

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members of the Faculty Senate  
**FROM:** Beheruz N. Sethna, President  
**RE:** Response to Senate Actions  
**DATE:** September 1, 2011



Following is my response to the actions of the Faculty Senate as represented in the minutes of the meeting of March 25, 2011, which were approved at the Faculty Senate meeting on April 22, 2011. All program approvals are made contingent upon the department's commitment to staff the changes out of existing internal funds.

### Committee Reports:

#### Undergraduate Academic Programs Committee

Motion to approve Revisions to the Core Implementation Plan Report as presented in the minutes was passed.

I accept this motion.

#### Academic Policies and Procedures Committee

Motion was passed to adopt the following additional class times on Mondays and Wednesdays – 8 - 9:15 a.m.; 9:30 - 10:45 a.m., and 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Before I respond to this motion, allow me to share some background. The University System of Georgia senior staff has noted, in very clear terms, that UWG's building utilization rates for classes are significantly below the norm. They have also noted that this makes *our case for new academic buildings very weak*. Our Friday utilization rates are even lower than our own low average, and this becomes indefensible when compared with our sister institutions. Some of them have utilization rates (even on Fridays and weekends) which put us in a very unfavorable light. Again, these results weaken our standing at the USG level particularly in terms of new academic facilities. So, rather than proceed with a change which will weaken our case, I respectfully suggest we study the matter further. The case has been made that the proposed change simply adds some flexibility, and I understand that. But, perhaps we could consider Monday-Friday

and Wednesday-Friday class times, or say a three-hour class on Friday, or other similar schedules which would be quite consistent with the objective of additional choices for students and faculty, and yet would enhance Friday (and perhaps overall) utilization rates. I have requested the Chair of the Faculty Senate to engage the Academic Policies Committee to review the impact these new class times have on Friday classroom utilization and to recommend ways to enhance classroom utilization, particularly on Fridays.

In case some colleagues are counting on this change in the planning of Fall, 2011, classes I am prepared to accept tentatively this motion only for the Fall semester of 2011, with the understanding that AP will review the impact these new class times have on Friday classroom utilization and will recommend ways to enhance classroom utilization, particularly on Fridays. I hope that we can get the task done before Spring classes need to be scheduled but, if not, we can talk about extending the tentative approval period to the Spring of 2012.

#### Institutional Studies and Planning Committee

Motions to adopt the five operational outcomes as outlined in the QEP Concept Statement and to delete "common" in outcome 4 were approved (see minutes).

I accept these motions.

#### Graduate Studies Committee

Motions were approved to add or modify various courses and programs as presented in the minutes.

I also accept these motions.

#### Old Business

- A. Motion and amendment to make changes to Article IV, Section 3 in the *Policies and Procedures Manual* as presented in the minutes were approved.

I accept the motion and amendment.

Motion to make changes to Article V, Section 4 in the *Policies and Procedures Manual* as presented in the minutes was approved.

I accept this motion.

- B. Motion to make changes to Article V of the *Bylaws* was approved.

I accept this motion.

C. Motion and amendment to revise Article I, E and F of the *Bylaws* were approved.

I accept the motion and amendment.

#### New Business

Motion to amend previous motion to specify the definition of a quorum of the General Faculty (see minutes) was approved.

I accept this motion.