

Minutes of the Augusta State University Faculty

February 2, 2000

President Bloodworth called the meeting to order at 3:02 P.M. Eighty six members were present. The minutes of the November 17, 1999, faculty meeting were approved as posted on the ASU web site.

1. Report of the President

President Bloodworth discussed the serious financial problems facing the University System health care plan and urged the faculty to read a memo from Senior Vice Chancellors Dunning and Desrochers about system health care costs. He then discussed the system budget for next year. The bottom line is that although we can expect next year's appropriations to be about the same as this year's, ASU will have to save about \$630,000 from this year's budget to be applied to the budget for FY 2001.

President Bloodworth also noted that there are good expectations for a three percent pay increase effective in either September or October of next year. Additional items from the President's report include:

- There is a good chance that the General Assembly will appropriate planning money (\$960,000) for the architectural work for the Phase 2 classroom building.
- Mr. Tom Allgood has been reappointed to another term on the BOR.
- ASU has been given possession of the Science Building.
- The functions of Student Records and Admissions are being combined under Katherine Sweeney.
- Richard Harrison will chair a study group to determine the feasibility of an emphasis on wellness and fitness as a permanent aspect of university life.
- ASU is making progress in raising money to fund a women's golf team.
- A critical part of the ongoing SACS reaffirmation effort is the creation of a structure for reporting annually on purposes, growth, evaluation, and improvement by units of the university. This will not only aid the SACS effort, but also will be a fundamental part of strategic planning at ASU.

(The complete text of the president's report is attached.)

President Bloodworth turned the meeting over to Vice President Bompart, who recognized Mark Fissel, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Fissel discussed the General Education Assessment Test, which will be administered to all students who have completed Humanities 2002. He added that prior to the implementation of this assessment, it would go to the Academic Policies Committee and faculty for approval.

2. Academic Policies Committee

Dr. McNutt-Scott presented to the faculty the following items as information:

- Two new courses from Kinesiology and Health Science: WELL 1027 Ice Skating and WELL 1210 Ice Hockey.
- Summer 2000 Admission Criteria for ASU and University College students as part of the ASU phase-in plan to meeting Board of Regents requirements (attached to the agenda for this meeting).
- Inclusion of the following statement in the 2000-2001 ASU Catalog for compliance with SACS requirements:
“All courses offered at Augusta State University, other than those identified as developmental/remedial, are acceptable as either requirements or electives applicable in at least one of the degree programs at Augusta State University as authorized by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.”

3. Faculty Policies Committee

Dr. Stroebel presented the proposed Intellectual Properties Policy (attached to the agenda for this meeting), and moved that it be adopted and included in the Faculty Manual.

Dr. Urban stated that he had four concerns about the policy regarding copyright ownership, the time limit for the \$10,000 net income, definition of incidental usage, and Intellectual Property Committee membership. Drs. Stroebel, Benedict and Leightner addressed these concerns. Dr. Stroebel added that although the proposed policy is based on specific guidelines provided by the basic BOR policy on intellectual properties, it contains several major departures, which include dealing with works of art, revenue sharing, and negotiation of special arrangements outside the specified guidelines at the faculty member's option. These departures are tailored to ASU and work to the benefit of faculty. He noted that the proposed policy is a product of extensive consultation with faculty, staff, and student and faculty representatives and is more generous to faculty than many other policies currently in force at other comparable institutions. Furthermore, the proposed policy has been approved by the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs of the University System of Georgia.

The motion to adopt passed unanimously. Dr. Stroebel stated that the policy is still subject to final approval by the Chancellor and the BOR and thanked Drs. Benedict and Leightner for their work in formulating this policy.

4. SACS Update

Bob Johnston thanked all those who have been working on the SACS reaffirmation effort and stated that the process is on schedule. He added the deadline for unit and department reports is February 15, 2000.

Following several announcements from the floor, the meeting was adjourned at 3:47 P.M.

Russ Stullken
Faculty Secretary

President's Report
Augusta State University Faculty Meeting
February 2, 2000

If any of you were around in the year 1, you might want to argue that this is one of the last faculty meetings near at the end of a millennium. But I wasn't here in year 1, and 2000 looks new and sounds new. And we're certainly hearing some new things—good and bad, with both categories appearing in this report.

Let's start with some bad news about the serious financial problems facing the University System health care plan. There's a memorandum from me making its way to you. Attached to it is a memorandum from two senior vice chancellors. It's a good, candid explanation. Please read it. When you do, I think you will see, first, that the problems are serious and, second, that the Chancellor and Board are working hard to make sure that we all have good, affordable health insurance.

Let's go to some other news which, though perhaps not the best, is certainly not as bad as expected. This is the system budget for next year. Here are the facts as I know them to be at this time. Actually, there are three sets of facts:

First, thanks to semester conversion, the system suffered an enrollment decline last year that could have resulted, according to the state funding formula, of a cutback in state appropriations of as much as \$200 million—that is, \$200 million out of total appropriations of \$1.5 billion.

