
Guests: Charlie Cobb, Jeremy Kopkas, John Medlock, Claudia Petrescu

ORDER: The chair, President Mark Becker, called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

MINUTES: The minutes of the February 14, 2019 Senate meeting were approved with no changes.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR: The chair opened his comments by providing the President’s Report. The first item was Spring semester commencement. Commencement will be held the week of May 6 through May 10, 2019. He provided an overview of the upcoming commencements. The Senate Commencement Committee worked with SGA to poll the student body to determine if the college graduation ceremonies should be held in the morning or evening. Fifty percent voted to hold the graduation in the morning and 50% voted to hold the graduation in the evening. The committee decided to hold the ceremonies in the morning due to the likelihood of more favorable weather.

There were over 20,000 applications for the freshman class for the downtown campus as of 10 am this morning. This is the first time in the history of the university.

There have been several transitions in GSU leadership. All changes have been previously announced. Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Jim Weyhenmeyer, departed for Auburn University. Michael Eriksen, former Dean, School of Public Health, is the Interim Vice President for Research and Economic Development. Rodney Lyn is now the Interim Dean of Public Health.

The search for a provost is currently in progress. They will interview a total of three candidates. President Becker hopes to announce Provost Palm’s successor by the time graduation takes place.

Two retirements were announced this semester as follows: Tom Lewis, Leader of External Affairs, who has served the university for decades. He has served three GSU presidents. Walter Massey, VP for Development and Alumni Affairs, is also retiring.

The President met with the Commission for the Next Generation of Faculty. He is very impressed and pleased with their work. The president stated that he looks forward to working with the new Provost so that they may move from a report to action.
The Atlanta premiere of the documentary film, *Unlikely*, took place in the Rialto last night. The documentary is related to higher education. This film looks at admission of first-generation and low-income college students to college, the challenges they face, and whether they graduate. GSU has a prominent role in the film. Kalif Robinson, GSU Alumni, 2017 was featured in the documentary. He also served as part of the panel of successful first-generation graduates featured in the film. Dr. Tim Renick is also featured in the film in a series of interviews.

The Georgia Legislative Session has concluded. The GSU Convocation Center is a part of the budget that the governor currently has in his possession. The plan is to begin construction by the fall. GSU plans to have the first commencement ceremony in the convocation center in the fall of 2021.

The demolition of Kell Hall has begun. The traffic patterns around this area of campus will probably be affected for approximately one year. The greenway will be completed.

The Board of Regents met on Tuesday to make their budget, tuition decisions and allocations. Budget allocations are being sent to the GSU departments. The tuition increase from the Board of Regents is 2.5% for undergraduates this year (in state and out of state). GSU tuition increase is 2.0%. The increase was 1% on some campuses. Graduate tuition increase was 2%. Electronic Online tuition reduced as a part of a 3-year project by the Board of Regents to bring that tuition in line with face to face instruction tuition.

When the legislature votes for pay raises, they do not fully fund those pay raises. The tuition increase is 2.5%. The pay raises for this year will be an average of 2%. The merit-based raises may be no lower than 0% and no higher than 4%. Any raise will take effect July 1, 2019.

GSU Giving Day is a 24-hour period of online philanthropy. This occurs at universities across the country in the spring. Each institution has their own initiatives and chooses their respective online philanthropy date. This year $529,000 was raised. This is an increase of $200,000 more than was raised last year. The number of donors has also increased by 700 (350 of the 700 are new donors).

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Election of 2019-2020 Senate Executive Committee. President Becker opened the floor for nominations. The names were recorded as nominated:
   - Rose Sevcik, College of Arts and Sciences
   - Catherine Perkins, College of Education and Human Development
   - Sally Robertson, Perimeter College
   - Shelby Frost, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
   - James Ainsworth, College of Arts and Sciences
   - Kris Varjas, College of Education and Human Development
   - Jon Wiley, J. Mack Robinson College of Business
   - Michelle Brattain, College of Arts and Sciences
   - Unil Perera, College of Arts and Sciences
   - Charles Fox, Perimeter College

   Unil Perera stated that he would like to withdraw from the nominations.

   A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. With nine nominees and only seven slots available, the Senators were asked to complete their ballots. While waiting on the results, the chair continued with new business.

   B. The following motions are being presented for consideration by the Senate.

   The Executive Committee recommends a “do pass” on the following agenda items:

   1. Motion from the Faculty Affairs Committee; Elizabeth West, chair.
Revised Student Evaluation Instrument
The motion proposes to revise the student evaluation instrument. The instrument has not been revised in more than 10 years. FAC formed a subcommittee to evaluate the efficacy of the SEI. The specific concerns addressed in the revision include the following: ensure the instrument provides more qualitative feedback, add questions about student’s participation and contribution, learning-centered questions, and training faculty and evaluators. The question was called. The motion passed.

2. Motion from the Committee on Academic Programs; Michelle Brattain, chair.

Revised Graduate Faculty Policy
This motion proposes to revise the current policy. The primary revision is to redefine categories of Graduate Research faculty (Full Graduate Research Faculty and Associate Graduate Research Faculty) to accurately reflect practices across the colleges and define the duties of each category. The policy also clarifies renewal of graduate faculty status and how graduate faculty status may be revoked. The question was called. The motion passed.

3. Motion from the University Statutes and Senate Bylaws Committee; Todd Hendricks, chair.

Amend Bylaws defining membership of Deans on the Budget Committee
This is a motion to amend section 15A of Article VII of the University Senate Bylaws to only include two deans selected by the Council of Deans to serve on the Budget Committee (the model of FACP). The question was called. The motion passed.

4. Motion from the Nominations Committee; Shelby Frost, chair.

Nominations Report for the 2019-2020 Senate Year
The report was presented as distributed. The question was called. The motion passed.

Information Items:
2. List of 2019-2020 Faculty Senators
3. Senate Committee Organizational Meeting Dates

SPEAKER: Charlie Cobb, Athletics Director gave his annual report to the University Senate on the Athletics program.

The chair announced the seven senators elected to the Senate Executive Committee for the 2019-2020 year: Michelle Brattain, Shelby Frost, Catherine Perkins, Sally Robertson, Rose Sevcik, Kris Varjas, and Jon Wiley.

OLD BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Since there was no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Dionne Polite
Secretary to the Senate