

**MINUTES**  
**UNIVERSITY SENATE**  
 November 19, 2015

**PRESENT:** Senate members: Paul Alberto, Amber Amari, Lisa Armistead, Dawn Aycock, Pamela Barr, Mark Becker, Larry Berman, Chara Bohan, Michelle Brattain, Andy Butler, Allison Calhoun-Brown, Patricia Carter, Kevin Chappell, Jennifer Chiovaro, Lindsey Cohen, Doug Covey, Daniel Crimmins, Harry Dangel, Jacob English, Michael Eriksen, Richard Fendler, Chris Fenn, Laura Fredrick, Patrick Freer, Shelby Frost, Michael Galchinsky, Sergio Gallo, Jonathan Gayles, Vanessa Gilbert, Maria Gindhart, Chris Goode, Lynda Goodfellow, Paula Gordon, Harley Granville, Shif Gurmu, Steve Harmon, Kerry Heyward, Paul Katz, Gelila Kebede, Patricia Ketsche, Brian Kooy, Jacqueline Laures-Gore, Greg Lisby, Jill Littrell, Jun Liu, William Long, Teara Mayfield, Kathryn McClymond, John Medlock, Anthony Nguyen, Sarah Pallas, Risa Palm, Sebastian Parra, DeShaunda Patterson, Unil Perera, George Pullman, Jerry Rackliffe, George Rainbolt, Sebastian Rand, Tim Renick, LeeAnne Richardson, Mary Ann Ronski, Chip Ryan, Vjollca Sadiraj, Corey Sams, Renee Schatteman, David Sehat, Rose Sevcik, Bryan Sinclair, Alexandra Smirnova, Nick Smith, Faye Stewart, Keith Sumas, Susan Swars, Mandy Swygart-Hobaugh, Jowanna Tillman, Kris Varjas, Wendy Venet, Phil Vertimiglia, Mary Beth Walker, Michael Weeks, Sara Weigle, Marta White, Ying Zhu.

**Guests:** Boyd Beckwith, Susan Caolo, Charlie Cobb, Debra Denzer, Darryl Holloman, Bernard McCrary, Linda Nelson, Jennifer Stephens.

**ORDER:** The chair, President Mark Becker, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the April 16, 2015 and September 10, 2015 Senate meetings were approved with no changes.

**COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR:** President Becker turned the floor over to Professor Akinyele Umoja, chair of the Department of African-American Studies. Mr. Umoja stated two concerns that students are currently focused on: 1) McGraw-Hill published an American history book for high school students that is being used in Texas that represent slaves as "workers". Although the publishing house has apologized, there has been a movement across college campuses asking that any product of McGraw-Hill be taken out of college/university bookstores; and 2) according to Mr. Umoja, there have been at least 78 occurrences of white supremacy oriented stickers, posters, etc. around the GSU campus within the last two to three months. Mr. Umoja stated that students are calling for the university community to make some sort of statement challenging that kind of speech directed toward black people and black lives. He stated that several universities and colleges in the Atlanta are taking up this issue and he called on this body to consider this as an issue. Dr. Becker thanked Mr. Umoja for his presentation.

President Becker read the following proclamation regarding Dr. Timothy Bartness:

"Proclamation: Whereas, Dr. Tim Bartness served with honor and distinction as a member of the Senate Research Committee and; Whereas, he ably and effectively represented the values and the needs of the research efforts of Georgia State University and; Whereas, Dr. Bartness was the sole NIH Merit awardee in the state and recognized for his pioneering research in obesity and its reversal; We, the members of the University Senate, express our appreciation and recognize him, his career, and life for many years of dedicated service and leadership."

This proclamation was met with applause.

Dr. Becker completed his report by giving an update on the Turner Field proposal. He also updated the Senate on the consolidation and thanked everyone for their tremendous efforts in moving this consolidation forward.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Executive Committee recommends a "**do pass**" on the following agenda items:

1. **Repeat to Replace Policy** presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; Sara Weigle, chair. This change will allow students to use the repeat-to-replace policy during their final semester but only for courses for which they need an improved grade in order to graduate. The question was called and the motion passed.
2. **Revisions to the GSU Promotion and Tenure Manual** presented by the Faculty Affairs Committee; Kathryn McClymond, chair. The current manual stops the tenure clock for "a leave of absence based on birth or adoption of a child, or serious disability or prolongs illness of the employee or immediate family member."

These revisions will stop the pre-tenure and post-tenure clocks in those circumstances. The question was called and the motion passed.

