

# GENERAL FACULTY MEETING

## Minutes

Fall Semester, 2015

Wednesday, August 19th

Campus Center Ballroom

9:30 a.m.

Approved April 20, 2016

### I. Welcome and Opening Remarks to Faculty—Dr. Kyle Marrero, President

Dr. Marrero called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and welcomed those present to “Engage West! Faculty Edition” after a short segment of *Revolution* by The Beatles was played. The president provided some facts that highlight the positive state of the University at the start of this academic year:

- Tracking record 2300 freshmen class;
- Tracking record graduate enrollment - 17% increase in the number of graduate students;
- 43 new faculty/staff hires;
- record enrollment and fundraising;
- UWG has a \$463M economic impact on the region.

Dr. Marrero touched on the following items to celebrate:

- grand opening of the Newnan Center. We’ll be seeing exponential growth there;
- the first graduate of the new Ed.D. in Nursing;
- for the first time, the football team is picked to win in the Gulf South Conference’s preseason coaches’ poll;
- Greg Fraser (English) was awarded a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship;
- Melanie McClellan (Director of Community Engagement) has set up a new Visitors Center just inside Front Campus Drive;
- the Sustainability Council, led by Hannes Gerhardt, received 32 points—a bronze star—in its first submission to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) STARS assessment tool;
- the Presidential Committee on Campus Inclusion has received a report from a consultant and will be discussing it and sending recommendations forward. Look for a townhall meeting to come, then the implementation process;
- the budget process was “incredibly transparent.” Departments must have their Needs Assessments done by the end of the month, then on to the deans, etc. Dr. Marrero reminded the faculty that stress will occur as we grow in a particular year, but new revenue from the growth is not booked until the following year – so, always a lag in funding new lines;
- The Chancellor has stated that faculty salary equity is his #1 priority. President Marrero stated that it is critically important to him (and the provost) for UWG to continue on the trek to 100% of the CUPA median for faculty salaries;
- Finally, Dr. Marrero spoke about passion. He encouraged the faculty to remember why they chose to be here. Engage West! Faculty Edition is all about making a difference in our lives. The president asked us to “harness your passion.” He spoke about needing the faculty’s wisdom and guidance; this is what shared governance is all about. He asked the faculty to provide solutions, connect to your passion, and inspire future generations.

## **II. Transitions—Dr. Kyle Marrero, President and Dr. Micheal Crafton, Provost and Vice President**

The president announced that the provost would preside over and lead the rest of the meeting.

Dr. Crafton remarked that UWG won the national award from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities for leadership development and diversity regarding the Engage West! initiative. This will be presented to Dr. Marrero in Austin, Texas in October. The implication of this award is a validation of our efforts and that there will be increased attention as others follow our progress.

## **III. Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of April 15, 2015 was seconded and the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

## **IV. Faculty Senate—Dr. Elizabeth Kramer, Chair of Faculty Senate**

Dr. Kramer welcomed the faculty and encouraged them to become involved in shared governance. She explained the proposed change to the University's *Policies and Procedures* regarding language for the Chair-Elect position of Faculty Senate and encouraged faculty to vote via the ballot box outside the meeting room.

## **V. Announcements**

Dr. Crafton asked new faculty members to stand and be recognized and they were warmly applauded.

The timeline for the budget is very tight this year; Dr. Crafton commented that we must do it, and quickly.

There is a new payment plan for students that gives them new options. Ask Financial Aid, Student Affairs, or Dr. Crafton for details.

The A-Day representative is Sal Peralta.

For Disability Services news, see Lisa Adams.

The Ombudsman is Bob Schaefer.

A welcome dinner for new international students will be held at the Ag Center in Carrollton. See Maria Doyle for details. It was noted that International Night will be held in February.

## **VI. Provost's Remarks—Dr. Micheal Crafton**

The provost discussed three concepts:

- 1) the revolutionary concept. He will provide a website link for faculty to read more about this later.
- 2) mindsets: from the annual Beloit survey, he mentioned a number of interesting facts about the class of 2019 (e.g.: for them, St. Teresa and Jacques Cousteau have always been dead; Google

has always existed). He provided these mindset tidbits so we have a better idea of who we are teaching and can hopefully relate better to them. Dr. Crafton mentioned that the University of Texas—Austin’s Chemistry Department has discovered that high-achieving students with low-income backgrounds fail sometimes because they think they should. U.T. is doing revolutionary work to change this mindset. Dr. Crafton also spoke about changing landscapes leading to changing landsets. Instead of thinking in mindsets and silos, we need to try to think in terms of community. Remember our vision to be the best comprehensive university in America in which to work, learn, and succeed. Dr. Crafton spoke about Elon University (N.C.) having attained this kind of success for the past three years due to a campus transformation project driven by their president. “Excellence everywhere” has been their moto. Dr. Crafton summed up by stating that Engage West! Faculty Edition is about connecting across our silos.

- 3) Deconstruction and the art of shared governance: something is pulled apart—not destructed—in order to discover the gaps, understand it better, and improve it. What are we to do? We need to suspend hierarchies, break silos, and bend binaries.

## **VII. Tabletop Discussions and Adjournment**

Dr. Crafton explained that the room was set up with 22 tables. A description of each table’s topic was provided to each faculty member. The faculty were instructed to go to a table that interests them, talk for 15-20 minutes, then move on to another table. This process started at 10:20 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. for lunch.

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