MINUTES

UNIVERSITY SENATE (WebEx Meeting)
August 21, 2020


Guests: Christopher Bernard (IT), Tori Johnson, Yuan Liu, Damon Lynch (IT), Mary McLaughlin, John Medlock, Shelly Ann Williams

ORDER: The chair, President Mark Becker, called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

MINUTES: There was a motion to approve the August 13, 2020 meeting minutes and there was a second. There was also a motion to change the adjournment time of the meeting to 3:34 pm instead of 3:04 pm. The amendment was accepted, and the minutes were approved as corrected.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR: The chair opened his comments by providing the President’s Report. August 13th Senate Meeting - Dr. Becker began the report by thanking Dr. Michelle Brattain, Chair, Senate Executive Committee, as well as the members of the Executive Committee for organizing the August 13, 2020 Senate meeting during these unprecedented times. The short meeting was necessary in order to amend the Senate Bylaws to allow the Senate to hold meetings online.
Freshman Convocation will take place on Facebook Live this Sunday at 3 pm. Dr. Becker thanked Dr. Allison Calhoun-Brown, VP, Student Engagement and Programs, and her team for their work to ensure the freshmen have a great GSU welcome. He invited the members to join the convocation by logging on to www.gsu.edu/convocation/ on Sunday at 3 pm.
Fall Semester Classes will begin on Monday. GSU is one of the last USG institutions to start classes. Dr. Becker reached out to the Presidents of three USG schools: Kennesaw State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, and the University of Georgia to see how classes were going on their respective campuses. The feedback regarding wearing face masks and practice social distancing was positive. There
was almost unanimous compliance by the community members. There were only a few reports of occasional reminders to wear face masks and practice social distancing but no major issues.

**GSU Move-In/Residence Hall Capacity** - GSU on-campus move in began last Saturday. GSU would have normally moved 5,200 students into the residence halls during this time of year. Currently, there are just a little over 3,000 student living in the residence halls. The majority are individual or single bedrooms. Individuals followed the protocols that were in place and the move in went smooth. This information is consistent with the move-in feedback provided by Kennesaw, Georgia Tech, and UGA administrators.

**Letter from Parent of an On-campus Freshman Honor Student:** Dr. Becker shared a letter from a parent who shared that her son is freshman honor student that lives on campus. She stated that she is impressed by the GSU protocols in place for safety. She shared that she believes that in person learning is very important and asked that the university remain open during the pandemic.

**Panthers Adjust to Pandemic/Protocols:** Dr. Becker thanked all members of the GSU community for committing to the difficult work this summer that was necessary to adjust to these unprecedented times in order to prepare for the fall semester. He also provided a special thanks to Dr. Ijeoma Azonobi, Medical Director, Student Health Center, Dean Rodney Lyn, School of Public Health, and his colleagues, as well as Mrs. Kerry Heyward, University Attorney, and the administration for the tremendous amount of work that they put in this summer to ensure that GSU had the protocols in place. The protocols are the reporting systems, the contact tracing systems, trained individuals, data systems set up, and testing available for all the previously announced plans.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Election of the 2020-21 Senate Executive Committee**

Dr. Becker asked Dr. Michelle Brattain, Chair, Senate Executive Committee, to explain the election process. Dr. Brattain explained that the process usually occurs with nominations from the Senate floor and voting via secret ballot. However, due to the pandemic, Qualtrics will be used to ensure voting by secret ballot. She informed to the members that Qualtrics is the polling system that the Office of Institutional Research uses for administrative reviews and it is anonymous. The nominations will be made via the WebEx chat box so that there are open nominations from the floor. This will allow everyone to see the names of the nominees live. After the meeting, each voting member will be sent a voting poll via email through Qualtrics. She reminded the nominees to only vote for seven nominees.

**Nominees**

Dr. Becker opened the floor for nominations and reiterated that members should only vote for seven nominees per Dr. Brattain’s previous instructions. The following 22 individuals were nominated: Jim Ainsworth, Michelle Brattain, Margo Brinton, Brendan Calandra, Debora Constable, Richard Dix, Charles Fox, Mark Flowers, Patrick Freer, Shelby Frost, Xiaochun He, Todd Hendricks, Robert Maxwell, Erin Morrey, Michelle Nelson, Unil Perera, Catherine Perkins, John Redmond, Sally Robinson, Sally Robertson, Rose Sevcik, Will Simson, and Jon Wiley.

There was a motion to close the nominations. A poll was generated to close the nominations. The displayed poll results indicated that the majority votes needed to close the poll were obtained. The poll was closed. Dr. Becker completed a roll call of all candidates so that each of them could state their position and department. Todd Hendricks was not present for the meeting and Shelby Frost provided his information. Richard Dix was not present for the meeting and Dean Sara Rosen provided his information. Sally Robinson was nominated; however, there is no such individual at GSU. It was determined that the individual was trying to nominate Sally Robertson instead of Sally Robinson. Charles Fox was not present for the meeting and Michelle Brattain provided his information. The nominees listed above with a strike through their names either declined the nomination or the incorrect name was provided. Dr. Becker asked Dr. Brattain to confirm once again for the members that a Qualtrics poll will be sent via email to each member so that they may
vote for seven nominees. Dr. Brattain confirmed that this was correct. She informed the members that Damon Lynch, IT Support Specialist, and Dionne Polite, Assistant to the Senate, will send the poll to the members after the meeting.

