

**Middle Georgia State University Faculty Senate AY 2015–2016**  
**Meeting #w TEB 231, Macon Campus**  
**Friday, October 2, 2015**

**Present:**

Mr. Charlie Agnew, Associate Professor of Art\*  
Dr. Charla Baker, Associate Professor of Mathematics  
Dr. Martiza Bell-Corrales, Associate Professor of Spanish  
Dr. Patrick Brennan, Chair of the Faculty Senate, Professor of English  
Dr. Gaston Brouwer, Associate Professor of Mathematics  
Dr. Robert Burnham, Professor of History  
Dr. Jeffrey Burne, Professor of Biology  
Ms. Sydney Chalfa, Associate Professor of Theatre and Communications  
Dr. Sharon Colley, Parliamentarian of the Faculty Senate, Associate Professor of English  
Ms. Paige Crump, Associate Professor of Spanish#  
Dr. Lorraine Dubuisson, Associate Professor of English  
Dr. Javan Frazier, Associate Professor of History  
Dr. Greg George, Associate Professor of Economics  
Dr. Michael Gibbons, Assistant Professor of Sociology  
Dr. Lawanda Greene, Assistant Professor of Nursing  
Mr. Michael Hammock, Assistant Professor of Mathematics  
Ms. Felicia Haywood, Assistant Director of the Library  
Ms. Lisa Henry, Assistant Professor of Air Traffic Management  
Dr. Myungjae Kwak, Assistant Professor of Information Technology  
Ms. Sandra Monk, Assistant Professor Nursing.  
Dr. Benita Muth, Associate Professor of English  
Dr. Anthony Narsing, Associate Professor of Management  
Dr. John Pattillo, Recorder of the Faculty Senate, Associate Professor of Biology  
Mr. William Perry Brown, Lecturer of Aircraft Structural Technology  
Ms. Judith Schmitt, Instructor of English†  
Dr. Randy Spaid, Professor of Education  
Mr. Stephan Steckowski, Assistant Professor of Aircraft Maintenance  
Dr. Darcy Sun, Assistant Professor of Health Services Administration  
Ms. Kathy Wilcox, Assistant Professor of Nursing

**Absent/Excused:**

Mr. Gary Hermsmeir, Student Government Association (ex-officio)  
Dr. Chip Rogers, Vice-Chair of the Faculty Senate, Associate Professor of English  
Mr. Kirby Swenson, Assistant Professor of Biology

**Guests:**

Ms. Amy Bryant, Chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy Assistant\*  
Dr. Rebecca Corvey, Dean of the School of Health Sciences

Dr. Sheree Keith, Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. Jeffrey R. Mohr, Assistant Professor of Biology, Chair of the Institutional Review Board

Dr. Kara Smith, Lecturer of History<sup>#</sup>

Dr. Darrell Thompson, Associate Dean of the School of Health Sciences

Dr. Marti Venn, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Dr. Mary Wearn, Assistant Provost for Academic Planning and Policy.

*\* attended by videoconference from the Cochran campus*

*# attended by videoconference from the Dublin campus*

*† attended by videoconference from the Warner Robins campus*

### **Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, and Agenda**

Dr. Brennan called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. He recognized that a quorum was present and reminded Senators of the rules of order.

Dr. Brennan then called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, explaining that the approval of these minutes had been inadvertently left off the agenda of the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Dr. Spaid made the motion and Dr. Brouwer seconded. The May 1<sup>st</sup> minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote. Dr. Brennan then called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Dr. Baker made the motion and Dr. Bell-Corrales seconded. The August 28<sup>th</sup> minutes were approved unanimously.

Dr. Brennan then called for a motion to approve the agenda. He announced that a change was needed to the previously distributed agenda, noting that Dr. Yunsuk Chae would present for the Executive Committee. Dr. Brouwer made the motion and Dr. Gibbons seconded. The modified agenda was approved unanimously by voice vote.

### **Report from President Blake**

Dr. Brennan then introduced President Blake. Dr. Blake answered a list of questions submitted by Senators on behalf of their constituents. The questions and a brief summary of Dr. Blake's answers are listed below.

1. Are there any plans for another institution to be consolidated into MGA within the next twelve months?

President Blake replied that this issue had come up at a meeting with the Chancellor and he replied that there were no plans for any further consolidations at this time.

2. How will the appointment of a Vice Provost for Academic Integrity (Mr. Andy Clark) affect the University?

President Blake replied that the Vice Provost for Academic Integrity will play a key role in a new model of data governance being introduced by the BOR. This is due to an emerging awareness of the need for good data that informs academic planning and benchmarking.

3. Some students have shared that the video conferencing classes need a bit of tweaking, particularly in terms of classroom management. Are there plans to revamp the current practice, for example, the insertion of teaching assistants into the classrooms where the instructor is not physically present?

*And a related question:*

4. From your perspective, how successful are teleconference classes? I have heard some frustration from instructors due to constant technical problems, inability to interact with students, and limits on how they can teach.

President Blake replied that these technological solutions are an important part of our strategy to deal with tight budgets, and that he will ask OTR to look into any technical problems with video conferencing and other delivery systems. He also stated that the success rates of students learning by videoconference are just as high as those who are in the same room as the professor.

