UNIVERSITY SENATE
November 18, 2021


Guests: Carol Cohen, Denise George, Mary McLaughlin

ORDER: The Chair, Dr. Blake, called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

MINUTES: There was a motion to approve the October 14, 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 reporting his meeting with the Senior Vice President for Student Success, Dr. Allison Calhoun-Brown. She provided Dr. Blake with a report on enrollment. Graduate enrollment is up again. Undergraduate enrollment is strong. There were 11,000 applications by the early action deadline. Enrollment currently looks good. The president received a report from the Covid-19 Operations Committee and positivity rates have decreased. There is a federal mandate that employees that are covered under federal grants will be required to have vaccinations. GSU is currently working through the list to see who those individuals are. If an employee is impacted, he/she should receive the federal mandate email. Dr. Blake has met and had discussions with five nominees for Interim Provost via the recommendation of the President’s Cabinet, Deans, and from faculty senate members. He anticipates announcing the Interim Provost by the first week in December. Dr. Blake has visited several GSU colleges and schools to date. He has received great feedback. He plans to visit all GSU colleges and schools. The president thanked all GSU veterans and their family members for their service. He also thanked the leadership for a great Veteran’s Recognition Ceremony. He also congratulated the football team for winning the game against a first ranked opponent in history. Dr. Blake also congratulated the men’s soccer team for competing in the MAC Championship. Men and women’s basketball teams are doing quite well with early success. The president attended an alumni event in Tampa and was approached by alumni that were interested in helping the institution.
NEW BUSINESS:

A. 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 University Statutes and Senate Bylaws Committee, Todd Hendricks, Chair

1. **Motion to Change Statutes to Include Veteran Status**—this motion proposes the category “veteran status” be incorporated in the language of Article XVI: Non-Discrimination Policy of the GSU Statutes.

There was a motion to approve the inclusion of veteran status language to the statutes 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.

2. **Motion to Change Student Life Committee Membership**—this motion proposes that Article VII, Section 9 of the University Bylaws, Committee on Student Life, allow a **Student Life staff member from Perimeter College** to be added to the membership. The Student Life staff member included in the original language is now designated as a **Student Life member from the Atlanta Campus**.

There was a motion to approve the additional membership and language change to the committee. There was a second to the motion. 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.

Motions from the Faculty Affairs Committee, Robert Maxwell, Chair

3. **Motion to Approve Updates to the NTT Manual**—this motion proposes to make substantive revisions to the Promotion Manual for Non-Tenure Track Faculty.

There was a motion to approve the revisions 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.

4. **Motion to Approve Updates to the P&T Manual**—this motion proposes to make substantive revisions to the Promotion and Tenure Manual.

There was a motion to approve the revisions 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.

5. **Motion to Approve Policy for Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) in Online Courses**—this motion proposes to inform employees and units about the U.S. Department of Education regular and substantive interaction requirements and to eliminate potential university risks associated with violation of these regulations.

There was a motion to approve the 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.

6. **Motion to Approve Revision to Faculty Identification Question on Administrative Evaluations**—this motion proposes to extend the title/rank identification in the “Respondent Characteristics” section of the Administrative Evaluation surveys to help the Office of Institutional Research better understand the demographics of the respondents.

There was a motion to approve the revision 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.
B. The Executive Committee forwards this motion for consideration by the Senate without recommendation:

Motion from the Faculty Affairs Committee, Robert Maxwell, Chair

7. **Motion on Expressing No Confidence in USG/BOR Covid Policymaking**- this motion from Faculty Affairs proposes to express the lack of confidence in BOR policy making as we continue through the Covid-19 pandemic. There was an emergency Senate meeting held on September 9, 2021 to request the Senate approve the draft resolution. Dr. Brattain explained to the Senate that the SEC met and talked about the resolution and voted unanimously to move the resolution regarding the inadequacy of the USG Covid-19 response, be forwarded to the Senate for a vote but they were not in agreement on whether it should come with a “do pass”. Motions on the senate agenda do not require the SEC to recommend a “do pass”. The intention of the SEC was to be neutral in suggesting that senators should or should not vote. There was a question from the floor regarding whether other R1 and USG institutions were collaborating with GSU to send a similar motion to the BOR. Dr. Brattain explained that there has been collaboration across USG. Georgia Tech and UGA wrote letters to the BOR regarding no confidence in the Covid Policy making. Approximately one week after Dr. Brattain sent the no confidence letter to the BOR, Georgia Tech and UGS reached out to Dr. Brattain to urge GSU SEC to support them in their positions. Unfortunately, there was no time to call an emergency Senate meeting based on the timeline before the vote. Dr. Michelle Brattain, Chair, Senate Executive Committee (SEC), prepared a letter on behalf of the faculty members of the GSU Senate Executive Committee and sent it to the BOR on October 12, 2021. The letter respectfully requested that the BOR delay the vote to revise USG policies on faculty promotion, tenure, and post-tenure review until there could be further dialog between USG officers and faculty who have questions about the policies. There was a question from the floor regarding whether there could be possible repercussions from USG. Provost Hensel informed the Senate that they are asking USG for an extension on the post-tenure review policy and the timing could affect their willingness to do so.

There was a motion to approve 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 on time since the last Senate meeting. The committee approved a proposal for a termination for deactivation and reviewed two program changes in RCB.

**Admissions and Standards (Patrick Freer, chair):** The committee has engaged in committee work, but the full committee has not met since the last Senate meeting. They are working on an agenda for a full committee meeting.

**Athletics (Chester Phillips, chair):** The committee met has met once since the last Senate meeting. The committee would like to acknowledge the success of the GSU Men’s soccer team who advanced to the second round of the NCAA tournament marking the first NCAA tournament win in program history.

