

# Minutes

## Faculty Meeting



Tuesday, September 18, 2007  
2:30 p.m., room 170, University Hall

116 faculty members present; President Bloodworth called the meeting to order at 2:29 p.m.

### Agenda Items

Dr. William Bloodworth, president of August State University, opened the meeting and turned it over to Dr. Samuel Sullivan, vice president for academic affairs, to begin the agenda.

Dr. Sullivan requested a motion to approve the agenda.

MOTION - to approve the agenda

VOTE – all ayes

### I. Approval of the Minutes from April 17, 2007, available at:

[http://www.aug.edu/faculty\\_secretary/facmin\\_04\\_17\\_2007\\_draft.pdf](http://www.aug.edu/faculty_secretary/facmin_04_17_2007_draft.pdf)

Dr. Sullivan requested a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. William Dodd, associate vice president for academic affairs, moved to approve. The motion was seconded.

MOTION – To approve the minutes as presented.

VOTE – all ayes

### II. Academic Policies Committee – Dr. Edgar Johnson

#### 1. Items requiring faculty vote

- a. Change in MBA foundation courses to allow Math 3110 or Math 2210 for statistics

Dr. Edgar Johnson, chair of the APC, introduced the measure. Dr. Sullivan asked for questions.

QUESTIONS – Will this be only for entry into the program? Students are required to take one – are they the same?

Answer – The business faculty say they are the same. Dr. Michelle Benedict, who teaches both, noted only one topic difference.

VOTE – all ayes. The measure passed.

- b. Measure to join Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges

Dr. Sullivan introduced Dr. Saundra Reinke, political science, to present the background for the measure.

Presentation –

Dr. Reinke noted that the major arguments are included in the document attached to the agenda, online.

These include:

\* All University System of Georgia institutions next to major military posts are members except for ASU.

\* Membership gives timely access to tuition assistance for members of the military. With the current system, delays in the application process mean members of the military have difficulty enrolling at ASU. The change will remove a major barrier to access.

\* Membership opens a market that was previously closed. Currently, we can't advertise on the military post that we exist.

\* We already meet all the criteria for membership.

\* Of the four SOC principles members must meet, we meet three; we just need to use the *ACE Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services*. On campus, some departments already do this unofficially.

Dr. Sudha Ratan, chair of political science, noted that her department already provides credit for defense language institute coursework toward the international studies track.

\* Department chairs will determine the amount of credit given, if any. Use of the *ACE Guide to the Evaluation of Education Experiences in the Armed Services* recommendations is not mandatory.

\* A registrar from a comparable institution, Columbus State University, noted almost no impact on them from the hundreds of military students who enroll; most of the students provide transcripts from other colleges.

Dr. Edgar Johnson reiterated that our commitment only calls for us to consider giving credit for military classes.

VOTE – all ayes. The measure passed.

### **III. Discussion of recent Board of Regents' policy changes concerning background checks and reporting of criminal charges – Mr. Walt Alexanderson**

Dr. Sullivan met with Faculty Policies Committee Chair Carol Rychly recently. As a result of that conversation, he requested that Mr. Walt Alexanderson, director of human resources, meet with the faculty to present and discuss recent changes in Board of Regents' policy.

Mr. Alexanderson presented background on the issue.

Presentation --

In June, the BOR sent documentation describing a new background check policy. At ASU, for more than a year all new employees have had background checks, but there are differences from our current policy.

The BOR policy now calls for:

a. a background check prior to starting employment. This is the same as our current policy.

b. a satisfactory background check prior to promotion. This is a change.

c. a 72-hour window during which an employee must notify the university of an arrest for any legal violation other than a minor traffic violation. There was a similar measure in place, but it related only to drug arrests.

d. a 72-hour window during which an employee must notify the university of any conviction. There was a similar measure in place, but it only related to drug convictions.

e. academic professionals are now included in the background check process. Before, it was only faculty.

The BOR noted that they are required to keep campuses safe.

Questions –

Dr. Edgar Johnson asked what will be done with the new information?

