MINUTES  
UNIVERSITY SENATE  
April 16, 2009


ORDER: The chair, President Mark Becker, called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

MINUTES: The minutes of the March 12, 2009 Senate meeting were approved with no changes.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. **Election of the 2009-2010 Executive Committee.** Dr. Becker opened the floor for nominations. The names were recorded as nominated:
   - Dabney Dixon, College of Arts and Sciences
   - Bill Prigge, Staff Senator
   - Paul Alberto, College of Education
   - Jeff Rupp, College of Education
   - Elizabeth Beck, College of Health and Human Sciences
   - Don Reitzes, College of Arts and Sciences
   - Siva Nathan, Robinson College of Business

   The nominations were closed. Dr. Becker asked the senators to complete their ballots. The ballots were collected and tallied. While waiting on the results, the chair continued with new business.

B. The Executive Committee recommends a “do pass” on the following agenda items:

1. **Revise the pass/fail grading option** presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This policy is modeled after similar policies in effect at GIT and UGA. This will allow for classes to be taught on a pass/fail (S/U) basis. Colleges must “opt in” to allow a particular class be graded using this system. The question was called. The motion passed.

2. **Motion on the grading system** presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This policy adds the following: all sections of the same course in a particular semester must use the same grading system and cross-listed courses at the same level must use the same grading system. The question was called. The motion passed.

3. **Change Section 311.02 of the Faculty Handbook** presented by the Faculty Affairs Committee; Peggy Albers, chair. This change will provide the first official statement of what questions are required of all colleges on the student evaluation of instructors (SEI). The question was called. The motion passed.

4. **Procedures for student access to SEI results** presented by the Faculty Affairs Committee; Peggy Albers, chair. Students will be able view the quantitative responses to the SEI results through GoSolar. Cherian Thachenkary suggested a friendly amendment to delete the additional columns of information provided on the screen that is not stated in this motion. Dr. Albers accepted his friendly amendment. The floor was opened for comments. There was concern that deleting this information would...
weaken the interpretability. Rather than considering the friendly amendment, Dr. Thachenkary asked the committee chair to withdraw the motion from the agenda at this time. This will allow the full committee to deliberate further on the issue. Dr. Albers agreed to withdraw the motion.

5. **Extend the interim motion on tenure clock stoppage** presented by the Faculty Affairs Committee; Peggy Albers, chair. This would extend the interim motion until December 2009 or until a more permanent policy is drafted and forwarded to the University Senate for approval. The question was called. The motion passed.

C. **Nominations Report** presented by the Nominations Committee; Don Reitzes for Shelby Frost, chair. The report was presented as distributed. Dr. Reitzes added a friendly amendment to include the staff and student senator appointments distributed as the senators entered. The question was called. The motion passed.

The chair called on Paul Alberto, Executive Committee chair to make an announcement. On behalf of the Executive Committee, Dr. Alberto made the following remarks:

"Mr. President, though this is the first meeting of the new senate, and the first meeting for some members here today, it is the last meeting for a member who has provided long and distinguished service to Georgia State University and the academy nationally. It is the last meeting for Provost Ron Henry.

1. Dr. Henry has served as guardian of the integrity of this academic enterprise and facilitated the development of new programs and degrees. He has taken particular steps to ensure and foster excellence through expanding doctoral degree offerings and initiating special projects such as the highly successful areas of focus.

2. Due to his stewardship of the budget during difficult budget years, the effects of budget cuts are mediated by the prudence of his guidance of the university budget. Even during these difficult times there have been advances of academic programs and increases in the number of tenure and tenure track faculty.

3. Guiding growth of the student body. Fifteen years ago, when Provost Henry arrived on campus, we had 1,800 applications for our fall freshman class; 644 students enrolled, averaging 995 on the SAT exam. This fall, we have over 12,000 applications for a fall freshman class of almost 3,000 students. They will average around 1100 on the SAT exam.

In all areas Dr. Henry has shown himself to be a skilled and consummate steward of this academic community."

Dr. Alberto’s remarks were met with enthusiastic applause. Provost Henry thanked everyone for the applause and recognition. He stated that this is a community effort and that it was wonderful working with everyone over the years.

The chair reviewed the four information items included in the senators’ packets.

The chair announced the six senators elected to the Senate Executive Committee for the 2009-2010 year: Paul Alberto, Elizabeth Beck, Dabney Dixon, Siva Nathan, Don Reitzes, and Jeff Rupp.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** Since there was no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Nell Stone
Secretary to the Senate