

University of West Georgia Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2012
Approved October 19, 2012

1. The meeting convened in room 1-303 of the Technology-enhanced Learning Center and called to order by Chair Jeff Johnson.
2. Senate Chair Report (Jeff Johnson)
 - A. Senate orientation for the new year.
 - Welcome. Opening meeting information:
 - If substituting for a senate member, pass your name to Dawn McCord or acting secretary. Informational items do not receive votes.
 - Action items will receive a call for a vote.
 - Most items come to floor through committees. You can also send items to fs-executive.westga.edu or send them to McCord, Johnson, and Teresa Ock (email all three if you choose not to use fs-executive.westga.edu).
 - Jeff Johnson's email is jeffj@westga.edu not jjohnson@westga.edu
3. Roll Call
 - Present*
Basu-Dutt, Blair, DeFoor, Deng, DeNie, DeSilva, Erben, Farmer, Geisler, Gezon, Halonen-Rollins, Hasbun, Haynes, Hooper, Jenks, Kassis, Keim, Kilpatrick, Kramer, Leach, Lloyd, Mayer, Moffeit, Morris, Packard, Michael Garrett for Parrish, Penco, Pitzulo, Ponder, Popov, Riker, Ringlaben, Rutledge, Samples, Sanders, Schroer, Skott-Myhre, Smith, Thompson, Van Valen, Vasconcellos, Willox, Yeong
 - Absent*
Banford, Gant, Robinson, Welch
4. Approval of the minutes of the June 22nd meeting
Correction: Javier Hasbun was present.

Motion (Leach & Sanders) & second (Ringlaben); no discussion; approved
5. Committee Reports

Committee IV: Academic Policies Committee (Chair, David Leach)

Action Items:

- A. The Academic Policies Committee requests that the Faculty Senate approve a modification to the UWG undergraduate catalog concerning the Admission Standards as outlined in item five of the page at <http://www.westga.edu/undergrad/1662.htm>.

This is a request to increase our admission standards, and change our admission policy, to create a “pool” of students that must attend and successfully complete the Summer Transition Program as their only option to gain admission to UWG for the Fall term.

Proposal

To create this pool of conditionally admitted students, **it is proposed that we raise our minimum Freshman Index Score to 2120** (currently 2050). We can do this without increasing either the minimum GPA or the minimum test scores because the Freshman Index is a combination of both (in a formula). The net effect is that although each minimum doesn't change, students that have the minimum scores on one of the factors would need slightly higher scores on the other. For instance, if a student presents with the minimum SAT scores (410 Math/430 Verbal) in our new proposed standards a student would need a 2.5 HS GPA rather than the previous standard of 2.4. Although this is a small change, it represents a major opportunity to bring in a pool of students that traditionally do not succeed at high rates, and provide a solid, intensive academic experience that will help them graduate at greater rates.

Scott Lingrell offered the following clarification of the Summer Transition Program in response to the question: Can students fail?: They can fail; if they do, they would not be accepted in the fall; they are given conditional admission for the summer and regular admission for the fall if they pass the program. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve was made and seconded.

Committee VI: Strategic Planning (Chair, Robert Sanders)

After receiving no objections to discussing the slightly amended mission, vision, and goal statements, Will Lloyd presented the mission statement for feedback.

Information Items:

- A. Report on development of UWG Mission, Visions, and Goals (Will Lloyd)

Lloyd provided context for the development of the statements and noted that it would be put into place in 2014 (after the SACS visit) and end in 2020. Discussion ensued. Lloyd welcomed the submission of further feedback via email. The committee hopes to move quickly to finalize the statements.

Committee VIII: Technology Committee (Chair, Craig Schroer)

Information Items:

A. UWG Mail and Calendar (Kathy Kral):

Kathy Kral presented results of UWG Mail and Calendar surveys and pilots and research about Google and MSLive. A PowerPoint presentation and handout were provided. She announced that the UWG plans to approach Google for a contract.

B. Institutional Repository:

Craig Schroer presented a vision for an institutional repository via a handout and invited Senate members to an informational meeting on October 1, 2012. A PowerPoint presentation and handout were provided.

6. Old Business—None

7. New Business

A. Sustainability Council for UWG (Hannes Gerhardt and Minna Rollins):

Hannes Gerhardt and Minna Rollins presented plans for the structural make up and potential activities of the UWG Sustainability Council. A PowerPoint presentation was shared.

Members of the Council will be drawn from faculty, staff, and students, and meetings will be open to the public. Faculty self-nominations to your appropriate dean are welcomed. The Council's email address is Green@westga.edu.

8. Announcements

Information Item:

A. Words from the Senate Chair, Jeff Johnson:

Johnson stressed his desire to be an inclusive chair and address issues that are important to the faculty. He also announced that the presidential search committee is being finalized and will be charged on campus.

- B. Review of impact of the fiscal environment of the past 5-10 years on full-time and tenure-track teaching at UWG (Dr. Beheruz N. Sethna)

There is a national concern about impact of the economy on the number of full-time faculty, the percentage of students taught by tenure or tenure-track professors (or alternatively, the percentage of all students taught by non-tenure-track professors --- adjuncts, teaching assistants). UWG has, by no means, been unscathed by the national and state economic pressures, but thanks to the efforts of all our colleagues, appears to have weathered the storm somewhat better than the nation. Dr. Sethna shared the trends at UWG along the above dimensions and others. The purpose of this presentation will be the start of a conversation on this important topic. A PowerPoint presentation was shared. Data reported began with statistics from 2002.

Percentages of instructors employed in the given categories have changed little. Percentages describing divisions of UWG expenditures have also changed little, as have and most trends in UWG revenues over a period of roughly 2006 to 2012. By far the largest change in UWG revenues is the percentage derived from Georgia state appropriations. That number has decreased from 53% in 2006 to 34% in 2011.

- C. Other new business: The Senate Budget Committee is working on a study of faculty salaries; they have hired a consultant.

9. Adjournment at 5:10 PM

Respectfully recorded by Elizabeth Kramer for Dawn H. McCord, Secretary to General Faculty and Faculty Senate