Mr. Alexanderson answered that he would call the BOR attorney and ask for the action to take. If the attorney recommends no action, the information would not be carried forward. If the attorney recommended action, it would be reviewed by Dr. William Dodd, associate vice president for academic affairs; Mr. Jasper Cooke, director of public safety, and his second in command; and Mr. Walt Alexanderson, human resources director.

Dr. Kim Davies, sociology, social work, and criminal justice, asked if students undergo similar checks.

Ms. Carol Giardina, Admissions, noted that students are required to note felony convictions in their paperwork for admission.

Dr. Randy Miller, political science, asked if misdemeanors are included?

Mr. Alexanderson replied that if the person will be taken to court, they should notify the university.

Dr. Bloodworth asked if a "position of trust" has been defined?

Mr. Alexanderson says there has been no formal definition, but since it includes those with responsibilities in so many areas, including financial, after hours access, care of children, etc., that effectively almost all employees are in a position of trust. This will not be his decision to make.

Dr. Edgar Johnson asked if the regents are also included in this policy?

Mr. Alexanderson replied that employees of the BOR are included if they are promoted or hired, but not the regents themselves.

Dr. Wendy Turner, history, asked about a course of action to take if there are objections to the new policy.

Mr. Alexanderson suggested addressing a letter to Chancellor Davis or our legislators.

Dr. Turner noted a concern that reported information could be used to build a case not to promote an employee regardless of the outcome of the charge. Dr. Turner also asked how long the information would remain in the Human Resources file.

Mr. Alexanderson replied that if the board attorney felt no action should be taken, it would not be used. If the person charged is found not guilty, the information will be shredded; if the person is convicted, the issue will return to the BOR attorney for a recommendation on action. Mr. Alexanderson noted that he has experience in being cautious. A person who is charged is not automatically guilty.

Dr. Deborah Richardson, psychology, asked regarding background checks for promotion, what if a faculty member is not sufficiently cleared?

Mr. Alexanderson said that if the check indicates a felony conviction, the person will be fired. The BOR does not allow the hiring of felons.

Dr. Robert Jarman, associate dean of the college of arts and science, asked if there will be any difference in the academic credentials check?

Dr. Dodd replied that the current process will be kept.

A faculty member asked about the penalty for failure to report a charge or conviction?

Mr. Alexanderson replied that the penalty could range from disciplining up to firing.

Dr. Reinke asked how the new requirements interface with the promotion and tenure process? If a potential employee applies and then is arrested, will it influence the process?

Mr. Alexanderson answered that the promotion and tenure committee completes its work, then the materials go to the dean, at which time the background check is conducted. The committee would not be influenced.

Dr. Dodd added that if the problem is reported and the BOR attorney says to act, it would have to be connected in some way with the promotion and tenure process.

Dr. Edgar Johnson asked if employees in any way no longer have the right to litigation?

Mr. Alexanderson indicated not.

Dr. Charlotte Price, chair of nursing, asked if the changes included tenure applications?

Mr. Alexanderson replied that tenure was not affected.

#### **IV. President's Report -- See Attachment C**

##### Discussion –

Dr. Jim Benedict, math and computer science, asked if Dr. Ray Whiting's duties concerning the student retention effort had changed.

Dr. Bloodworth replied that the majority of the work on retention is now being handled by Dr. Chris Murphy, anthropology, but that he should see Dr. Cliff Gardiner, assistant dean of the college of arts and sciences, about the specific initiative he's interested in.

Dr. Sullivan noted his recent email concerning service on one of two core curriculum committees, core competencies and curriculum design. Applications are due September 19, 2007. The committee comprises 8-12 members. Release time will be provided for one course, and there will be a stipend of \$2000. The competencies committee will meet only one year and provide the groundwork for the curriculum design committee. The second committee will develop the revised core and it will meet for two years.

## **V. Announcements**

Drs. Christine Terry and Cathy Tugmon, biology, announced the creation of a virtual teaching and assessment center, allowing faculty to discuss teaching and assessment. The site includes handouts and notes, rubrics, library resources, etc. Faculty are asked to do the survey on their first entry to the site. The site represents a new use for the WebCT software. Questions should be emailed to [vtac@aug.edu](mailto:vtac@aug.edu).

