Call to Order: Chair of the Faculty Senate Tony Pearson called the meeting to order at 3:32.

Faculty Senators present: Bernard Anderson (Math and Natural Science), James Awbrey (Business and Public Service), Kris Beck (History and Political Science), Prathiba Joshi Beck (Business and Public Service), Melissa Harrison (Associate of Science in Nursing), Erik McCarthy (Humanities), Cortney McLeod (Humanities), Cori Newton (Math and Natural Science), Andy Osborne (Math and Natural Science), Tony Pearson (Fine and Performing Arts), Caesar Perkowski (Humanities), Jim Rickerson (Hightower Collaborative Learning Center & Library), Amy Yarbrough (Associate of Science in Nursing)

Faculty Senators absent: Jeff White (School of Education)

Quorum: Yes

Non-Voting Members: President Kirk Nooks, Provost and Vice President Academic Affairs Knighton

Suspension of the Rules: Senator Osborne moved to suspend the rules to allow non-senators to speak; the motion was seconded and adopted.

Approval of Minutes: Senator McCarthy moved to approve the Minutes of the November 7, 2018 meeting; the motion was seconded and the Minutes approved by unanimous vote.

Committee Reports:

1. Academic Assessment Committee – Senator Osborne
   
   No report. Next meeting date and location to be determined.

2. Academic Judicial Committee – Senators Beck and Newton
   
   No report. Next meeting date and location to be determined.

3. Academic Policy Committee – Senator McCarthy
   
   No report. Next meeting date and location to be determined.

4. Admissions, Advisement, Registration, Retention, and Financial Aid Committee – Senator Harrison
   
   No report. Next meeting date and location to be determined.

5. Budget Advisory Committee –
   
   No report. Next meeting date and location to be determined.
6. Faculty Development Committee – Senator Perkowski

The committee met on November 7, 2018, at 4:30pm in Russell 325. The submitted proposals were reviewed and the funds were allocated to the successful applications. The recipients have been notified by email. The spring deadline for proposals will be March 31, 2019. The committee will meet on April 10, 2019, at 3:30pm in Russell 325 to review the proposals.

7. Faculty Welfare Committee – Senators Anderson and Yarbrough

The Faculty Welfare Committee met on November 12, 2018, and again on January 14, 2019. At the November meeting, the committee reviewed the updated Title IX and Religious Holidays statements, and approved the amended section of Faculty Handbook §7.7. At the January meeting, the committee discussed issues concerning faculty. The next committee meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2019, at 3:30 pm, in Library Conference Room 220.

8. General Education Committee – Senator Awbrey

No report. Next meeting date and location to be determined.


The Statutes Committee reviewed a revised proposal to amend the Faculty Handbook, Chapter 7.7. While it was evident that faculty welfare had done an excellent job revising the proposal in response to the original concerns, there were still some minor adjustments that needed to be made before coming to the senate floor. The proposal was tabled until those adjustments could be made. The next committee meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2019, at 3:30 pm, in the President’s Conference Room.

10. Instructional Technology & eLearning Committee – Senator McLeod

No report. Next meeting date and location to be determined.

11. Library Committee – Senator Joshi Beck

No report. Next meeting date and location to be determined.

12. Planning Committee – Senator Rickerson

The committee met on November 27th. Dr. Nooks provided an overview of the work our committee will be undertaking over the next few months. USG has allowed us to complete a strategic plan for the college which will be due in May 2019. The committee will identify operational items. The budget will be guided by the strategic plan we create. The plan we adopt will be grounded in data. To that end the committee will gather and review data from surveys, reports, and listening sessions.

Greg Wilson and Sid Johnson from the Carl Vinson Institute walked the committee through the steps we will take to arrive at our plan. These steps are:

i. In December we conduct a Town hall meeting to give input on the vision and look at our values survey.
ii. Meeting 2 will focus on operational issues and identifying actionable items from the data review.

iii. Meeting 3 will consist of metadata analysis. We will determine what our student profiles look like, what skills we want our graduates to have, conduct a SWOT analysis, and prepare a summary of key themes.

iv. Meeting 4 will consist of reviewing our priority areas and the strategies we will nest into each area. The committee will also draft action items and the ways we can measure success. At the conclusion of this meeting the committee will produce a short strategic plan and our vision for the next 5 years.

Greg Wilson will help us prepare Key Performance Indicators for meeting 4 as well as consult with us on the preparation of our strategic plan.

The committee met again on December 12th. The attendees broke out into small groups. Each table consisted of five to six persons with a steering committee member at each table. One person at each table recorded the conversation on a laptop which displayed responses via a software platform called ThinkTank. This allowed each table to collaborate with each other and see responses in real-time.

