
Guests: Benjamin Bond, Dori Neptune

ORDER: The Vice Chair, Provost Wendy Hensel, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES: There was a motion to approve the August 21, 2020 meeting minutes and there was a second. The minutes were approved.

COMMENTS BY THE VICE CHAIR: The Provost opened her comments by sharing, The Impact of Covid-19 on Academics: Lessons from Fall and Plans for Spring, report with the members. The report included information on how we (GSU) did in relation to the the impact of Covid-19 this Fall, what we learned, how we adjusted to those lessons, and how we will approach the Spring. The USG instructed the university to plan to have in-person class instruction and maximize safety for the faculty, staff, and students. Maintaining the social distancing parameters reduced the classroom size down to 25% of seating capacity. The university decided to offer online, blended, and face-to-face instruction to create flexibility and meet the needs of the students and the faculty. Most of the instruction took place online. Safety: Last Semester (Spring 2020) there were no confirmed cases of Covid-19 transmission in GSU classrooms. All students that live in residence halls were tested before they moved in and there is ongoing testing in residence halls. The University has had free open access saliva testing for the GSU community on all six campuses for the last week. Individuals will receive the results in 72 hours. The Provost shared data on the number of students per week that have been tested on campus. The numbers of students being tested is increasing (3.2%); however, it is believed to be below the state average. Information from volunteer self-reporting of positive test results from faculty, staff, and students who
were tested off site was also shared with the members. The Provost shared and discussed the distribution of two Chatbot surveys to the students. The surveys consisted of questions to identify how students felt GSU was dealing with the impact of Covid-19 on the university (course room and material accessibility, high course workload, faculty connection, etc.) and their individual challenges related to course work. The students’ level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction was recorded for each survey. Feedback from both parents and faculty on the Covid-19 impact regarding the lack of college-level course work and other issues were shared with the members as well.

The various changes that the university plans to make in relation to courses for Spring semester were outlined. GSU is also accelerating the launch of fully online degrees for adult learners and other non-traditional populations.

**SPEAKER:** Provost Hensel introduced the speaker, Dr. Kim Siegenthaler, Associate Provost for Online Strategies. Dr. Siegenthaler opened her comments by sharing, *Increasing Student Engagement in Online and Blended Classes,* report with the members. The report included information on how GSU plans to increase student engagement. The efforts include resources and strategies for both faculty and students. She shared some of the related challenges for online engagement such as continued adjustment to online teaching and learning, defining what student engagement and faculty engagement looks like in the online environment and establishing realistic expectations. Numerous faculty members participated in the *Mastering Online Teaching* course over the past several months. This course was helpful to faculty in preparing their online and blended classes for fall.

**Faculty Resources:** The Center for Teaching and Learning, and Online Education, CETLOE, began working with faculty to develop additional resources for effective teaching and learning in online classes. All resources are on the Lessons Learned website: https://ceti.gsu.edu/lessonslearned/. This Spring CETLOE will offer *Mastering Online Teaching 2.0* for faculty who would like to take the next step in enhancing their online and blended classes. **Student Resources:** CETLOE in partnership with Student Success has created a series of short videos to help students be successful in their online classes. The videos and the strategies for success online pdf may be downloaded in their iCollege course.

**Ad Hoc Committee Task Force on Academic Integrity:** The committee was established by Provost Hensel to reduce cheating due to a growing concern regarding cheating in online classes and specifically relating to online tests. Dr. Siegenthaler and Dr. Wade Weast, Dean, College of the Arts, serve as co-chairs of this committee. The committee is working to develop actionable recommendations in the areas of student education, faculty education, and assessment strategies. Task force recommendations should be provided to the Provost prior to the end of the term. A faculty member mentioned that there were several comments in the meeting chat regarding the need for students to take iCollege training prior to the beginning of the semester. He stated that most students don’t seem to understand what is available there for them and how to navigate iCollege. Dr. Siegenthaler expressed that there are recorded webinars and other tools that are available for the students to download into iCollege to help them be successful in their online courses. Provost Hensel informed the members that she and Dr. Calhoun-Brown are working on a plan to make resources more easily accessible to successfully navigate the online environment.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Academic Programs (Michelle Brattain, chair):** The committee met three times since the last Senate meeting. The committee has reviewed 19 proposals including five new programs, four core curriculum proposals, four changes in concentrations, and four certificates.

**Admissions and Standards (Patrick Freer, chair):** The committee has met three times since the last Senate meeting. The committee has considered several issues, some which will move forward for potential consideration by the full Senate. Some of the issues include an early action admissions policy in the Lewis College, a graduate level repeat to replace policy, the awarding of credit for international baccalaureate exams, and the awarding of posthumous degrees. The committee has also received reports and information addressing several issues related to enrollment trends and
student success during the Covid-19 era. The committee has established a new standing committee to consider appeals to academic regulations.

Athletics (Chester Phillips, chair): The committee met twice since the last Senate meeting. In addition to their regular duties, the committee has heard wonderful reports from the athletic director regarding the immense Covid-19 response being implemented within athletics. A great thing is that athletics has a positive test rate of less than 1% amongst their student athletes. They have administered more than 6,000 tests since July 2020. Special thanks to Bob Murphy and his sports medical team and their immense efforts to keep our student athletes safe and healthy.

