

**Gordon State College**  
**Faculty Senate**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 14, 3:30PM**  
**Online via Skype**

**Call to Order:** Chair of the Faculty Senate Frank Winters called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

**Faculty Senators Present:** Erik McCarthy (Humanities), Lisa Ferguson (Fine & Performing Arts), John George (Math, Computer Science & Engineering), Stephen Raynie (Humanities), Kris Beck (History & Political Science), Prathibha Joshi-Beck (Business & Public Service), Peter Boltz (Humanities), Cori Newton (Natural Science), Inez Jones (Natural Science), Beverly Eskridge (Hightower Collaborative Learning Center & Library), Beth Pollock (School of Education), Caesar Perkowski (at-large), Stephen Powers (at-large), Theresa Stanley (at-large), Frank Winters (at-large)

**Faculty Senators Absent:** Christy Skinner (Nursing & Health Sciences)

**Non-Voting Members:** President Nooks and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Knighton

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**Adoption of the Agenda:** *Senator Eskridge moved to adopt the agenda and was seconded. Senator Raynie moved to add Faculty Senate committee reports to the agenda; the motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote. Without further discussion the amended agenda was approved by unanimous vote.*

**Suspension of the Rules:** *Senator Eskridge moved to suspend the rules; the motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.*

**Approval of Minutes:** *Senator McCarthy moved to approve the August 17<sup>th</sup> minutes; the motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.*

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**Committee and Council Reports:**

**A. Academic Assessment Committee (Senator Eskridge)**

*The Academic Assessment Committee met on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. using Zoom. After some technical difficulties, the meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate Representative Beverly Eskridge. The first item on the agenda was the election of Chair and Recorder. Dr. Jane-Marie McKinney is the chair and Beverly Eskridge is the recorder for 2020-2021. Chair McKinney conducted the remainder of the meeting. Under Old Business, Dr. McKinney informed the committee members that she will be emailing them to attend a meeting to complete the evaluation of the two programs from 2019-2020 that were not finished Spring Semester 2020 due to the closure of the college because of COVID-19. These programs are Health Information Management and Human Services. New business was the need to evaluate the following two academic programs for 2020-2021: Business & Public Service and Education. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Next meeting date TBD.*

**B. Academic Judicial Committee (Senator Boltz)**

*The committee met via Skype on Sept. 10, 2020, 3:30 p.m. The first order of business was the election of a chair and recorder. Dr. Duffus nominated herself as chair and without further nominations, she was acclaimed chair. Dr. Nobles nominated herself as recorder and without further nominations, she was acclaimed recorder. With no further new business, the committee discussed the Judicial Committees '19-'20 summary to last year's senate. In particular, the committee focused on a question last year's committee had not resolved. That is, should the Student Code of Conduct, approved June 5, 2020, make the Senate's Academic Judicial Committee redundant? Next meeting date TBD.*

**C. Academic Planning & Budget Committee (Senator Raynie)**

*The committee met on September 2 and elected Professor Lisa Ferguson as Chair and Dr. Franklin Williamson as recorder. Dr. Knighton reviewed his priorities for the academic year: New degrees and review of the status of old ones; professional development plan for faculty; operationalizing the EDGE; addressing motivation and morale issues. The next meeting is scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:30 via Skype.*

**D. Academic Policy Committee (Senator Pollock)**

*The committee met at 3:30 to vote on a committee chair (Dr. Kris Beck elected) and a recorder (Dr. Claudia Sliminski elected). There was no old business to discuss. For new business, Dr. Vilchiz informed the committee that the Health Information Management program (HIM) was expecting an accreditation visit on September 10th. Once he receives the final report from the on-site visit, he will be submitting some program changes to HIM, depending on areas identified in need of improvement. He suggested this submission would take place in a few weeks. After this, it was decided by the committee that Dr. Beck would send out potential dates for the next meeting via email. Since there were no other announcements, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and was concluded at 3:44pm. Next meeting date TBD.*

**E. Admissions, Advisement, Registration, Retention & Financial Aid Committee (Senator Newton)**

*The AARRFA Committee met on August 28th and September 11th via zoom. On August 28th, the committee elected Dr. Cori Newton as chair and Dr. Jeremy Richards as recorder. During both meetings Dr. John Head provided updates on the current enrollment and recruitment practices. Additionally, faculty members discussed strategies for increasing recruitment of new students. Next meeting date TBD.*

**F. Collaborative Learning Center & Library Committee (Senator Joshi-Beck)**

*The Library Committee met online via Zoom on 09/10/2020 and a quorum was established. The Committee elected the Officers: Chair and the Recorder. The Librarian, Dr. Angiah Davis, took charge of both the duties of the positions. Ms. Davis announced that one of the goals of the Library this year was to have a virtual/on-campus faculty exhibit. Next meeting date TBD.*

**G.** Faculty Development Committee (Senator George)

*The Faculty Development Committee is scheduled to meet on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00.*

**H.** Faculty Welfare Committee (Senator McCarthy & Senator Ferguson)

*The Faculty Welfare Committee met on September 9 at 4:30. Dr. Theresa Stanley was elected chair. The election of recorder was tabled until the next meeting. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.*

**I.** General Education Committee (Senator George)

*The General Education Committee did not meet.*

**J.** Gordon State College Statutes Committee (Senator Winters)

*The Statutes Committee met on August 31 at 3:30. There was no business. Next meeting will take place on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:30.*

