Senate Faculty Affairs Committee
MINUTES
April 15, 1999


Members absent: Martha Abbott-Shim, Marsha Clarkson, Carolyn Denard, Bernadette Hartfield, Juane Heflin, Ronald Henry, Julie Hotchkiss, Greg Lewis, Ramona Matthews, Jim Senn, Veda Storey.

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by the chair, Gabor Patonay. Dr. Patonay welcomed all new members to this committee.

The first item of business was the approval of the March 24, 1999 minutes. The minutes were approved with no changes.

The next item of business was the election of a new chair. Gabor Patonay and Diane Willen were nominated. Both indicated that they were willing to serve and gave a brief statement. The committee members introduced themselves while ballots were distributed. Dr. Patonay mentioned that the first item of business of the new chair would be to find a permanent committee assistant. The former assistant, Jim Bohanan, stopped serving as assistant in January and since that time there have been temporary assistants filling in as needed. The ballots were collected and tallied. Diane Willen was elected chair.

The next item of business was committee reports. Dr. Willen gave her report on the bookstore. She distributed business cards of the new textbook manager, Mark Wigand, and some stickers with the faculty hotline phone number. The bookstore is connected to GroupWise, but Dr. Willen reported that the system is not presently functioning. She will contact Bonnie Murphy regarding this problem. Mr. Wigand informed Dr. Willen that his plan for Fall semester is to have all the textbooks on the shelves two weeks before classes begin. She encouraged committee members to go over to the bookstore and look at some of the changes that they have made. All feedback is welcome. The subcommittee will act upon an earlier suggestion that it expand its purview to include other bookstores and commercial academic support services such as the photocopying and printshop services.

A question was raised about the Post Office. Dick Miller relayed a negative experience he had with a proposal that needed to be postmarked on by a particular day. After receiving assurances from the Post Office employee that it would be taken care of, Dr. Miller was informed sometime later that his proposal was disqualified because the postmark was for the day after he dropped it off. Dr. Patonay stated that he has always had his important mail hand stamped at the window and that the Post Office employees are always willing to comply. There was some discussion about various problems with international mail.

Vice President Decatur stated that the Post Office does report to him through Business Services. He stated that he was aware of the problems in the Post Office. A thorough review was done a few years ago which led to a number of changes: there has been a change in the contractor, there is new management, and tests are routinely run on intra-university mail. He indicated that these were the first complaints he had heard in quite a while. The international mail issue was reviewed extensively a year ago and after running tests it was discovered that the mail would get to the particular country in a timely manner but then the mail can no longer be tracked once it gets into that country's mail service. Dr. Willen suggested adding a Post Office subcommittee to do some research and report back to the full committee.

There was a brief discussion about offensive music being played on the plaza. It was suggested that rather than this committee looking into this, this item be forwarded to the Student Life and Development Committee for consideration. One suggestion was that the bands be moved from the library plaza to the plaza in front of the new Student Center.

Dr. Decatur mentioned that the Follett bookstore lost $750,000 on the Georgia State bookstore last year. The university didn't lose money, however, because it takes a percentage of the gross. There is a new textbook manager and a new bookstore manager. Also, the southeast regional manager from Follett has been working directly with the Georgia State bookstore to try to improve the operation.

Roger Weed presented the report for the conflict of interest subcommittee in the absence of its chair, Juane Heflin. The subcommittee met again to revise the draft policy. Dr. Willen stated that the policy should be passed by Faculty Affairs and forwarded to the Executive Committee in the fall. Juane Heflin was commended for all her hard work and
patience while working on this document.

Yezdi Bhada presented the report for the subcommittee on Part-Time Instructors in the absence of its chair, Mona Matthews. They have been meeting every two weeks and are making progress. It has agreed on the role of part-time instructors at Georgia State and is now going to be discussing professional issues. Progress is slow but steady. A question was raised regarding the subcommittee’s discussion of compensation because FACP is already discussing this issue. Dr. Bhada explained that the subcommittee is developing general guidelines for benefits and compensation. Richard Deane asked where non-tenure track faculty fit into this discussion. Dr. Willen responded that the subcommittee can review non-tenure track faculty and part-time instructors, but for now the subcommittee is focusing on the PTI issues. Dr. Deane asked if there was a university strategy regarding the appropriate ratio of NNT and PTI faculty. Dr. Bhada stated that this is a sensitive issue and he felt a step-by-step approach would be more advantageous. Dr. Deane volunteered to serve on this subcommittee. Phyllis Johnson stated that the Budget Committee is discussing the PTI issue as well and she hopes that all these different committees aren't going off in different directions. Carol Winkler pointed out that governance is another issue for the subcommittee to consider: where the NNT and PTIs fit into university governance.

Dick Miller presented the report on behalf of the benefits subcommittee. The subcommittee is in a transition period since the former chair retired. Several issues are being discussed.

Dr. Willen will circulate a list of subcommittees electronically so that members can choose assignments for the coming year. It was suggested that the committee choose liaison persons for some issues rather than forming a subcommittee. Next, Dr. Willen asked for nominations for vice-chair of Faculty Affairs. Marsha Clarkson was nominated. Since there were no further nominations, the nominations were closed and Dr. Clarkson was elected by acclamation.

Dave Pavesic recognized Gabor Patonay for all his hard work in chairing the committee for the last several years. Dr. Patonay was given a round of applause.

There was some discussion about setting the calendar for upcoming meetings. Since many faculty do not know their fall schedules, Dr. Willen will suggest a first meeting time in early September and then one of the agenda items for that meeting will be to schedule the rest of the year. Dr. Willen asked that committee members who are not on GroupWise give her their e-mail addresses.

There being no further business, Dr. Willen adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nell Stone
substitute committee assistant