
Members absent: Roger Presley, Kimberly Smith, Tracy Van Voris, Carol Winkler.

The meeting was called to order by the chair, Murray Brown, at 10:40 a.m. The first item of business was the approval of the February 20th minutes. The minutes were approved with no changes.

The next item of business was a proposal to modify the membership of the Budget Committee. The proposal changes the staff membership from two SAC members with one of them being the SAC president to one staff senator and the president of SAC. The question was called. The motion passed.

The next item was a proposal from the Cultural Diversity Committee to modify committee membership and duties. The Cultural Diversity Committee has been working on this all year. The changes reflect the change in the campus demographics from when this committee was created to the present. There was some discussion of the term “a tripartite annual Cultural Diversity Report”. This seemed ambiguous. There was a motion to delete the words “a tripartite” and replace them with “an”. The question was called. The motion as amended passed.

The next item was a proposal to modify the University Statutes, Article VI. Section 1. This amendment would exclude faculty members whose appointments are temporary or visiting from the census for determining senate representation. The committee agreed that the definition of faculty in the Statutes, Article V, Section 1 was clear and it included all full time faculty, including those with visiting and temporary appointments. Amy Lederberg prepared this proposal in order to amend Article VI, Section 1 so that it would be in alignment with the current practice of not counting visiting and temporary faculty in the census for senate representation.

The floor was opened for discussion. Several points were made regarding this potential change. Ellen Podgor stated that it made sense to make this change since visiting and temporary faculty have no vested interest in the university. In addition, adding these faculty to the departmental counts give those departments who utilize this category of faculty a greater voice in the Senate, however, the visiting and temporary faculty would have no voice themselves. Legitimizing this status by allowing them to count in the census would reward and encourage departments and colleges to continue to hire people in this category.

Non-tenure track faculty and one-year appointments were discussed. Tim Crimmins argued that not allowing visiting and temporary faculty in the head count was treating them differently from other full-time faculty. He stated that lecturers (which do count in the census) also have short term appointments and may not have a vested interest in the university either. There was some discussion of long-term and short-term faculty. Discussion continued. John Marshall mentioned that when the Statutes were originally written, there was no status called visiting and temporary. The original intent of the Statutes was that all full time faculty be counted in the census. Georgia State has changed its hiring practices and as a result changed the application of this Statute. This proposal would align the Statute with its original intent. The question was called. The motion to exclude visiting and temporary faculty from the departmental census for Senate membership passed.

Since there was no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nell Stone,
Committee Assistant