Second, thanks to good sense in the Governor's office, Governor Barnes' budget recommendation holds the system harmless for the semester conversion. According to the Chancellor on January 6, the Governor is recommending that the basic instruction budget be based on enrollment from the year before semester conversion.

Third, to provide additional funds for such purposes as health care and upkeep of new buildings, the Chancellor has worked with the Governor to ensure a \$48 million increase. However, half of this increase is to be provided by carrying forward \$24 million in some form or other from this year's budget to next year's. For Augusta State University, this translates into about \$630,000 out of this year's budget (for fiscal year 2000) that will be used, most likely, to prepay some of next year's costs and be matched, in next year's budget, by \$24 million dollars in state appropriations.

This is complicated but, I think, smart on the part of the Chancellor. For us it means two things: that we'll have to save about \$630,000 in this year's budget—and that we can expect next year's state appropriations to be about the same as this year's. This is good news and bad news. The good news is that we may not have a budget cut. The bad news is that we may not have a budget increase.

However, we there are good expectations for a three percent pay increase, though not effective until either September or October of next year. All of these things are, of course,

working their way through the legislative session in Atlanta.

Also working its way through the mechanics of appropriations in Atlanta is something that Governor Barnes didn't recommend. This is \$960,000 to pay for the architectural work for our Phase 2 classroom building. The Governor recommended planning money for only two new projects in the system: numbers 7 and 8. Our building is number 12. I've talked with Speaker Pro Tem Jack Connell and Senate Majority Leader Charles Walker about this matter, and I now think that there's a good chance that the General Assembly will appropriate planning money for projects 9 through 12. Meanwhile, we've selected architects—Hinman Architectural Group here in Augusta in collaboration with the Atlanta firm of Jova Daniels Busby—and the Board of Regents has approved this selection. Once the legislature does its part, we're good to go.

One more thing from Atlanta: Mr. Allgood has been reappointed to another term on the Board of Regents. For us, this is very good news.

So much for Atlanta. Here in Augusta we have been given possession of the Science Building. That's good news. We are combining the functions of student records and admissions under Katherine Sweeney. That's good news too. (I have heard, however, that Ms. Sweeney has been seeking advice from Dr. McNutt-Scott on the feasibility of cloning herself into two persons.)

I think it's good news as well that Richard Harrison has agreed to chair a study group to work on one of our strategic priorities: the feasibility of an emphasis on wellness and fitness as a distinctive, permanent aspect of university life. Dr. Harrison had wanted to begin the study by seeing how well we could do either high-impact aerobics or aquacise at a faculty meeting, but the University Council failed to put this item on the agenda. Maybe next time, Richard.

We're moving forward with an effort to raise money to fund a women's golf team. This is a good project because, if we're successful, we'll create a new group of supporters for the university in general as well as for women's golf.

And we're moving forward with the SACS reaffirmation effort. This is not good news or bad news as much as it a matter of finding the best road to be on in order to move forward. Last Friday at a PAC meeting—that's President's Advisory Council—I gave a little speech that said, in effect, that if I can improve the way we do planning at the university level, we'll have a much clearer road for the future. I thought a great deal about what I said before I said it—and I've thought a great deal about it since I said it. And I want to say a little bit more today: four points in fact.

First: The SACS process is difficult and frustrating, I think, because we are having to *create* a structure for reporting on purposes, goals, evaluations, and improvements. The SACS Steering Committee has had to ask us to do this. It hasn't been easy. That's the first point.

Second, if we had established, years ago, a planning structure that required the various units of the university to report annually on purposes, goals, evaluations, and improvements, the SACS Steering Committee would not be telling us what to tell it. It would be examining our purposes, goals, evaluations, and improvements as *had been reported* and as *is being reported*. That's the second point: if only we had done something different in the past, the present would be more pleasant.

Third, it's never too late to improve. We've done a lot of good things here—and one of the good things has been our continual, university-wide discussions—focusing on institutional purpose and improvements—in PAC meetings for almost six years and in the strategic planning process for almost three years. But the SACS process has revealed to me, clearly, what we haven't done: which is to establish a routine, non-intrusive, non-labor intensive way for us to report to ourselves each year our purposes, goals, evaluations, and improvements. But we can do it. And I think we'll be a better institution by doing it.

Fourth—and finally: What we're having to do *ex nihilo*, from nothing, to provide what the SACS Steering Committee needs to produce a self-study, **can** provide the basis for that routine, non-intrusive, non-labor intensive way for us to report to ourselves each year our purposes, goals, evaluations, and improvements.

So please press on, do the best job you can do based on our current strategic plan. Make sure that your department has a clear purpose that supports the purpose of the university, has goals to support its purpose, evaluates the extent to which those goals are achieved, and uses the results of such evaluation to make improvements.

Meanwhile, I'm asking the President's Advisory Council to review the strategic plan itself to see if it needs to be improved for next year's planning cycle. And I'll be seeking some ways to develop a user-friendly way to make planning and evaluation more routine and less frustrating than it now seems to be. For this, expect to be hearing some things from Kathy Hamrick, who also may wish to consult with Dr. McNutt-Scott.