

Middle Georgia State University Faculty Senate AY 2015–2016
Meeting #3 TEB 231, Macon Campus
Friday, November 6, 2015

Present:

Mr. Charlie Agnew, Associate Professor of Art*
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. 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. 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
Dr. Chip Rogers, Vice-Chair of the Faculty Senate, Associate Professor 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:

Dr. Charla Baker, Associate Professor of Mathematics
Mr. Gary Hermsmeir, Student Government Association (ex-officio)
Dr. Javan Frazier, Associate Professor of History
Dr. Benita Muth, Associate Professor of English
Ms. Judith Schmitt, Instructor of English
Mr. Kirby Swenson, Assistant Professor of Biology

Guests:

Dr. Deepa Arora, Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs[†]
Dr. Pamela Bedwell, Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs

Dr. Christopher Blake, President of Middle Georgia State University
Ms. Amy Bryant, Chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy Assistant*
Mr. Adon Clark, Interim Dean of the School of Aviation
Dr. Rebecca Corvey, Dean of the School of Health Sciences
Dr. Sumitra Himangshu, Assistant Professor of Education.
Dr. Sheree Keith, Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee
Dr. Alex Koohang, Dean of the School of Information Technology
Dr. Christopher Lawrence, Assistant Chair of the Department of History and Political Science, Assistant Professor of Political Science
Ms. Betsy McDaniel, Department of Occupational Therapy Assistant
Ms. Jessica Pipkin, Department of Occupational Therapy Assistant
Ms. Nancy Stroud, Vice President for Fiscal Affairs
Dr. Darrell Thompson, Associate Dean of the School of Health Sciences
Dr. Marti Venn, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

** attended by videoconference from the Cochran campus*

attended by videoconference from the Dublin campus

† attended by videoconference from the Warner Robins campus

\$attended by videoconference from the Eastman campus

Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, and Agenda

Dr. Brennan called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 meeting. Dr. Spaid made the motion and Dr. George seconded. The October 2nd minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.

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 President Blake would speak the Senate along with Ms. Stroud. Dr. Spaid made the motion and Dr. Sun seconded. The modified agenda was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Report from President Blake

Dr. Brennan then introduced President Blake. President Blake updated the Senate on internal and external initiatives to increase enrollment. President Blake mentioned that a report by the national group CREDO has been completed regarding our recruitment efforts. President Blake mentioned that CREDO will return in the coming month to examine our efforts in the area of retention, progression, and graduation. President Blake emphasized that MGA is in a climate of changing admission standards and academic programming, and thus this is an

ideal time to benchmark what we are doing well and what we can improve. President Blake then discussed the recent MGA budget hearing with the USG. He noted that we anticipate a \$1.97 million cut from this year's budget. He also noted that in the past three years, we have experienced \$7.3 million reduction in state appropriations. President Blake emphasized that we will need to rely more and more on the portion of our budget that does not come from the state, including tuition, gifts, grants, and auxiliary business. Dr. Blake noted the important role of faculty in assuring that income from tuition and grants. President Blake also announced that our previous agreement with the USG for a six year schedule of increasing tuition to reach state university tuition levels will be frozen in the coming year, as all USG institutions will be asked to forego tuition increases. He stated that we have been able to fund most of the cuts from reserves leaving a \$600 thousand deficit in funding. President Blake has asked the USG to fund that shortcoming thus preventing any cuts in faculty lines or furloughs. However, he stated, it is critical that we stem the tide of decreasing enrollment to prevent difficult choices in the future. Finally, in response of a question from Dr. Venn, President Blake emphasized that enrollment is not just recruitment, but also includes retention and progression as well.

Dr. Blake and Ms. Stroud then took questions from the Senate.

Reports from Standing Committees:

Dr. Brennan then introduced Dr. Keith to report from the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC). Dr. Keith briefly updated the Senate on the activities of the AAC. No proposals needing Senate approval were forthcoming from the AAC.

Dr. Brennan then introduced Dr. Wallace to report from the Executive Committee (EC). Dr. Wallace briefly updated the Senate on the activity of the EC, and then introduced one item for Senate approval, a change in the language of the Senate bylaws pertaining to the Institutional Effectiveness Board (IEB). The proposed change in language added the Assistant Provost for Academic Planning and Policy to the IEB as an ex-officio member. Dr. Brennan asked for a motion to bring the proposed change in the bylaws to the floor. Dr. Pattillo made the motion. After discussion, Dr. Brennan called for a motion to approve the change. The proposed change to the bylaws was approved with 25 in favor and zero against by show of hands.

Unfinished Business:

There was no unfinished business

New Business:

Dr. Brennan then introduced Dr. Venn to update the Senate on recent USG policy changes. Dr. Venn reported that there were several core policy changes regarding

Associate Degrees. She explained that core curriculum now includes only Area A-E and not A-F. Dr. Venn explained that this change was needed because the USG was originally authorized by SACS to offer only AS and AA degrees, rather than non-career based associate degrees with a major. The major portion (Area F) of transfer degrees was difficult to assess and thus will be eliminated from the core. Dr. Venn stated that departments need to decide which if any AA or AS degree with a major they wish to keep. If we do wish to keep an AA or AS degree with a major, then the area F in that degree program must have 18 hours of coherent study with clear learning plans and measurable student outcomes. These programs will also be subject to elimination due to low enrollment and low graduation rates. Dr. Venn emphasized that career based associates are not impacted by the new policies. Dr. Venn then answered questions from Senators.

Dr. Brennan then introduced Mr. Warren to discuss the activities of the new MGA Staff council. Mr. Warren thanked the Senate for the invitation to the Senate and explained that he was speaking for Mr. Michael Stewart, current chair of the Staff Council. Mr. Warren explained that the Staff Council is currently busy establishing bylaws and will initially focus on staff development and staff recognition.

Questions and Announcements:

Dr. Himangshu, speaking on behalf of Dr. David Fuller, reminded Senators about the ongoing state charitable contributions campaign.

Dr. Brennan reminded senators that minutes are posted to Inside MGA.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. John Pattillo, Recorder