
Guests: Amber Amari, E. Namisi Chilungu, Carol Cohen, Jeremy Craig, Carina DeFazio, Corrie Fountain, Ramon Galarza, Denise George, Daphne Greenberg, Shiferaw Gurmu, Patrick Hanson, Karen Hudson, Audrey Leroux, Sophia Logan, Mary McLaughlin, Erin Mason, Katherine Masyn, John Medlock, Eric Morton, Dori Neptune, DaShaunda Patterson, Jonathan Smith, Averil Smith, Elizabeth Stevens, Jacqueline Williams, Shelly-Ann Williams

ORDER: The Chair, Dr. Blake, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

SPEAKER: Dr. Blake introduced the speaker, Dr. Tristan Denley, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer, University System of Georgia. This portion of the meeting was conducted via Microsoft Teams. Senate members were provided with the meeting invitation in advance of the meeting. Dr. Denley presented each of the changes to Board Policy 8.3, Post-Tenure and Annual Review, made by the Board of Regents (BOR). Final language of the document was approved and sent via email to all USG Presidents on the effective date of October 13, 2021. Dr. Denley also responded to several questions from faculty, including questions about appropriate adjustments in salary or rewards that would follow from the new emphasis on teaching and student success and expressions of concern that these policies might be inappropriately applied to faculty in response to their ideas and intellectual positions. Dr. Denley repeated that the main purpose of the language throughout these policy changes is to create a clear system of accountability that is consistent across the USG campuses. He acknowledged that the definition of contributions to student success vary widely among faculty and across institutions and assured faculty that individual institutions would be the ones who would “student success” as appropriate to their institution.

Dr. Denley also announced that the BOR are developing a frequently asked questions document regarding post-tenure review.
MINUTES: There was a motion to approve the April 15, 2021 and September 9, 2021 meeting minutes and there was a second. The members voted using the link sent to their email address by Damon Lynch or utilized the QR code provided to vote. One minute was allotted for voting. The results of the voting poll were displayed on the screen. The minutes were approved.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: The President opened his comments by thanking the members that attended the well-attended Greenway ribbon cutting event today. The President reported on his first 60 days in office. He has visited all six campuses, toured facilities, made comments, met with leadership, over 300 students and other GSU and USG stakeholders. He has also met with businesses and organizations, such as the Chamber of Commerce, and has traveled to meet donors and legislators. He reported that he appreciates feedback from the Senate Executive Committee, the President’s Cabinet, university deans and several GSU student leaders. He plans to send out a sixty-day report and incorporate a way for the community to offer feedback that will inform work on GSU’s strategic vision and planning.
In campus news, the President shared that GSU is listed number two in innovation and in undergraduate teaching by U.S. News & World Report. Although enrollment is down overall, GSU did have the highest entering first year enrollments in history this year. Dr. Blake acknowledged GSU’s many successes up to this date, in research and innovation, in more than doubling sponsored research awards over 10 years, and in Student Success, and stressed his commitment to GSU continuing this positive upward trajectory.

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

Motions from the Admissions & Standards Committee, Patrick Freer, Chair

1. Motion to Accept New Policy: Credit for Prior Learning—this motion proposes that faculty may assign a proportionate amount of credit for prior learning via nontraditional sources outside of classroom that are determined comparable to a designated program level credit experience.

There was a motion to approve the new policy and there was a second. The members voted using the link sent to their email address or utilized the QR code provided to vote. One minute was allotted for voting. The results of the voting poll were displayed on the screen. The motion was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Academic Programs (Michelle Brattain, chair): The committee has met three times since the last Senate meeting. The committee has heard academic program review reports, approved one new academic program, reviewed several substandard changes, and new concentrations. The committee has also approved a new policy for streamlining the process when units request additional distance learning.

Admissions and Standards (Patrick Freer, chair): The committee has met five times since the last Senate meeting. The primary order of business was the motion that the senate considered today.

Athletics (Chester Phillips, chair): The committee met has met twice since the last Senate meeting. The committee continued to discuss the new laws in the NCW about names license and image. Currently GSU has a few students engaging in and benefitting from it. The chair reminded the senate that from a compliance standpoint, we are all part of GSU. He advised the members that they are welcome and encouraged to talk to student athletes regarding academic programs in their respective college/school. He does provide a friendly reminder that if there is a conversation regarding the student coming to GSU to play a sport that this is reported directly to the Athletics Compliance Department. This department handles the official recruitment of student athletes.

Budget (Nadine Kabengi for Unil Perera, chair): The committee has met twice since the last Senate
The committee has had presentations from the VP of Finance and Administration, the VP of Research and Economic Development and the Associate VP for HR. The Associate VP for HR provided the committee with an update on the notification on the website in relation to benefits and the requirements that were discussed and compiled from the Senate Budget Committee and Faculty Affairs. The combined committees recommended that HR update the benefits website and they have updated the site.

