

University of West Georgia
General Faculty
August 13, 2007
Approved May 1, 2008

Date: September 29, 2007

I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks to the Faculty: The meeting was convened in rooms 1 - 5 of the Ed Center. President (Dr.) Beheruz Sethna called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

President Sethna noted that it was a ‘great pleasure to be back here...’ He gave thanks to Dr. Tim Hynes for his fourteen months of leadership while Dr. Sethna was at the BOR. New faculty were welcomed and stood to be recognized. Dr. Sethna then noted that UWG has a major strategic planning committee at work; Dr. Michael Crafton, chair, and the Committee were recognized.

Dr. Sethna then spoke on the University System of Georgia’s Strategic Plan. He noted that he had requested a personal meeting with every academic department at UWG; he planned to hold a question-and-answer sessions for each department.

Dr. Sethna spoke on the BOR’s newly adopted Strategic Plan which is composed of three parts: 1) Goals, 2) Action Steps, and 3) Fiscal ’08 objectives (61):

<http://www.usg.edu/strategicplan/>

USG’s 6 Goals:

- 1) Renewing excellence in undergraduate education (from four to six years?). The new Chancellor is committed to the “transforming power” of undergraduate education (“As am I,” noted Dr. Sethna, and the Strategic Planning Committee here at UWG also agrees with this goal) for a changing world. The question is how to make change work to our benefit and the students’ benefit.
 - a) Look for changes in the CORE curriculum (last done in 1997) predicated on the question, “What does a student need to know in a world we cannot see? The new Chancellor presents a culture shift at the BOR; if an idea’s good, move and “figure it out” (ex: the 6 for 4 tuition).
 - b) Retention is a key variable (graduating from college creates a one-million dollar benefit to the student and to society). Sethna states that, “All of us, faculty and staff, and students are responsible” to see that this occurs. Retention to progression to graduation: state dollars are dependent on this. Dr. Sethna asked his audience to access and read the Margaret Spellings’ report on higher ed. Dr. Arthur Levine is saying and writing very similar things – higher education needs to be held accountable.
- 2) Creating more enrollment capacity – 100,000 more students by the year 2020. Some of these students will attend two-year colleges, many will attend comprehensive

- university sector (15 school including UWG), and a small number to the state's research universities (UGA, GA Tech, and the two others). Dr. Sethna then explained that four of the comprehensive universities would form a "robust tier" with doctoral programs (GA State, Kennesaw, Valdosta, and UWG). In all this, Dr. Sethna spoke of the "exciting challenge before us."
- 3) Research and economic development for a global Georgia
 - 4) USG partnerships with other educational agencies
 - 5) Maintaining affordability so that money or a lack of it is not a barrier (HOPE, etc.)
 - 6) Increasing efficiency and working as a System (not a Six-Sigma training, "loose confederation, etc.). Dr. Sethna spoke of the assumption of "customer service" in terms of students, industry, funding partners, and faculty. Students, he said, deserve "prompt, friendly service."

Dr. Sethna ended his opening statement with, "My remarks today are important as they relate to our part of the challenge in a changing world."

- II. *Approval of Minutes:*** A motion was made by Burton and seconded by Austin to approve the Minutes of April 27, 2007 Approved.

- III. *Centennial time Capsule:*** Dr. Steve Goodson thanked his committee and noted that the Time Capsule ceremony would be this coming Friday, August 17, 2007 (3:30 p.m. on the 3rd floor of Ingram Library). He said that the Committee has its first meeting in March, 2006. They bought the capsule and, while downplaying technology, wanted it to focus on UWG and its Centennial Year. It was to include Centennial items, aerial photos of the current campus, a copy of the electric bill, etc.

- IV. *Excel Center Faculty Award*** – Ms. Cheryl Rice: "We help you help students swim to the other shore." Ms. Rice noted that the award is to faculty who help first-year students. This year's award was to science educator and teacher Dr. Sharmistha Basu-Dutt. Dr. Dutt was warmly applauded by those present.

- V. *AAUP:*** Dr. Shelly Elman explained that AAUP gives a voice to faculty concerns, both on campus, statewide, and nationally. Brochures are available and the first meeting of the semester is set for September 14, 2007, from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

- VI: *A Day for West Georgia:*** Dr. Jonathan Anderson and Tom Mackel (from Campus Security) were introduced as co-chairs. They asked the audience to "Help us help the University become better." This is A-Day's 25th Anniversary Year. Then they introduced Julia Phillips who gave a testimonial that A Day helped sponsor her four-week trip, as a Spanish major, to Mexico. The Kim Holder, pursuing a degree in Economics, told those present that A-Day gives a "sense of hope that people like you believe in me" by "sharing the true value of higher education.

VII. Strategic Planning Update: Dr. Michael Crafton, after giving thanks for the support he received as Acting Vice-President of Academic Affairs, made four announcements:

- 1) Strategic Plan for UWG: We need to draft a new set of goals and define and set a path for the University. He note that there was a link on his webpage to that draft, and hoped for voting on it in October.
- 2) Campus Safety (with Dr. Melanie McClellan (in Student Services), Tom Mackel (Campus Safety), and others. Be on the lookout for meetings forthcoming.
- 3) Academic Policies and Procedures Committee of the Faculty Senate: we're working on policies regarding disruptive students, grade appeals, plagiarism, and attendance procedures.
- 4) Regents Teaching Excellence Award – though there are only six for the entire state for research and state universities, UWG has an awardee in Dr. Sharmistha Basu-Dutt.

VIII: Vice-President's Remarks: Dr. Tim Hynes notes that he was “Honored to serve as president of this university for the past fourteen months.” He then thanked Dr. Sandra Stone and Dr. Michael Crafton for their assistance.

Dr. Hynes spoke of his plan to spend time with students, faculty, and staff since learning is “our core enterprise.” In order to provide a foundation for student success, we must “foster a culture of leadership ... interdependent leadership in terms of academic programs, future resources and external support.”

He closed with a reference to engendering a “passion for leading” and a “passion for learning.”

IX Closing Remarks: Dr. Sethna's final remarks also referenced leadership at UWG. He noted that “We are in that robust tier because of your support and leadership.” The faculty at UWG, he said, has the confidence and a positive outlook and demeanor that makes this place ready to take on the challenge of a “destination university.”

X Adjournment