3. **Add Perimeter College Senators in Mid-Year** presented by the Nominations Committee; Shelby Frost, chair. This will allow Perimeter College faculty to have the same Senate representation as faculty at GSU immediately upon consolidation. The question was called and the motion passed.
4. **Addendum to the 4/16/15 Nominations Report** presented by the Nominations Committee; Shelby Frost Chair. This addendum takes into account changes in various administrative positions and adds the Perimeter College Senators to the various committees. The question was called and the motion passed.
5. **Amend the University Statutes** presented by the University Statutes and Senate Bylaws Committee; Patrick Freer, chair. These revisions reflect the consolidation of Georgia Perimeter College with Georgia State University along with necessary editorial changes. The question was called and the motion passed.
6. **Amend the Senate Bylaws** presented by the University Statutes and Senate Bylaws Committee; Patrick Freer, chair. These revisions reflect the consolidation of Georgia Perimeter College with Georgia State University along with necessary editorial changes. The question was called and the motion passed.

Information Items: Motion to Revise Policy on Limits on Withdrawals and the Summary Reports on the Triennial Evaluations of Drs. Long, Berman, Weyhenmeyer, Eriksen, Liu, and Morris.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Executive Committee (Laura Fredrick, chair): The committee met twice since the last Senate meeting. It approved today's agenda.

Academic Programs (Michelle Brattain, chair): The committee met three times and approved several proposals for new programs, concentrations, minors, and graduate degrees.

Admissions and Standards (Sara Weigle, chair): The committee has met twice. Subcommittees are reviewing the calendar and clock schedules, emergency withdrawals, and graduate students and English language proficiency.

Athletics (Kris Varjas, chair): The committee has met three times. It continues to monitor issues regarding Title IX and sexual assault. A survey has gone out to all female undergraduates inquiring about possible new athletic programs for females. The Athletic Strategic Plan is also being reviewed.

Budget (Greg Lisby, chair): The committee has met twice and discussed benefits and graduate fees.

Commencement (Mark Becker, chair): The committee met once in October. Fall commencement will be on December 16, 2015. The Ph.D. hooding ceremony will be held the evening before with Dr. Paula Stephan as the speaker. The criteria for the Kell Award has been defined. The university is transitioning to regalia made out of only recycled materials.

Cultural Diversity (Sarah Pallas): The committee has met twice. It continues to work on issues surrounding the student evaluation of faculty instrument, student comfort with respect to diversity in the classroom, diversity on promotion and tenure committees, and it continues to gather data on historical trends regarding faculty diversity at GSU. The committee supports exit interviews with faculty leaving the university. It is working with the Office of the Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs on improving the strategies for recruitment and retention of faculty of color.

Faculty Affairs (Kathryn McClymond, chair): The committee met twice. It is working on a survey regarding the issue of length of sojourn at the rank of associate professor. It is pulling together a summit this spring on the Student Evaluation Instrument.

FACP (Risa Palm, chair): The committee met twice. No changes to mandatory student fees were approved for the second year in a row.

IS&T (Steve Harmon, chair): The committee met twice. It has reviewed issues surrounding the student technology fee process, help center services, and the consolidation of GPS and GSU IS&T services. The committee will need to revise the committee's charge as stated in the Senate *Bylaws* due to the change in the IS&T unit's structure.

Library (Joseph Hacker, chair): No report.

Planning and Development (George Rainbolt, chair): The committee met twice. One meeting was cut short by a fire drill. It was reported that the "Burning Bright" capital campaign has raised \$195 million towards the \$300 million goal.

Research (Rose Sevcik, chair): The committee has met twice. It worked with URSA on the internal grants program. Graduate students will be trained on how to submit grant applications to the IRB. It has also been discussing goal 3 of the Strategic Plan.

Student Discipline (Marta White, chair): There have been 22 hearings requiring the Student Discipline Committee. One case involved a GSU Facilities employee who observed what appeared to be three students collaborating/cheating on an online exam. The employee reported his suspicions and the case came before the Student Discipline Committee.

Student Life and Development (Daryl Holloman for Elisabeth Burgess, chair): The committee met twice. VP Covey gave his "State of Student Affairs" presentation. The committee discussed the EMBARK Georgia program which focuses on the availability of services for homeless and "precariously housed" students. Housing continues to be full and there is a waiting list for beds.

Sustainability (Alexandra Smirnova for Dabney Dixon, chair): The committee met once. It continues to work on the Sustainability Strategic Plan.

Univ. Statutes and Senate Bylaws (Pat Freer, chair): The committee met several times to make the changes and amendments to the University *Statutes* and Senate *Bylaws* that approved today.

**SPEAKER:** Vice Provost and Dean of Perimeter College Peter Lyons gave an update on the upcoming consolidation of GSU and Georgia Perimeter College. He began by thanking Debra Denzer, chair of the GPC faculty senate, for all her hard work in this consolidation process. The focus of this consolidation has always been about the students.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Since there was no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Nell Stone  
Secretary to the Senate