Mr. Alexanderson reminded faculty of open enrollment beginning October 8, with a benefits fair October 9. The enrollment process will be more electronic this year.

Dr. Edgar Johnson announced that, at the request of Drs. Dodd and Richard Harrison, dean of the college of education, the APC dates for meetings have been set for the year. The committee will meet Thursday of the week following the ASU faculty meeting, at the Communications and Professional Writing conference room, 2:30 p.m. Materials must be submitted to the committee no later than one week prior to the meeting.

Dr. William Nelson, library director, announced an open house celebrating the formal opening of a family room in the library, designed to help faculty and students with small children, when they need a place on campus to study and need to bring their children with them.

Dr. Barbara Coleman, associate dean of the college of business, mentioned that Beheruz Sethna, president of the State University of West Georgia, would be giving a presentation in the Jaguar Student Activities Center Ballroom at 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Ric Topolski, psychology, reminded faculty of the oversight committee and requested faculty submit proposals for review.

Dr. Adrian Janit, psychology, noted the Fall Lecture Series coming in October, occurring each Friday at noon. The focus this year will be on applied psychology. Watch for emails soon about the series.

Adjourned – 3:22 p.m.

## Attachments

Attachment A.  
Item requiring faculty vote

1. **CHANGE:** MBA Foundation Courses [pdf](#) C0731

Attachment B.  
Item requiring faculty vote

### **Improving Access for Military Personnel**

**The Problem:** Military personnel move frequently. As a consequence, it can be quite difficult for them to meet residency requirements. And each move to a new location results in problems with transferring coursework. The bottom line is that military personnel face unique obstacles completing their education. One solution to this problem is the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges, or SOC.

**What is SOC?** SOC is a consortium of colleges and universities that voluntarily agree to take concrete steps to help military personnel complete their degrees.

#### **What are the benefits of SOC membership?**

1. If ASU joins SOC, we will remove a major barrier to access for military personnel, especially Army personnel. The U.S. Army has started a new system for payment of educational benefits called "Go Army Ed." This is an automated system that pays for enrollment costs up front *provided the institution is a SOC member*. If the institution is NOT a member of SOC, the soldier must pay his or her educational costs up front and apply for reimbursement AFTER the semester is over. It can take anywhere from 60 to 90 days for a soldier to be reimbursed for these costs. This constitutes a significant barrier to enrolling at ASU. Joining SOC will remove that barrier.
2. Army Regulation 621-5 specifically prohibits institutions that are not SOC members from advertising, recruiting, or providing courses on an Army installation. Joining SOC removes those restrictions. At a minimum, this would open up the door for ASU to at least advertise its presence to personnel at Fort Gordon.

**What do we have to do to join SOC?** ASU already meets the six conditions for joining SOC. In addition, we must agree to the [SOC principles](#). These are outlined in four criterion dealing with transfer of credit, academic residency requirements, and crediting learning from military training and other sources. Currently, ASU meets all of these with one exception. ASU has not been using the [ACE Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services](#) to evaluate learning acquired in military schools. The ACE Guide provides **recommendations** for doing this. Individual department chairs would make the final decisions on the award of credit for such work. This is the only change ASU would need to make.

**Who else belongs to SOC?** Every USG school located near a military installation is a SOC member with one exception: ASU. A complete list of higher education institutions in Georgia that are SOC members is attached.

## University System of Georgia Schools and SOC Members

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College  
Albany State University  
Amstrong Atlantic State University  
Clayton State University  
Coastal Georgia Community College  
Columbus State University  
Darton College  
East Georgia College  
Gainesville State College  
Georgia College & State University  
Georgia Perimeter College  
Georgia Southern University  
Georgia Southwestern State University  
Middle Georgia College  
North Georgia College & State University  
Savannah State University  
South Georgia College  
University of West Georgia  
Valdosta State University  
Waycross College

- 20 out of 35 campuses are SOC members
- All system schools located near a major military installation are SOC members except ASU
  - Report to the BOR: Fall 2007

Attachment C.  
President's Report

Let me begin by mentioning two things related to the strategic plan of the University System of Georgia, a version of which was attached to the minutes of our last meeting—and which has been an e-mail news item—and which was the reason for several comments made by Chancellor Davis when he visited here last Friday.