Commencement (M. Brian Blake, chair): The committee has not had a meeting this semester. There have been discussions with the members regarding meeting next week or the following week. Dr. Blake stated that he was asked if he is willing to shake hands with the students as they cross the stage during commencement. He stated that he is fine with shaking hands. This is a conversation that will be continued at the committee meeting.

Cultural Diversity (Leslie Meadows, chair): The committee had met two times since the last Senate meeting. The committee continues to focus on issues brought forth concerning critical race theory and active advocacy of steps to further equity and justice at GSU for the entire university community. This includes, for example, educational and advocacy efforts directed at university leadership, policy, and curriculum development; insuring access to equitable resources and physical environments on all campuses; and ongoing communication with the GSU police.

Faculty Affairs (Robert Maxwell, chair): The committee has met four times since the last Senate meeting. Provost Hensel and Kim Siegenthaler spoke to the committee to help members better understand current and upcoming policies. The committee has upcoming proposals that they are still working through. The revision of the P&T and promotion manuals proposals are forthcoming in November. The committee is discussing the Associate Dean Evaluation tool and the follow-up to the emergency meeting response received from the Board of Regents. There was also a proposal from Kim Siegenthaler’s Office on regular and substantive interaction and online classrooms. Chair Maxwell stated that he’s sure that the post-tenure and annual review issue will continue to be a topic for Faculty Affairs for the next few months.

IIT (Chris Goode, chair): The committee continues to discuss how to manage unspent student technology fees at the end of each fiscal year. The committee would like to encourage everyone to develop a proposal for FY 23 student technology fee awards. The proposal portal opens November 1st. Chair Goode advised the members to consult with their unit coordinators for the tech fee proposal procedures that are unique to their specific units. Example: College of Arts and Sciences requires approval of pre-proposals, and their due date is October 29th. Full review of these proposals by unit subcommittees begins in the next calendar year. The IIT Committee will review the subcommittees recommendations at the end of next semester.

Library (LeAnne Richardson, chair): The committee has met once since the last Senate meeting. The committee received an update on the library’s collections budget from Laura Burtle at the meeting: the Library budget saw significant permanent cuts to the collections budget and a one-time additional 30% cut, which was restored this year. The committee decided to follow the lead of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, which has enacted an opt-in open access policy based on the Harvard model which allows them to avoid triggering the copyright concerns of the Office of Legal Affairs. The Library Committee will encourage departments and colleges to adopt this style of open access policy, build faculty buy in, and increase open-access content.

Planning and Development (Jared Poley, chair): The committee has met twice since the last Senate meeting. The committee has heard reports on undergraduate and graduate enrollments, graduation rates, and the efforts to integrate our post office researchers more tightly into the campus community.
Research (Rose Sevcik, chair): The committee has met three times since the last Senate Committee. Committee members helped to formulate a small grants program to support faculty whose work was significantly disrupted due to the pandemic. A subset of the members also served as reviewers for submission to this internal grant program. The committee also reviewed and offered feedback to the graduate school deans regarding policies and procedures for postdoctoral researchers on campus. This included the issues surrounding their titles and hiring process.

Student Discipline (Desiree Wanders, chair): The committee meets on an as needed basis for disciplinary hearings. The committee has been quite busy with meetings but there is currently no information to report.

Student Life and Development (Joe Normandin, chair): The committee has met once since the last Senate meeting. The committee briefly discussed their role to learn about student experiences on campus and provide feedback to the university and its officers on the policies that affect student life. In the past the Student Life Committee has approved student organizations but there has been a change in that process. The committee will take on an advisory role with regards to student organizations. The committee also heard from Dr. Michael Sanseviro regarding the process for approving student absences, which have been utilized quite often this semester for 19 student related illnesses. The committee has prioritized communication with SGA on student concerns and ways the committee might assist. Planned activities include inviting representatives of the Campus Police and the Office of Student success to discuss issues of interest.

Sustainability (Terry Pechacek, co-chair): Co-chair Pechacek had to leave the meeting early. He provided the Sustainability Committee Report items to Damon Lynch via email. Damon will forward the information to Dionne Polite. Dionne will send the information to the members via email.

University Statutes and Senate Bylaws (Todd Hendricks, chair): The committee has not met since the last Senate meeting. The committee did receive some information via email. The committee will meet and try to have a proposal ready for the November Senate meeting.

**Information Items** - Dr. Blake informed the members that there are three information items attached as follows: Addendum to the April 15, 2021 Nominations Report (from the Nominations Committee), an Informational Report regarding inequity in employer contribution to the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) versus the Teacher’s Retirement System of Georgia (TRS), and the Report on the Evaluation of Michael Galchinsky, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** Since there was no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Dionne Polite, Assistant to the Senate