5. What do you see developing that is helping to unite the five campuses of MGA? What kind of MGA identity do you see forming? If no identity appears to be forming, what can we do to help form one?

President Blake replied that there is no reason we should expect that all the campuses should be the same, and that they each have their strengths. We have a diverse identity, and we should strive to define a curriculum and learning experience that will further define and strengthen that identity.

6. Are there any plans to fill vacated and retired staff positions on the Cochran campus? For example, some custodians are cleaning whole buildings and usually have more than one to clean due to positions not being filled.

President Blake replied by stating that we have not had any complaints about cleanliness on our campuses. He further stated that a blunt reality of addressing a shrinking resource pool is that we have to cut some administrative areas to avoid cutting academic resources.

7. What will be the policy regarding faculty attendance at graduations this upcoming academic year? Since there are two graduations, will faculty be responsible for going to one or both of these ceremonies?

President Blake replied that he regarded attendance at the commencement ceremonies to be an important faculty responsibility, and that he would ask Dr. Venn to create a policy emphasizing the importance of faculty attendance.

8. How would you recommend faculty reconcile their departments' needs to fill the course schedule (i.e. a heavy teaching load) with the scholarship and professional development expectations of a university?

President Blake replied that he had asked the Provost to determine the most effective way to make sure that these concerns were balanced. He further stated that the faculty workload agreement study approved by the Senate last year is an important part of that.

9. Sometime around 2010, the college consolidated all of the night classes into the PSC to save on utility bills. For many classes, this was not a hardship; a traditional lecture course can be managed in many environments. But for courses unique to MCA, there are instructional spaces in the Arts Complex/CoAS building that cannot be replicated elsewhere: the Mac lab, the theatre, musical rehearsal spaces, the art lab. These classrooms are not only for instruction, but also for student projects/homework/practice etc. As we continue to develop a university culture, it may become more important to allow student access to these spaces after 5:30 in the evening. Can this policy be reviewed?

President Blake replied that Ms. Stroud has said that she is open to review of our resource utilization with an eye on increasing revenue and enrollment. Faculty and Department Chairs are invited to make recommendations in this regard.

10. There is a concern about equity in the dispersion of Student Life monies across the campuses. Can the process be reviewed?

President Blake replied that he had asked Vice President Brannon about this question, and she had stated that there was a Student Affairs Committee in charge of dispersion. Dr. Blake stated that any concerns could be directed to the Chair or members of the Student Affairs Committee or Ms. Brannon.

11. Currently, the FYE course is not required of all students; those with a high school GPA of 3.0 or better are exempt. This has caused some grumbling among students and confusion among the faculty. Additionally, the QEP has designated FYE as a preferred bronze level course. Since the better-prepared

students are exempt from FYE, this may effect that implementation. What is the status of FYE and are there plans in place to re-conceptualize it?

President Blake replied that he hoped that re-evaluation of the FYE course may come down as a requirement from the BOR, and he personally liked the idea of a universal requirement for a freshman year experience course. He stated that this course would also help us better establish an institutional identity among entering students.

12. Has a Director of the University College been put in place? What will be his/her role on the five campuses?

President Blake replied that a Director had not yet been put in place, but that there was an interim funding plan to have two administrators from Academic affairs work in that position on a part-time basis.

13. Georgia Military College has expanded in our area and is a direct competitor to MGA for enrollment of students in core courses. Given GMC's reputation for academic weakness, what can we do to help convince students that they are better off choosing to challenge themselves at MGA, rather than choosing the easier path?

President Blake replied that in his opinion we should not be worried about what other institutions are doing or not doing in the realm of academic effectiveness, but instead on building the strength of our own case as to why MGA will be a good choice for students. He stated that reaching out to area high schools would be critical in putting in our best case forward.

14. At one time we had far more students on the Dublin campus than we have had this past year. In the past, the Dublin campus course offerings were advertised in the local paper. We offered more classes during the summer and were rather successful. We offered first and second session classes in Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, and Microbiology. Once we consolidated these practices were dropped. We have on occasions offered early morning classes, and classes on Saturday. Why is the use of the Dublin Campus being diminished?

President Blake stated that he is puzzled by the drop in usage of the Dublin campus, given that Dublin appears to be a thriving community. He stated that he is highly interested in addressing this problem.

15. Since the new food service contract was instituted, a WRC faculty member has noticed (or been informed) that students who make purchases at the WRC Bookstore or the Warner Robins Activity Center are being charged a surcharge on food sold and have been told the surcharge is due to transportation costs. The imposition of a surcharge to only select students on some campuses (I'm not

aware if this is happening only in Warner Robins or on other campuses as well) seems unfair. Could the cost not be spread over all campuses to account for transportation costs?

President Blake replied that he asked the food service contractor about this issue and that they stated that there was no surcharge at any campus. He stated that he would ask Ms. Stroud to check on this issue.

Dr. Blake then answered a question about the signage regarding our status as a tobacco free campus. He replied that he would speak to physical plant about increasing signage.

