

**University of West Georgia
Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes**

**November 15, 2013
Approved December 6, 2013**

1. Call to order: the meeting convened in room 1-303 of the Technology-enhanced Learning Center and was called to order by Jeff Johnson, Chair at 3:01 p.m.

2. Roll call

Present

Basu-Dutt, Blair, Butler, DeFoor, DeSilva, Erben, Faucette, Gant, Griffith, Halonen-Rollins, Hannaford, Haynes, Johnson, Kassis, Keim, Kilpatrick, Kramer, Lloyd, Mayer, Moffeit, Noori, Packard, Penceo, Ponder, Popov, Robinson, Samples, Sanders, Schroer, Stanfield, Phillips (substitute for Steere), Vasconcellos, Velez-Castrillon, Welch, Willox, Woodward, Xu

Absent

Banford, Farmer, Geisler, Hooper, Insenga, Parrish, Riker, Rutledge, Skott-Myhre, Thompson, Van Valen, Yeong

3. Minutes: a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of October 18.

4. Committee reports

Committee I: Undergraduate Programs Committee (James Mayer, Chair)

Action Items:

Course Proposals:

A) School of Nursing:

a) Bachelor of Science in Nursing, RN to BSN

Request: Modify (add previously approved courses to program)

Action: Approved

b) Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Request: Modify (substitute new licensure course for old course)

Action: Approved

These two items were taken together and approved unanimously by voice vote.

B) College of Science & Mathematics

- 1) Department of Chemistry
 - a) Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
Request: Modify (Change names of two tracks within BS degree)
Action: Approved

Item approved unanimously by voice vote.

Information Items:

- A) School of Nursing
 - a) Bachelor of Science in Nursing, RN to BSN (GA Highlands campus)
Request: Terminate
Action: Approved

Committee II: Graduate Programs Committee (Elizabeth Kramer, Chair)

Action Items:

- A) College of Education
 - 1) Department of Leadership and Instruction:
 - a) EDLE 8313 Leadership for Improving Schools
Request: Add
Rationale: This course has been taught as a special topics course for four semesters and is now being converted to a permanent course to justify the value of, and the continued teaching of the class, and to facilitate progression in the Educational Leadership Program.
Action: Approved

Item approved unanimously by voice vote.

Committee VI: Strategic Planning Committee (Rob Sanders, Chair)

Action Items:

- A) It is recommended that the Senate adopt the final version of the QEP.

After an introduction by the committee chair, Deputy Provost Jon Anderson explained that adopting the Quality Enhancement Plan means that UWG will implement the plan as written or modifications of it; year-by-year assessments will occur and the plan will change accordingly.

In the discussion of this item, Dr. Kilpatrick said that he would like to see a couple friendly amendments to the plan: 1) that possible outcomes of Core Area B be reconsidered; and 2) that “English” be removed from #4 in the outcomes. These are the relevant sections, from pages 25-26 of the QEP (pages 47-48 of the agenda):

“*Revise General Learning Outcomes for Area B:* Options for new learning outcomes include:
Students will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Employ critical thinking skills

2. Synthesize and logically organize material for oral presentations and/or written assignments
3. Adapt written and oral communication to specific rhetorical purposes
4. Use diverse information sources effectively
5. Effectively employ English language conventions appropriate to academic discourse

Revise or develop Specific Learning Outcomes for B-1, ENGL 1101 Lab, B-2, Critical Thinking and Writing, and B-2, Professional Communication: Possible learning outcomes include:

B-1 ENGL: Applied Writing, 1101 Lab

Students will:

1. Employ effective revision strategies at different drafting stages of their writing
2. Effectively edit their work for grammar and mechanics as well as format conventions

B-2 Critical Thinking and Writing

Students will demonstrate the ability to

1. Distinguish fact and informed argument from mere opinion in a variety of contexts
2. Identify inductive and deductive reasoning, and incorporate specific rhetorical skills that reflect that understanding in written work
3. Organize evidence and compose persuasive written arguments
4. Effectively employ English language conventions appropriate to academic discourse

B-3 Professional Communication

Students will demonstrate the ability to

1. Adapt communication to specific purposes and audiences
2. Expand or narrow a topic by finding and using sources appropriate for presentations on academic topics
3. Synthesize and organize material for effective presentations
4. Effectively employ English language conventions appropriate to academic discourse'

Dr. Kilpatrick expressed concern in designing (for example) French class tests to measure learning outcomes specifically for English. This generated further discussion and debate, with several senators expressing agreement that the study of foreign languages enhances students' mastery of English.

Dr. Anderson pointed out that the QEP Focus specifically states "English": "Learning Outcome: *increase students' ability to write in standard academic English*" (page 18 of the Plan; page 40 of the agenda). Others noted that the QEP process for the past two years sought and included faculty input.

Faculty Senate Chair Jeff Johnson noted that it has been a Faculty Senate historical practice for slight editorial changes to take place on the floor, but the suggestion of substantive changes has meant that an action item is sent back to the committee for reconsideration. The consensus of the Faculty Senate seemed to be that Dr. Kilpatrick's suggestions were substantive changes. Dr. Anderson spoke about the difficulty in getting the QEP submitted by a December deadline if the

item was sent back to the committee. The motion was voted on as written, without any friendly amendments.

Item approved by voice vote with three (3) objections noted.

5. Announcements:

- a) The Chair provided an update on the Provost Search Committee's progress. The job announcement is available at <http://www.westga.edu/provostsearch/>. The committee will be reviewing applications after the holidays, with approximately 15 candidates at this time.
- b) Dr. Anderson noted that the SACS off-site review was conducted Nov. 5-7 and their report is due on the 22nd. Senate committees might be reengaged for their input if any issues are found.

6. The meeting adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Rogers,
Executive Secretary of the Faculty Senate and General Faculty