**K.** Instructional Technology & eLearning Committee (Senator Beck)

*Report pending.*

**L.** Ad Hoc Committee on Student Learning and Success (Winters)

*No report.*

**M.** Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Compensation (Raynie)

*The committee is continuing to gather data. Next meeting date TBD.*

**N.** USG Faculty Council Update (Stanley)

*The Faculty Council met on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Representatives previously agreed that it would be useful if we met within our tiers. It has become apparent that the resources available to colleges and universities in the system vary widely, and we might better discuss our concerns with those facing similar challenges. Some of the equity issues we discussed include access to technology/connectivity, proctored exam/testing capabilities (some bigger institutions talk about being limited by only having the capability to test a thousand(!) students/day), and COVID response/safety. We also discussed how the state college voice tends to get lost in many Faculty Council discussions and in the USG in general, even though we are the largest tier. By meeting more regularly as a tier, we hope to be able to formulate a more robust response to the issues at hand. Other issues on the radar (and certainly on the agenda for the USGFC official meeting in October). Post-tenure review – as you might have seen in eClips, the system has convened a working group to review post-tenure review. Of the 12 people on the committee, rumor is that only 4 or 5 are faculty. What is wrong with the current system, you ask? We don't know. But "something" must have changed since it was last reviewed. Sounds like the core redesign rhetoric that the current core is "broken." Speaking of core, core redesign will probably get back on track. Dr. Denley has indicated some changes have been made since we last saw the proposal in response to input from some of the RACs. When/if I see anything I will certainly share that with you, although certainly others on campus are likely to see it before I do.*

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## Unfinished Business:

### A. Update on items from previous meeting:

*The resolutions and questions passed by the Senate on August 17 were forwarded to the President. With regard to the reopening plan, all decisions are made at the system level. With regard to a COVID-19 status report, the College has since taken steps towards transparent reporting. With regard to the spirit mark, the entire process cost \$23,000; rebranding was part of the Strategic Plan, and the budget has to support the plan. With regard to Club Football, the program is self-sustaining through player fees; it does not cost the College anything. With regard to the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable communities, the College will assist any student who experiences challenges.*

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## New Business:

### A. Update on Covid-19 Testing Protocol and Weekly Status Report (McCarthy)

**SUMMARY:** *The Coronavirus Information and Resources page contains a “Communication” link that outlines the testing protocol. The College has approximately 450 tests on hand, with the option to purchase more should the need arise. According to the Health Center, any student presenting COVID-19 symptoms who tests negative for flu and strep will be tested for COVID-19 and quarantined. The USG issued no directions about whether to report, how to report, or what to include in the report; these decisions have been left up to the individual institutions. The total number of students in quarantine will be added to the COVID-19 Status Report. The self-reporting protocol is defined in the Return to Campus Guide (page 12). An easy-to-find link to this information will be made available on the Coronavirus Information and Resources page. There has been no agreement on how to disaggregate the data in the COVID-19 Status Report, although it has been recommended that it would be helpful to know the infection rate for resident students.*

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## Announcements:

### A. AAUP – Amanda Duffus

*The AAUP will meet before the end of September.*

### B. Faculty Senate Chair Frank Winters

*None.*

### C. Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Jeff Knighton

*Dr. Knighton announced that HIMA’s accreditation visit was a success; official word should come sometime in November. He thanked Professor Victoria Mills and Dean Vilchiz for their work. On a similar note, SACSCOC has approved the Health & Wellness baccalaureate degree program. The Creative Industry Arts program has not been approved; nor was it on the agenda at the BoR’s September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Approval of new programs going forward will depend in part on employer*

*demand and projected earning potential for graduates. For faculty developing a no-cost textbook option for their courses, the deadline for Affordable Learning Georgia grants is Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>. The USG is accepting nominees for System Awards; anyone interested should contact Professor Higgins-Harrell. CourseLeaf training is underway. The System is impressed that 100% of GSC faculty are now certified to teach online.*

**D. President Kirk Nooks**

*Dr. Nooks began by thanking the faculty for completing online teaching certification. The Strategic Planning and Budget Committee met on 9/11 and elected a chair (Erik McCarthy) and recorder (Joy Matthews); the committee will meet on the second Friday of each month. He announced there will be two "Enrollment Management Town Hall" meetings, the first on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 and the second on the 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. He stressed that we need to look at opportunities collectively; enrollment management requires broad institutional collaboration (everyone can contribute). Nine different dates and times have been scheduled for the College to meet and discuss diversity issues. These meetings are not mandatory, but Dr. Nooks encourages everyone to come and learn together. Dr. Joseph Mayo is our faculty representative on the Intercollegiate Athletics Council, which meets quarterly (next meeting sometime in October); this organization provides a vehicle for feedback on our athletics program. Our new Human Resources Director, Madeline Brown, will join us on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The President announced an audit of shared governance, with the stated goal of reviewing committee structure across the College and to making recommendations for changes where appropriate. He reminded the faculty that he keeps office hours and is willing to meet either F2F or via Zoom. He is willing to do class visits as well. The Annual Fund will begin on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> with two different kickoff events (virtual and F2F). He stressed the importance of full participation from faculty, staff, and the Foundation Board when trying to persuade external donors. According to the U.S. News & World Report's annual college rankings, Gordon State College is ranked 18<sup>th</sup> out of the top regional colleges in the South; this is the first time the College has been ranked in recent years. The President thanked Dr. McCarthy for working with him on COVID-19 questions and concerns. As far as reporting goes, he prioritizes accuracy and consistency and wants to avoid unmanageable expectations (there are challenges of collecting data, fact checking, etc.). He does not want to run afoul of HIPAA guidelines by inadvertently disclosing personal information. As of right now, he believes the situation is under control, but we are closely monitoring the health of the campus community. Finally, he shared that the expectation from the USG is that we will continue in our current instructional format for spring semester.*

**Adjournment:** *Secretary McCarthy moved to adjourn at 4:45; the motion was seconded and adopted.*

*Dr. Erik McCarthy  
Faculty Senate Secretary*