Call to Order: Chair of the Faculty Senate Tony Pearson called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM.

Faculty Senators present: Bernard Anderson (Math and Natural Science), James Awbrey (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), Jeff White (School of Education), Amy Yarbrough (Associate of Science in Nursing)

Faculty Senators absent: Kris Beck (History and Political Science), Prathiba Joshi Beck (Business and Public Service), Caesar Perkowski (Humanities), Jim Rickerson (Hightower Collaborative Learning Center & Library)

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 August 15th, 2018 meeting; the motion was seconded and the Minutes approved by unanimous vote.

Committee Reports:

1. Academic Assessment Committee – Senator Osborne

   The Academic Assessment Committee held its first meeting on Monday, August 27 at 4:30 p.m. in Russell 325. Brian Webb was elected as Chair of the Committee; Trisha Walker was elected as Recorder for the Committee. The committee held a brief discussion concerning the committee’s responsibilities including assessment of Associate of Arts degree in Gen. Ed. and Associate of Science degree in Gen. Ed. Next meeting date and location to be determined.

2. Academic Judicial Committee – Senators Beck and Newton

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

3. Academic Policy Committee – Senator McCarthy

   The Academic Policy Committee met on August 22nd. Kris Beck was elected to chair the committee; Anne Purvis was elected as recorder. The committee voted to approve a proposal altering the course Geology 1122K by adding the prerequisite of Geology 1121K. Next meeting date and location to be determined.

4. Admissions, Advisement, Registration, Retention, and Financial Aid Committee – Senator Harrison

   AARFA Committee met on August 29th. Steve Campbell was elected as the committee chair and Jeremy Richards was elected as secretary. There was discussion on FIRE course advisees and preparing them for the transition to their second year. Next meeting date and location to be determined.

5. Budget Advisory Committee – Senator White

   No report.

6. Faculty Development Committee – Senator Perkowski
The Faculty Development Committee met on August 23, 2018. The committee approved the Minutes from its April 11, 2018, meeting. Dr. Perkowski was elected Chair and Dr. Battle was elected Secretary. The deadline for fall applications was set to October 31, 2018, and for spring applications to March 31, 2019. The application announcement will be sent out in mid-September. The committee will meet in early November, at a date and location to be determined, in order to review submitted proposals.

7. Faculty Welfare Committee – Senators Anderson and Yarbrough

The Faculty Welfare committee met on August 27th. Brenda Johnson was elected chair and Frank Winters was elected recorder. The committee briefly discussed the need to update the Faculty Handbook in response to policy changes by the USG Board of Regents. The committee also briefly discussed the need to obtain faculty input and address areas of concern besides the Faculty Handbook. The committee will meet next on September 10th.

8. General Education Committee – Senator Awbrey

The committee met on September 5th at 3:30 PM. James Awbrey was elected chair; Franklin Williamson was elected recorder. The Committee discussed the draft recommendation written by the previous committee and proposed making revisions before submitting for approval. Ashley Kalle presented a Gen Ed Matrix created by IE of the learning goals, outcome indicators, and courses where embedded outcomes could be assessed. The Committee discussed conducting research into this year’s method of assessing learning outcomes and will be construct a timeline for completing the Gen Ed assessments during the Fall 2018 semester. The next meeting will be held in two weeks at a time and location to be determined.


The Statutes committee met with the representatives of the staff council executive committee to discuss several proposals made regarding staff membership on senate committees and pathways to statute changes. Given that there is no current pathway for the staff to propose these statute changes, the proposals were tabled. The committee agreed that moving forward via an ad hoc committee—charged with determining what faculty and staff think does and does not work with regards to our current system of shared governance, looking at best practices, and making recommendations based on that information-- would be the most productive way forward.

10. Instructional Technology & eLearning Committee – Senator McLeod

The committee met on August 27th at 3:30 PM in NAH 331. The committee unanimously elected Dr. Caesar Perkowski as chair and Dr. Scott Shubitz as recorder. Dr. Prathibha Joshi Beck will serve as the committee’s liaison to the Collaborative Learning Center and Library Committee. Next meeting date and location to be determined.

11. Library Committee – Senator Joshi Beck

Dr. Sonya Gaither was elected Chair and Dr. John George was elected the Recorder. The committee approved previous year’s minutes. Sonya updated the committee with some old business and talked about the goals for the Library Committee for this year. The next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2018 in Library Conference Room 220.

12. Planning Committee – Senator Rickerson
The committee met on August 27th. Dr. Nicole L. Vanderbush was selected to be the committee chair for 2018-2019; Dr. Rachel Mittelman was selected to be the committee recorder for 2018-2019. There was review of the purpose of the committee. The committee discussed a goal of reviewing the master plan of the college and seeking input from the campus community. The committee also discussed looking at the strategic planning process. Next meeting date and location to be determined.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Announcements:**

Faculty Senate Chair Tony Pearson gave a short presentation on the need to review shared governance at Gordon State College. He announced the formation of a Senate ad hoc committee, to be comprised of faculty, staff, and students. The committee will be guided by the basic question: Do we currently have the best model for shared governance? There will be town hall meetings and other opportunities for the committee to receive input from stakeholders.

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Jeff Knighton reminded the faculty about his mobile office hours and indicated that he has already had some productive conversations. He informed the faculty about the work of the International Studies Council and their effort to create opportunities for GSC students to explore the world outside Middle-Georgia. He also spoke about “trajectory analytics,” which uses current data collected about our students to project graduation probabilities. The ultimate goal is to use trajectory analytics to better coordinate appropriate interventions. Meanwhile, he says Tonya Coleman is looking specifically at data on our resident students in order to determine why they tend to be less successful academically than the rest of the student population. He made announcements about the reconstituted Academic Council and the Provost’s Council. More information about the Highlander Leadership Academy is forthcoming.

President Kirk Nooks gave a preview of his 100-Day Report, which will be released on September 10th in video and print formats. He sees it as a “bridging document” to the Strategic Plan that will be completed by the end of the academic year. He also reviewed information shared in his “Nooks Note.” The current fall budget is being rebuilt to make up for the loss of revenue due to low enrollment. Initial reductions have already been advanced by administrators, but these alone will not be enough to make up for the shortfall; faculty and Staff will be consulted to make recommendations for a second tier of cuts. If the current enrollment trend continues into spring 2019, we may be confronting even more serious cuts.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 4:25 PM by motion from Senator Osborne

Recorded by Senator McCarthy