1. Dr. Nook’s addressed what he felt were his top 10 point/takeaways from the data collected thus far, as well as discussions he has had with the campus community. While we are working on the strategic plan he would like us to consider the following:

   a. How are we tracking data to meet certain thresholds? The plan will have to demonstrate with data how we meet our goals.
   b. What values are we missing? How do we ensure equity among all student groups we serve?
   c. Our future rests on our ability to embrace our state college mission.
   d. Our access mission is who we are. How will our actions demonstrate our ability to create the best learning environment to meet student needs?
   e. How do we expand our capacity? (1) Work with the Foundation, (2) We need strong articulation agreements
   f. We need to realign our budget in a sustainable way. The plan will drive our budget decisions.
   g. Our actions must follow our aspirations.
   h. The community knows the Gordon that we have shown them.
   i. Our students must believe that we will take the steps to ensure what is in their best interest.
   j. Our vital signs are good not great.

2. Next, Sid Johnson and Greg Wilson walked the group through a set of questions designed to help us brainstorm answers to such questions as:
   a. What do you want GSC to be known for?
   b. What are barriers that get in the way of serving students?
   c. What are our institutional risks and challenges?

Following this exercise the answers were reviewed for common themes. The difference between an operational and strategic plan was also discussed.
Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

New Course Proposal:

INST 4900 Interdisciplinary Studies Senior Capstone: This capstone course for the Interdisciplinary Studies degree asks students to demonstrate the integration of the coursework in their degree journey culminating in either a rigorous academic research project or completion of a professional internship.

Discussion was opened by motion from Senator McCarthy and was seconded. Senator McCarthy disclosed that the course description does not align with system practice of distinguishing between capstone “research projects” and “internships.” After clarification from Dr. Knighton and discussion, Senator McCarthy moved to strike all internship language from the proposal and to vote on the amended document, with the understanding that the “internship option” for the Interdisciplinary Studies Senior Capstone would be revisited as a separate new course proposal at a later date; the motion was seconded by Senator Osborne, and the amended new course proposal for INST 4900 was approved by unanimous vote.

Course Alterations and Eliminations:

MATH 2101 Introductory Statistics. Course description change. New description brings Gordon into alignment with common course number, title and description created by the University System for this course. New course number and name will be MATH 1401 Elementary Statistics

Discussion was opened by motion from Senator Osborne and was seconded; after brief discussion, the proposal to alter MATH 2101 passed by unanimous vote.

MATH 1401 Survey of Calculus. Elimination of course. Rationale: This course has not been taught since Spring of 2003. However, the course has never been eliminated. Further, this elimination makes room for the Elementary Statistics course which will have the 1401 designation.

Discussion was opened by motion from Senator Awbrey and was seconded. Without discussion, the proposal to eliminate MATH 1401 passed by unanimous vote. Afterwards, Professor Betkowski sought clarification on proposed changes to MATH 2101 (above). With the understanding that these changes included not only a new course description, but also a new title and course number (MATH 1401), and also understanding that MATH 1401 (Survey of Calculus) had been eliminated by Senate vote, Senator Anderson moved to re-vote on the proposal to alter MATH 2101; the motion was seconded and the proposal to alter MATH 2101 passed by unanimous vote.
Announcements:

President Kirk Nooks reviewed several key items from his January 2019 Nooks Note. He reviewed the process and timeline for both Vice President searches, and for inauguration week and the investiture ceremony later this spring; he provided an update on the progress of the Strategic Plan Committee, which should wrap up its work in April, and stressed the importance of tying our budget to the strategic plan; he summarized last week’s budget hearing at the system office, touching on the challenges presented by several auxiliary accounts; he announced that the marketing and branding survey is nearing completion, and that a “brand book” is forthcoming which should provide useful insights in how to brand and market ourselves; finally, if our enrollment numbers hold, we will have met our budget projections for spring semester, which he said should loosen some funding for travel.

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Jeff Knighton was pleased to announce a spring retention rate of 74%, which marks a big improvement over last year; he informed the Senate about plans to renovate Academic Building beginning this summer, which will necessitate campus-wide adjustments next fall; he announced that he will once again conduct Town hall meetings and roving, “on the go” office hours this spring; he reminded the Senate of the upcoming Teaching Matters Conference, for which funds are available for those who wish to attend, and added that a Teaching Matters presentation will count the same as attending a regional or national conference in terms of professional development; he provided an update on the progress of the three—yep, three!—dean searches currently under way, stating that all three search committees will be charged by the end of next week, and that faculty input will be needed; he concluded by encouraging folks to bundle up and join Professors Schmude and Davies for a lunar eclipse viewing at Summers Field.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:14 PM by motion from Senator Osborne.

Recorded by Senator McCarthy