B. The following motions are being presented for consideration by the Senate. The Executive Committee recommends a “do pass” on the following agenda items:

Motion from the Faculty Affairs Committee; Robert Maxwell, chair.

1. **Motion to Revise the NTT Manual**

   The motion proposes that the NTT promotion manual needs revision to include the new rank of academic professional and provisions for requesting a “promotion clock” stoppage and emeritus status. Other revisions clarify language, align this manual with recent changes to the University P&T manual, and make the language gender non-binary.

   Dr. Maxwell mentioned that on page six of the NTT Manual that there is still a he/she reference in line 136. He requested to move the motion forward with this friendly amendment of removing the binary language. The question was called. A poll was posted in the chat area for the members to vote on the motion. The displayed poll results indicated the majority votes needed for the motion to pass were obtained. The poll was closed. The motion passed.

2. **Motion to Revise the PT Manual**

   This motion proposes revisions to the current University P&T manual to clarify the process for candidates with joint appointments and modify the process for Perimeter College nursing faculty in order to meet the requirements of the GA Board of Nursing accreditation. Other proposed revisions clarify language and eliminate gendered binaries. Dr. Maxwell stated that there is a friendly amendment on page seven of the PT Manual in lines 115 and 118 that still contains binary language. He requested to move the motion forward with this friendly amendment of removing the binary language. The question was called.

   Dr. Becker read the following question from the chat comments: "Regarding joint appointments, does the change apply to courtesy-meaning non-compensated affiliate appointments?" Dr. Maxwell completed a quick review of the manual and stated that at this time, he does not have an answer for that question. Dr. Becker read the following comment from the chat comments: “This came up in the Lewis College meeting about P&T changes.” Dr. Maxwell stated that he would have to ask AP Faculty Affairs if there is more information as he believes that is a college level and doesn’t believe the manual mentions this specifically. Dr. Becker asks the senate members if anyone in the meeting has an answer to this question. There are no comments from the members. Dr. Becker asks a rhetorical question: "Are these joint appointments where tenure is split across two academic units?" Dr. Maxwell answers, “yes”. Dr. Becker stated that “presumably this would not apply to a courtesy appointment because that’s a titular appointment, but tenure remains 100% in the compensated unit.” Dr. Becker stated that “he thinks this is the answer to the question regarding joint appointments.” There was a comment from the members. Dr. Becker read the following comment from Dean Sara Rosen: “I don’t believe tenure has ever been split at GSU.” The question was called. A poll was posted in the chat area for the members to vote on the motion. The displayed poll results indicated the majority votes needed for the motion to pass were obtained. The poll was closed. The motion passed.

3. **Motion on Student Code of Conduct Statement on Student Distribution of Faculty Generate Materials**

   This motion proposed that must be a University policy that restricts student’s ability to
publicly share materials before Chegg, Course Hero, OneClass and similar sites will remove the posts. This policy is to inform students as part of the code of conduct that instructor generated materials are protected. Dr. Maxwell shared that this policy was shared with Office of Legal Affairs to ensure that it doesn't interfere with any accommodations that students may have. There was a comment from the members. Kaelen Thomas, SGA President, asked the following question: “This doesn’t affect any accommodations that students may have?” Dr. Maxwell, replied, “no, the committee made sure that the language did not interfere with accommodations. It also doesn’t prohibit students from posting their own student-generated notes or a note taker from uploading notes for a student that they are serving.” The question was called. A poll was posted in the chat area for the members to vote on the motion. The displayed poll results indicated the majority votes needed for the motion to pass were obtained. The poll was closed. The motion passed.

4. **Information Item: Modifications to the SEI appropriate to the new online/blended learning environment**

   In an effort to make the SEI more relevant to the various instructional modalities in use at GSU, the Faculty Affairs Committee submits modifications to the SEI to be used during the Summer 2020 and Fall 2020 semesters. Dr. Maxwell stated that the committee wanted to ensure consistent and easy language for the students, faculty and administrators.

Motion from the Statutes and Bylaw Committee; (Ed Rigdon for Todd Hendricks, chair).

   1. **Motion to add Director of Graduate Admissions to the membership of Admissions and Standards**

      This motion proposed that the Director of Graduate Admissions be added to the membership of the Admissions and Standards Committee. The Statutes and Bylaws Committee was in consultation with the Admissions and Standards Committee regarding this motion. The question was called. A poll was posted in the chat area for the members to vote on the motion. The displayed poll results indicated the majority votes needed for the motion to pass were obtained. The poll was closed. The motion passed.

**Information Items:** Dr. Becker informed the members that the following two Senate information items were included in today’s meeting materials: (1) List of 2020-21 Faculty Senators (2) 2020-21 Senate Committees organizational meeting dates.

He also informed the members that six reports on the evaluations of the following administrators were also included in the meeting materials as follows: (1) Larry Berman, Dean, Honors College (2) Don Hale, VP, Public Relations and Marketing Communications (3) Wade Weast, Dean, College of the Arts (4) Jerry Rackliffe, Senior VP, Finance and Administration (5) Sara Rosen, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences (6) Jeff Steely, Dean, Libraries

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** Since there was no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Dionne Polite
Secretary to the Senate