Budget (Unil Perera, chair): The committee has met three times since the last Senate meeting. The committee had six presenters. Jerry Rackliffe (Budget) and Kim Siegenthaler (Online Strategies), and Kenyatta Cameron (TRS/ORP) gave presentations to the group in September. TRS and ORP differences should be made clear on the HR website. The subcommittee on budget submitted a recommendation to Jerry Rackliffe on the retirement system. Ramesh Vakamudi (Construction updates) and Jay Kahn (His Vision for Development) presented at the October meeting. The Provost presented at yesterday’s meeting. Salary issues including the survey and what the plans may be to address the issue were discussed.

Commencement (Provost Hensel for Mark Becker, chair): Currently there are three outdoor ceremonies planned in December. Faculty will not be participating. This will be a social distancing event with designated seats marked in groups of five. There will also be a virtual graduation celebration for students who choose not to participate in the outdoor ceremonies.

Cultural Diversity (Leslie Meadows, chair): The committee has met two times since the last Senate meeting. Two of the sub-committees worked during their meetings to draft a letter to the Presidential Search Committee. The letter has been approved by the committee. Kenneth Lockett was the speaker during the last meeting. He wrote an article about the difference of diversity in leadership at GSU. The committee has drafted a letter of support for the LGBTQ community with cooperation from the Faculty Affairs Committee and they are waiting on approval of the letter by both committees. The committee also discussed the DI certificate for graduates. She believes there are discussions on the subject by Kim Siegenthaler and her group regarding how the diversity certificate will be administered.

Faculty Affairs (Robert Maxwell, chair): The committee has met twice since the last Senate meeting. The committee was briefed by Julian Allen, CETLOE, regarding student mandatory fees and software licenses. Gwen Spratt, Legal Affairs, spoke with the committee regarding faculty intellectual properties. Provost Hensel addressed the committee regarding the Spring 2021 plan and wage compensation. Michael Galchinsky, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, updated the committee on the campus climate survey and wage equity. The committee is currently working on the evaluation tool for Associate Deans and is aligning the GSU Amorous Relations Policy with the recently updated USG policy.

IIT (Robert Maxwell for Chris Goode, chair): The committee has met three times since the last Senate meeting. The committee approved reallocation of student technology fee funds for two FY 21 proposals: one for RCB to provide more funds to a virtual mock interview system, and the other to redirect unused IIT funds for student printing to a classroom lab equipment refresh. Proposals for FY 22 Student Technology Fee Funds have been solicited by the academic and administrative units which will be reviewed by their respective review committees early in the next calendar year. The committee will review the proposed rankings in April and make its own recommendations to FACP. The student technology fees for the Atlanta and Perimeter campuses will not change in the upcoming fiscal year.
Library (LeAnne Richardson, chair): No report.

Planning and Development (Jared Poley, chair): The committee has met four times since the last Senate meeting. The committee has heard a wide range of reports on issues including online initiatives, development, strategic planning, and enrollment issues at both the undergraduate and graduate levels as well as institutional effectiveness.

Research (Rose Sevcik, chair): The committee has met four times since the last Senate Committee. Committee members met the finalists for the VP for Research and Economic Development position. A subcommittee of members has revised the guidelines for the creation and operation of the University Research Centers. The revised document will be brought forward to the full Senate shortly. Committee members have also been a part of the Provost’s Ad Hoc Working Group on Salary Equity and Compression. The committee has received reports on the Internal Grants Program activity and on construction activities in the science park and other science buildings on campus.

Student Discipline (Anne Murphy, chair): The committee meets as needed. The committee has met quite frequently this semester. Background on academic dishonesty cases: In 2017, the committee had 32 cases on the Atlanta campus, in 2018-25 cases, 2019-27 cases, this fall 2020 the committee had 41 cases and there are several months left in the academic year. The committee anticipates having over 100 cases of academic dishonesty on the Atlanta campus alone. Typical the committee receives 50 cases per year from Perimeter. The committee appreciates the established task force. Members of the committee are on the task force and they look forward to developing strategies to deter online cheating.

Student Life and Development (Kim Ramsey-White, chair): No report.

Sustainability (Terry Pechacek, co-chair): The committee has met two times since the last Senate meeting. The committee is reviewing past projects related to priorities on paper recycling and a survey for departments. The committee also had a consultation with Liz Yark, Sustainability Lead for the CDC. She also works close with Emory. She provided the committee with lots of resources and suggestions on what they may want to do. The committee members are appraising those options and looking for what may be feasible given restrictions.

University Statutes and Senate Bylaws (Todd Hendricks, chair): The committee has met twice since the last Senate meeting. The committee has been considering training for the proper language use to make legislative documents clearer.

2020-2021 Senate Committees Information Item- Dr. Shelby Frost, Chair, Senate Nominations Committee, provided the Addendum to the August 21, 2020 Nominations Report to the members.

OLD BUSINESS: None

Proclamation for Dr. Michael Eriksen: The Provost read a proclamation from the University Senate expressing gratitude to Dr. Michael Eriksen for serving with distinction as Interim Vice President for Research and Economic Development.

ADJOURNMENT: Since there was no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Dionne Polite, Assistant to the Senate