The first thing is the system's plan for handling future enrollment. When he was here the Chancellor said several times that the fifteen comprehensive universities in the system (of which we are one) are in the "sweet spot" of the system's strategic plan because the system is hoping to cap enrollment at the research universities and increase it at places like ASU.

Exactly how sweet this spot will be for us, I don't yet know—although I do know that any serious increase in our enrollment is going to require some new facilities. The last time the Board of Regents recommended funding for a new classroom building for us was in fiscal year 2000, when University Hall was recommended. That was eight years ago, and the funding was for a replacement building, not one that would substantially increase our student capacity. The way things look right now in the system, sometime in the next five years we may be recommended for a 75,000 square foot academic building to be built near Christenberry Fieldhouse. We need more building than that, especially if we are expected to take care of an increasing amount of enrollment growth in the system—and we need it as soon as possible. I'll continue to communicate our need for more academic space than the system is currently recommending—and our need to get additional space as soon as possible.

The second thing related to the strategic plan of the system is the intention of revising the core curriculum by basing it more firmly on student competencies. Doing so, I suspect, will be a challenge—and in my memory, still, is all the curriculum work that was required for conversion to the semester calendar a decade ago. I certainly hope, however, that one or two of our faculty members will be asked to assist in this effort. I know that Dr. Sullivan is seeking interested and capable person for such work.

There are more things that could be discussed in the system's plan, but I want to shift to our own needs for strategic planning. It is time to develop a new plan, most likely one looking five years forward, which will take us up to and beyond the next effort at reaffirmation of regional accreditation in 2012.

On the subject of reaffirmation of accreditation—which usually goes by the official misnomer "SACS"—Dr. Sullivan asked Dr. Ray Whiting to start some of the preliminary efforts for reaffirmation. Officially, he is now our "accreditation liaison," which is the title applied to the person who maintains the communications with the Commission on Colleges (of "SACS") and guides the reaffirmation effort and—we hope—makes sure that our planning and assessment activities will pass muster with the commission.

Since the commission strongly recommends that such a person report to the president, Dr. Whiting is now reporting to me. His full title, in addition to Professor of Political Science, is "Faculty Assistant to the President and Accreditation Liaison." It's quite a mouthful—and I've given him a very full plate of responsibilities, including the refinement of our annual planning and assessment process. I've also asked him to consider the most effective ways by which we can develop a new strategic plan. I'm particularly interested in doing so with substantial faculty involvement, including the involvement of relatively new faculty members. In any event, I'm sure that you'll be hearing much more about this from Dr. Whiting and, quite possibly, from me.

Let me close with some bits and pieces of good news.

Yesterday at the Rotary Club of Augusta, Dean Marc Miller made a world-class presentation about the Hull College, especially about its faculty and students.

I wish all of you could have been there. It was good. All of you would have been proud.

This morning we recognized a substantial gift from Washington Savannah River Company to help equip our computational physics lab. I wish you had been there to hear Dr. Andy Hauger explain what we do, and how well we do what we do, in physics and chemistry. It was good. All of you would have been proud.

When the chancellor was here last week I heard him say at least twice, to at least two different groups, that our students are the best in the system on the Regents' Examination. That was a very good thing for him to say. All of you would have been proud.

Now, what can I say about Dr. Peggy Ruth Geren, her leadership of the on-campus A-Day campaign, and all of those who have helped her help all of us by raising over \$144,000 this year from people on this campus? All of you can be proud of this—and almost everyone one of you has helped make such pride possible.

I am so very proud of all the people who work here. This is an exceptional place, the source of constant good news that comes from the constantly good work of our faculty and staff—who are always finding even better ways to do their work and serve our students.

I'm proud of you—and I'm honored to have the opportunity to work with you and, whenever possible, for you.

Go Jags.