President Blake then stated that he had received questions from the media about our emergency plan in the wake of the recent tragedy in Oregon. He emphasized that we do have an emergency plan in place, and that he would ask Chief Douglas to remind the campus community of the details of our emergency plans.

### **Reports from Standing Committees:**

Dr. Brennan then introduced Dr. Keith to report from the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC). Dr. Keith presented proposal P-AVIA-01-AA-2015-2016, which was a new certificate program for UAS operators. Dr. Brennan asked for a motion to bring the proposal to the floor. Dr. George made the motion. Following discussion, Dr. Brennan called for a vote to approve the proposal. P-AVIA-01-AA-2015-2016 was approved with twenty-three in favor and none opposed by show of hands.

Dr. Keith then presented P-ITEC-01-AA-2015-2016. This was a proposal to delete the existing certificate program in information technology. Dr. Brennan asked for a motion to bring the proposals to the floor. Dr. Gibbons made the motion. Following discussion, Dr. Brennan called for a vote to approve the proposal. P-ITEC-01-AA-2015-2016 was approved with twenty-five in favor and none opposed by show of hands.

Dr. Keith then presented P-ITEC-02-AA-2015-2016. This was a proposed certificate in network administration. Dr. Brennan asked for a motion to bring the proposals to the floor. Dr. Frazier made the motion. Following discussion, Dr. Brennan called for a vote to approve the proposal. P-ITEC-02-AA-2015-2016 was approved with twenty-five in favor and none opposed by show of hands.

Dr. Keith then presented P-ITEC-03-AA-2015-2016. This was a proposed certificate program in web design. Dr. Brennan asked for a motion to bring the proposals to the floor. Dr. Narsing made the motion. Following discussion, Dr. Brennan called for a vote to approve the proposal. P-ITEC-03-AA-2015-2016 was approved with twenty-five in favor and none opposed by show of hands.

Dr. Keith then presented P-ITEC-04-AA-2015-2016. This was a proposal for a certificate program in cyber security. Dr. Brennan asked for a motion to bring the proposals to the floor. Dr. Frazier made the motion. Following discussion, Dr. Brennan called for a vote to approve the proposal. P-ITEC-04-AA-2015-2016 was approved with twenty-five in favor and none opposed by show of hands.

Dr. Keith then presented PY-HS-01-AA-2015-2016. This was a proposed increase in the GPA requirements for entrance into the OTA program. Dr. Brennan asked for a motion to bring the proposals to the floor. Mr. Agnew made the motion. Following discussion, Dr. Brennan called for a vote to approve the proposal. PY-HS-01-AA-2015-2016 was approved with twenty-five in favor and none opposed by show of hands.

Dr. Brennan then introduced Dr. Chae to report from the Executive Committee (EC). Dr. Chae updated the Senate on the activity of the EC. Dr. Chae reported that the EC had populated most of the standing committees and boards, though some spots remained open on some of the boards. Dr. Chae also reported that some committees had spots remaining open for student members. Finally, Dr. Chae stated that the chairs of each of the committees had been notified of their membership and given instructions for holding meetings.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

There was no unfinished business

#### **New Business:**

Dr. Brennan then introduced Dr. Venn and Dr. Wearn to update the Senate on the SACSCOC visit. Dr. Venn stated that MGA had a very successful reaffirmation visit. She stated that the SACSCOC had recommended that we work on our assessment of institutional effectiveness in areas aligned with our mission statement. Particularly, the SACSCOC members stated that we needed to “close the loop” in analysis of programs designed for improved effectiveness in specific areas. Dr. Venn stated that the MGA community should not be surprised by this finding because of the short time we have been a consolidated institution. She then explained the process by which this finding will be addressed. Dr. Venn and Dr. Wearn then took questions from the Senate.

Dr. Brennan then introduced Dr. Pattillo and Dr. Mohr to provide information to the Senate about the role of the Institutional Review Board. Dr. Pattillo and Dr. Mohr explained that the Institutional Review Board was tasked with overseeing research involving human subjects. They then briefly reviewed the process by which an investigator would request approval for a research project. Dr. Pattillo and Dr. Mohr then answered questions from Senators.

Dr. Brennan then introduced Dr. Colley to report from the USG New Learning Models Taskforce Symposium. Dr. Colley reported that she had attended the symposium as a representative of the MGA faculty senate. She stated that the symposium was tasked with identifying critical factors for the success of the USG over the next fifteen years, especially what new learning models would best support the success of USG institutions. Dr. Colley reported that the taskforce had introduced four recommendations. The first was to increase learning and lifestyle options for USG students, including credit for competencies that students already possess. The second was to increase flexibility, accessibility, and affordability of USG programs where possible, again promoting competency based education. The third was to increase alignments between college and career. The fourth was to empower changing cultures on campus, rewarding faculty for exploring new learning models. Dr. Colley then answered questions from the Senate.

**Questions and Announcements:**

Dr. Brennan reminded senators to contact him or any other Senate officers with any future agenda items.

Hearing no further questions or announcements, Dr. Brennan called for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Frazier made the motion, and multiple senators seconded. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. John Pattillo, Recorder