Minutes
GSU University Senate, Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting
8 March 2012 | 3:00 p.m. | 718 GCB

Members Present
Peggy Albers
David Cheshier
Andrew I. Cohen
Harry Dangel
Cheryl Delk-LeGood
Laura Fredrick
Gerald Gay
Hugh Hudson
Jennifer Jones
Nancy Kropf

Members Absent
Cathy Brack
Annette Butler
Conrad Ciccatello
John Duffield
Valerie Fennell
Shelby Frost
MaryAnne Gaunt
Mark Gei1
Maria Gindhart
Lynda Goodfellow
Layli Maparyan
Richard Miller
Linda Nelson
Risa Palm

Joe Perry
Jerry Rackliffe
Wayne Reed
Roy Sobelson
Marta White

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM by the committee chair, David Cheshier. Minutes from the February 8, 2012 meeting were attendance corrected and approved.

The committee was updated on several topics:

- The motion proposing that correspondence be conveyed to the University Chancellor expressing dismay over the USG policy limiting access to public higher education in Georgia only to legal residents, which had been voted on by electronic correspondence, was agreed to. The motion also having been agreed to by other Senate committees, it will be presented at the next full Senate meeting.

- Name changes in Outlook are now slated, having been postponed, to be made possible by the start of the FA12 term, which will enable faculty and staff to send and receive email without such communication attaching to the person’s full name.

- Work on university graduate faculty policy, as well as a P&T manual that would govern non-tenure track-appointed faculty, continues. An ad hoc Senate committee that includes Faculty Affairs Committee membership has also been created to proposed updates and revisions to the Faculty Handbook.

Some further discussion occurred relating to the issue of whether students should be able to complete course evaluations after seeing their earned grades in a given class. Peter Lyons distributed data that showed average response rates (that handout follows).

The committee had previously voted in favor of an amendment to the University P&T manual clarifying when the pre-tenure review is to occur. A friendly amendment that will be conveyed to the full Senate was electronically approved that will further specify that this review should occur “late in the third year” on the tenure track.

There was discussion of the fact that the tenure clock stoppage policy adopted several years ago remains an “interim” one. It was agreed that this “interim” status should remain in force for the time being.

Follow up discussion to assure that the procedural glitch that meant the required review of Risa Palm was fully explained and would be corrected in the next review cycle. [Note: Paul Alberto electronically conveyed a memo of explanation to the committee soon after this meeting, and that note follows.]
The committee discussed a suggestion conveyed to it, that all faculty should be required to make their syllabi electronically available by the start of semester registration, or to consider some other mechanism so that students would have fuller and earlier information about the details of seminar and class requirements. The committee declined to move ahead to draft a motion on this issue, concerned about the difficulties in producing a one-size policy that would well accommodate the wide range of University instructional practices, including, e.g., instructors who "negotiate" the terms of the course assignments based on early-in-term student input.

Work continued on a motion to create a University P&T review committee. Discussion was concluded relating to ongoing revisions. The principal modifications made to the draft motion related to strengthening language to assure that the work product of the proposed faculty advisory committee will be written and made available to candidates moving through the promotion and tenure process, and language was approved to assure that outcome. The sense of the Committee was confirmed that a written finding should be made in every case forwarded to the Provost, either by College conveyance or candidate appeal, even if the written response simply noted the review committee’s agreement with the recommendations reaching them (e.g., “we concur”). Language was deliberated that would create a recusal mechanism, so that no individual committee member would, by dint of her or his service on the University committee, might have multiple opportunities to shape the institution’s response to a given P&T case. It was also agreed that committee membership should be limited to those holding rank of Professor (which was already stipulated), and with tenure (a new addition). The motion was unanimously adopted and will be conveyed to the Senate Executive Committee for potential adoption at the April Senate meeting.

Cheshier was asked to explain the process by which the interviews for a new Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs position had occurred, and to address concerns that the Faculty Affairs Committee had not been fully included in those deliberations. Cheshier noted that the position language was circulated early in the fall to the full university community, that full discussions in the committee were made difficult by the fact that some committee members had applied for the position, and noted that FAC members served both on the search committee and participated in small number in the public interviewing sessions. He agreed to invite the newly appointed person who will serve in that position to actively participate in the work of FAC.

The April meeting time was confirmed.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and accepted by acclamation at 4:30 PM.

**Future committee meetings**
Thursday April 26, 2012, 1:00

**Future full Senate meetings**
April 19