**Budget (Unil Perera, chair):** The committee has met three times since the last Senate meeting. Last year the subcommittee worked on retirement issues mainly looking at the differences between TIA and TRS. The committee co-sponsored with the Faculty Affairs Committee and submitted the retirement report to the Senate. The report included various suggestions including changes to the benefit webpage. The committee is working with Sr VP for Finance & Administration, Jerry
Rackliffe, and Associate VP for HR, Ann Williamson, to see how the suggestions in the report may be implemented on the benefits website.

Commencement (M. Brian Blake, chair): Commencement is scheduled to be held on December 14th and 15th. The inclement weather ceremony is scheduled for December 16th. Dr. Blake stated that he is willing to shake hands with the students as they cross the stage during commencement.

Cultural Diversity (Erin Morrey, Vice-chair): The committee has met one time since the last Senate meeting. The committee continues to discuss the potential impacts of the new BOR post-tenure review policy on faculty, and how the policy might disproportionately impact faculty of color and those from underrepresented populations. The committee had a very informative meeting with Dr. Nicolle Parsons-Pollard, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, last week. The committee will use the helpful information that she provided in determining their response to the new changes. Provost Hensel replied to a letter that the committee sent to her regarding critical race theory and social justice in the curriculum. Based on that response, the committee is formulating action items to help protect faculty that are attacked for presenting CRT and social justice issues in their courses. The committee is also looking into how to best help PC campuses with regards to addressing timeliness for campus facilities request regarding serious concerns such as leaks and mold detection affecting student instruction. Students have been moved from face-to-face instruction to online lab classes along with faculty displacement from offices this fall semester. The subcommittees are looking at ways to make the individual campuses and the complete university more accessible and inclusive for students, faculty, and staff.

Executive Committee (Michelle Brattain, chair): The committee has met one time since the last Senate meeting. The committee discussed the proposals on the agenda today. The faculty members of the SEC met on Monday to nominate faculty to serve on the FPTR Committee. The nominees were as follows: (1) Ritu Aneja-Biology/COAS (2) Tanya Washington, College of Law (3) Catharina Chang, Counseling and Psychological Services/CEHD (4) Akinyele Umoja-Africana Studies/COAS (5) Deborah Manson-English/PC. All nominees have accepted and will serve on the committee.

Faculty Affairs (Robert Maxwell, chair): The committee has met once since the last Senate meeting. The committee finalized the proposal on the agenda today. The next meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2021. The committee hopes to finalize the Associate Dean Evaluation tool.

IIT (Chris Goode, chair): The committee has not met since the last Senate meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2021. The committee will consult for fee proposals. Accepted fee proposals for 22-23-status reports were due for the 2021 awards in June. Units that do not finalize FY 21 awards by December, will not be eligible for funds for next year.

Library (Terry Pechacek for LeAnne Richardson, chair): The committee has not met since the last Senate meeting. The committee will continue to discuss open access policy and following the lead of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies on this matter.

Planning and Development (Jared Poley, chair): The committee has met twice since the last Senate meeting. The committee heard a report from Michael Galchinsky, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, regarding OIE. The committee also received an update on buildings/facilities from Ramesh Vakamudi, VP for Facilities.

Research (Rose Sevcik, chair): The committee has met two times since the last Senate Committee. The committee discussed the overview of the pool of recent dissertation proposals submitted for review. Information was provided regarding the new Research Core Task Force recently convened by Tim Denning, VP of Research and Economic Development. This small group of
investigators will conduct a formal and thorough assessment of GSU’s recent research cores. This includes reviewing examples of research core structure at other R1 institutions to understand potential best practices in management and sustaining of research core facilities. Tim Denning provided an update about the issues related to purchases and legal reviews to the committee. A meeting with Purchasing and Legal Affairs resulted in some helpful progress. Jerry Rackliffe presented the committee with an overview of how the university budget works and covered general projections for FY 2023.

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. Dr. Kathryn Crowther served as a guest speaker. She discussed concerns from students regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion. She also provided information on an SGA initiative called United Student Organizations, which is designed to increase community for students via Registered Student Organization (RSO) involvement. Boyd Beckwith, Senior Director, Student Center, presented information on the Atlanta Campus Student Life area and the Student Center. He discussed the organizational chart for Student Life/Student Center, the movement of offices within the student center, the eight primary groupings in Student Engagement reporting to Dr. Sanseviro, VP, Student Engagement and Programs, the makeup of the Student Center Advisory Council, departments in the Student Life area, and student center usage data, which is still down from pre-pandemic. The committee also approved several student organizations.

Sustainability (Michael Black, co-chair): The committee is working on actions to address climate change and climate resiliency. Their initial focus is on climate resiliency in the GSU properties around Woodruff Park. They are specifically addressing storm water and microclimate. A student sustainability fee supported project implemented this summer by three GSU students, a GSU faculty member, and Sherwood Engineers details some of the challenges and opportunities with those spaces. The committee will meet in January to discuss these issues later with President Blake. Dr. Andrew Reeves from Wales will present to the committee on Wales’ 100% recycle policy tomorrow at 10 am. Chair Black reminded the members that the student sustainability fees are on the Sustainability website. The deadline is tomorrow at 5 pm. The committee is also working to address the sustainability resolution that was passed and sent to the members and past immediate GSU President Becker by SGA.

University Statutes and Senate Bylaws (Todd Hendricks, chair): The committee has met twice since the last Senate meeting. The committee met regarding the two proposals presented to the Senate today.

OLD BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Since there was no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Dionne Polite, Assistant to the Senate