured; and

4. Demonstrate how assessments are used to either improve performance or change goals of the unit.
Dr. Sethna noted that it is equally important that **everything be documented**. He noted that to successfully complete this process will require the involvement of the entire University community.

The second issue addressed by Dr. Sethna involved the budget for the coming fiscal year. He recalled that initial projections about the budget were very pessimistic: each institution would receive a budget decrease of 5%; later, there was an additional .85% reduction; and further, a portion of MRR (Maintenance, Repair & Renovation) funds would be lost. It appeared that overall budget cuts would be in the 7-7.5% range. Dr. Sethna noted that, locally, there is some glimmer of good news in our budget. Two reasons have contributed to the fact that the hole UWG is in is not quite as deep as it could have been. First, a particular appeal to the BOR staff resulted in a special allocation of $71,000 above formula funding. While not a lot of money, it is recognition on the BOR’s part that UWG is deserving of some special consideration. Secondly, enrollment growth over the past has helped increase formula funding over anticipated funding levels. While these additional funds do not ameliorate our budget position, they make the situation a bit better.

Often in tight budget times, the response is to cut funding across the institution. The President and PAC have made a decision to add $340,000 to meet core curriculum class needs. This figure is based on an analysis of core curriculum needs performed by Michael Crafton.

While funding is still tight, our situation is better than earlier projections.

**II. Approval of the Minutes:**

The minutes of the General Faculty meeting of August 15, 2001 were approved as distributed.

**III. Recognition of Retirees – Dr. Sethna**

Dr. Sethna recognized the following retiring faculty:

- Dr. Ben de Mayo of the Physics Department after 30 years
- Dr. Jerry Farmer of the Music Department after 24 years
- Ms Nancy Farmer of Ingram Library after 17 years
- Dr. Lucille Garmon of the Chemistry Department after 34 years
- Dr. Marie Guynn of the Nursing Department after 27 years
- Ms Carolyn Hickox of the Nursing Department after 14 years
- Dr. Dorothy Joiner of the Art Department after 30 years
- Dr. George Mann of the Music Department after 28 years
- Dr. James (Steve) Taylor of the History Department after 10 years
Dr. Sethna expressed profound thanks for the contributions made by these colleagues toward the growth of the State University of West Georgia in many ways.

IV. Faculty and Staff Service Awards – David Parkman, Vice President for University Advancement

Mr. Parkman reminded the body that the award of service pins was made available through contributions of unrestricted gifts to the foundation funds. Assisted by Vicky Holmes and Tina Bennett, he recognized the following faculty and staff, and presented them with service award pins.

Ten Years of Service:

- Bruce Bird Accounting & Finance
- Patricia Durrough Purchasing Services
- Joan Faulkner Office of Admissions
- Bradley Hobgood Facilities – Landscape & Grounds
- Leos Kral Biology
- William Lloyd Computer Science
- Caroline Martin Public Safety
- James Mathis* Biology
- Laura Mayfield Bookstore
- Joel McLeroy Facilities – Construction
- Timothy North Information Technology Services
- Teresa Ock Secretary, VPAA
- Thomas Peterson Ed Leadership & Prof Studies
- Nancy Pollard Spec Ed & Speech Lang Path
- Kathleen Rooks Health Services
- Liz Runyan Management & Business Systems
- Diane Sharp Foreign Languages & Literature
- Connie Smith Purchasing Services
- Brent Snow Counseling & Ed Psychology
- Robert Snyder English & Philosophy
- James (Steve) Taylor History
- James Woody Public Safety

*awarded posthumously

Twenty Years of Service

- Christopher Aanstoos Psychology
- Bonnie Bar Nursing
- Sandi Bradley Purchasing Services
- Bruce Brewer Career Services
- Tammy Crews Information Technology Services
V. Vice President’s Remarks – Dr. Thomas J. Hynes, Jr.

Dr. Sethna called on Dr. Tim Hynes, Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Dr. Hynes noted that approaching the end of Spring semester was similar to finishing a long-distance race: there is real exhaustion at the completion of a difficult task and real pleasure at doing so successfully. He recalled his remarks last fall, at the beginning of the academic year about the artificial intelligence program that created cybernetic routines that automatically shut it down: the contextual parameters placed a higher cost on making errors than the benefit of making new discoveries. Dr. Hynes expressed great satisfaction that such a strategy was rejected by the faculty over the past year as a number of tasks confronted the University. The University made extensive investigations about the whole teaching and learning environment/processes of faculty, students, and staff: there was no “shutting down to avoid errors.” Surprisingly few errors were made. He thanked the staff of the VPAA staff: Randy Hendricks, Teresa Ock, Lucretia Gibbs, and Patsy Barr. He recounted a number of contributions made over the past year: the Strategic Planning Committee; the Faculty Senate and its Committees who supported a greater focus on governance activities, including policies on sexual harassment and personal relations. The body approved a policy for evaluation of general education outcomes. These documents were the result of vigorous examination about the mission of the institution, and represent the result of serious consideration of the entire faculty. The Teacher Education Advisory Committee became a group that “lived shared and collaborative
“governance” in the investigation of best practices in preparing teachers to help Georgia’s kids learn. The UAPC and COGS developed models of how deliberations over course and academic programs changes should occur. The Technology Committee has begun significant activities of plotting a future for the ways in which technology will help foster learning for students and faculty alike. The Center for Teaching and Learning continues to offer as one has called “a safe space” for discussing various dimensions of how faculty and students learn. It has provided a forum about personnel issues, for workshops and discussions about engaging students in a variety of learning environments. The Center seems poised to continue those discussions. Big Night continues to contribute momentum and an anchor to the collaboration between students and faculty in the creation of scholarly and creative activities.

Dr. Hynes noted that he mentioned no names because he wanted to focus on the faculty as a collective showing throughout the past year a re-commitment to a joint project of helping students and faculty alike to be about the business of how it is to learn.

Dr. Hynes recalled a former MIT debater, Lawrence Summers, current President of Harvard University. He closed his remarks with a recent quotation from Summers about the collegial conversation that reveals a way in which substantial progress can be made:

Challenging assumptions and raising questions is really what scholarship is all about. Skepticism is the most important thing that comes out of education, and the willingness to raise questions and the questioning of subjective dogma is central to intellectual life, and central to the contribution that intellectual life makes. . . . But asking questions isn't necessarily being critical.

Dr. Hynes emphasized that the importance of that point is our answers will come from the questions that are asked and discussed. Dr. Hynes thanked all for creating an environment in which questions can be asked, discussed, and answered helping better to support the learning processes of the University.

VI. Closing Remarks – Dr. Sethna

Dr. Sethna wished all a “great summer” and expressed thanks “for all you do.”

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42pm
Mark McManus,
Executive Secretary, Faculty Senate