



**FACULTY SENATE  
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Academic Policies

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**Jamie Brandenburg**, Rules

**Mike Hester**, Diversity and  
Internationalization

**Jason Swift**, Teaching, Learning,  
and Assessment

# Faculty Senate Newsletter

Volume 6, Number 4, January 2023

## Report from the Faculty Senate Chair

Greetings from the faculty senate! The senate and its committees stand ready to engage with faculty, staff, and students this Spring semester on all matters within our purview and in support of strong and effective shared governance. I will mention here for your information several of the key joint activities that will occupy a good deal of senate attention in the coming months of this semester.

First, the senate (primarily through the work of the Faculty Development Committee, FDC) will finalize its work on the UWG policy for tenure and promotion, post-tenure review, and annual evaluations. The policy will then come to the full senate for approval and will ultimately be located in the faculty handbook. The FDC is working on the final minor changes needed to align UWG's policy with BOR policy, and the FDC plans to complete that work very soon. If all goes as expected, the policy will go into effect this coming Fall, though, as the Provost has stated, its implementation (particularly with regard to evaluating features like student success) will take some time to be developed and demonstrated.

Second, as academic programs develop the guidelines and rubrics for evaluating faculty annually, for promotion and tenure, and for post-tenure review, the FDC is available and eager to serve as a resource to assist in that work. Foremost, the FDC has been tasked with looking at guidelines and rubrics across programs to ensure that they are generally consistent and fair, while also recognizing discipline-specific standards and differences. Please feel free to reach out to the FDC for support and guidance as your program draws up these important evaluation documents.

Third, the senate is participating in preparations for the upcoming SACSCOC visit and institution evaluation. A task force consisting of members of the institutional planning committee and the teaching, learning, and assessment committee has been organized to work closely with Dr. Gwaltney on QEP, and I and other senate leaders will be participating in meetings with SACSCOC evaluators. Many thanks to those involved most closely in this work and to all of our faculty in general for your efforts to ensure success in this process.

Fourth, the senate has been asked by President Kelly to provide feedback on several options for a proposed revision to our mission statement and values. These options were developed by a mission statement task force that consisted of several faculty and other university personnel, including faculty recommended to the President by me. I have tasked the senate committees with reviewing and discussing these options, each from the perspective of their committee's scope of concern, and then providing me with their feedback on the proposed revision options, which I will gather and summarize in my feedback to President Kelly. In this way, the senate will provide input to the President from the specific perspective of the senate as a representative of the faculty. If you would like to participate in this process, please contact the senator representing your unit.

As a final matter of senate business for this newsletter, I would like to announce that the next Chat with the Senate Chair will be on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00, just before my monthly meeting with the Provost. We will gather in the foyer of Melson Hall and then move to an available room for our chat. All are invited to attend, but if you cannot be there, please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns that can help me represent the faculty effectively in my role as senate chair. To those who have emailed me already, please know that I appreciate your messages and I have and will continue to bring your questions and concerns to administration for clarification and in the service of shared resolution.

## Committee Reports

### Undergraduate Programs Committee (UPC)

The UPC agenda deadlines for the remaining spring meetings are the following Fridays by 5 pm:

February 3 (for Feb 17 Senate meeting)

March 3 (for Mar 17 Senate meeting)

March 31 (for April 14 Senate meeting)

These are the dates by which proposals need to reach the UPC stage in Curriculog to be processed at the UPC meeting in time to move on to the Senate agenda.

For the recent January Senate meeting, the UPC processed three program revisions and four course additions or revisions. Thanks to all the originators who work with UPC each month to help us understand and process the proposals correctly.

### Graduate Programs Committee (GPC)

At its January 10th meeting, the Graduate Programs Committee (GPC) approved five graduate program proposals, one new course proposal, and a proposal to modify the Graduate Catalog. One proposal would deactivate the Music Education Educator Certificate Program, which currently has no students enrolled. Other proposals to modify admissions or curricular requirements were approved for the M.Ed. program in Speech Language Pathology; the School Library Media Certificate in Instructional Technology, Media & Design program; the Ed.S. program in Special Education; and the M.A. program in Criminology.

GPC also approved the addition of a new, zero-credit placeholder course, READ 6705 – Comprehensive Final Exam for the M.Ed. in Reading Instruction to ensure that every student in the Department of Literacy and Special Education scheduled for graduation completes their required comprehensive exam.

Finally, GPC approved modifications to the Graduate Catalog policy on Academic Standing. The major update to the policy would allow a student who has been academically dismissed to request reinstatement and readmission, after three full terms, to the graduate program of study from which the student was dismissed. Currently, graduate students who are academically dismissed can apply for admission to a different graduate program, but not for reinstatement and readmission to the program from which they were dismissed.

The remaining GPC meetings for Spring Semester 2023 will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am – 11:00 am; Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm; and on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am – 11:00 am. Contact GPC Chair, Patrick Hadley ([phadley@westga.edu](mailto:phadley@westga.edu)) to request a Zoom link to join any of these meetings.

### Academic Policies Committee (APC)

APC continues its work this semester with its ongoing review, in conjunction with appropriate administration, whether or not a policy needs to be drafted or information combined from multiple campus resources with regard to a Health Services notification to provide course material in an "alternate format" should a student not be able to attend class because of medical reasons. In addition, the committee will begin discussions on an existing policy, one on grade appeals, in an effort to streamline the language and the timeline for those appeals. Furthermore, APC will collaborate, as needed, with TLA this semester on important issues such as SEI availability and procedures/policies related to proctored exams. The committee will also be providing feedback on the proposed UWG Mission Statement. If any faculty knows of work on which the APC can offer assistance, please don't hesitate to contact your senators. You can also contact the APC chair directly.

### Faculty Senate Committee for Diversity and Inclusion (FSCDI)

The Faculty Senate Committee for Diversity & Internationalization was excited to have Dr. Natasha Ramsay-Jordan attend our November meeting. Dr. Ramsay-Jordan will be acting as liaison between the FSCDI and the Provost's Office, a welcome addition for optimal communication among decision-makers in Academic Affairs.

## Helpful Links and Reminders

### **Main Faculty Senate Webpage**

[Faculty Senate](#)

### **Committee Rosters and Meeting Information**

[Senate Standing Committees](#)

- Includes committee meeting dates, agendas, and meeting minutes.

### **Agendas**

[Faculty Senate Agendas](#)

- Agenda items are due to [Jeff](#) (and copy [Laura](#)) by 5pm the Friday before each meeting.
- Agendas for each Faculty Senate meeting are posted the Wednesday before the meeting.

### **Minutes**

[Faculty Senate Minutes](#)

- Faculty Senate minutes are available approximately one week following each meeting.

### **Link to Livestream and Recordings of Faculty Senate Meetings**

[Laura Wolfe's YouTube Channel](#)

- Senate meetings are open to the public.
- Livestreams begin shortly before roll call.
- Recordings are available through this same link immediately following each meeting.