

Minutes

Faculty Meeting



Tuesday, November 7, 2006
2:30 p.m., room 170, University Hall

114 faculty members present; President Bloodworth called the meeting to order at 2:30: p.m.

Agenda Items

I. Minutes of the April 18, 2006, faculty meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

II. Academic Policies – Dr. Sandra Reinke

Items presented for information only – **See Attachment A**

Dr. Reinke presented the three items; one removes the swimming requirement for graduation. During questions following the presentation of the items, Dr. Kathy Hamrick noted that the liner of the pool can no longer be replaced. Repair, therefore, would require rebuilding of the pool at a cost of about 1.3 million dollars. It will remain open until it is no longer serviceable. Dr. Reinke noted that the change in graduation requirements becomes effective next fall; students who delay meeting the requirement past that point will not have to meet it.

III. Mr. Walt Alexanderson presented the Office of Human Resources

Mr. Alexanderson noted that the Office of Human Resources is on campus to support faculty, and he invites questions.

Mr. Alexanderson requested that faculty turn in their open enrollment changes in the first week of the open enrollment period to ensure they can all be processed before the end of the semester, since the enrollment period runs through mid December this year.

He noted that nationally, employers ask their employees to pay about 25 to 50 percent of their insurance costs. We currently pay about 25 percent. To keep these costs down, Mr. Alexanderson recommends following a practice of **WIG** – **W**ellness, use of **I**n-network doctors, and purchase of **G**eneric drugs. He also encouraged use of flex spending.

IV. Report of the President -- Dr. William Bloodworth – See Attachment B

Following his report, Dr. Bloodworth asked for questions. Dr. Jim Benedict noted that the new chancellor has changed the reporting system so that not all schools in the system have equal access to the chancellor. Dr. Bloodworth replied that we now report to the chief academic officer, Dr. Beheruz Sethna, and that he finds access and response to be improved. He added that he continues to contact the chancellor directly as needed.

V. Announcements

Mrs. Mellie Kerins – This Thursday, November 9, Reese Library hosts Dr. Ted Atkinson, who will speak on his book, *Faulkner and the Great Depression*. The Meet the Author presentation will be at 2:30 p.m. on the 2nd floor of the library.

Mr. Eddie Howard – The Lyceum Series features George Curry at 7 p.m. tonight, following the election, with a lecture on race in America.

Ms. Gina Thurman – Friday, November 17th, is the International Thanksgiving Dinner, to be held at the student center. More details will be forthcoming.

Adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Attachments

Attachment A

Items approved unanimously by Academic Policies Committee, for Information Only

- 1. CHANGE:** Change in Graduation Physical Ed Requirement [pdf C0415](#)
- 2. CHANGE:** Change in course description EDTD 6011 [pdf C0416](#)
- 3. CHANGE:** Change in prerequisites EDUC 7002 and EDUC 7003 [pdf C0421](#)

Note: C0417, C0418, C0419, and C0420 have been held until the January 2007 faculty meeting by vote of the University Council.

Attachment B

President's Report to the Faculty November 7, 2006

Let me begin this report by saying that once it was much longer than it is now—with many references to the challenges and changes that higher education faces in this country, including the demographic shift that is dramatically increasing the percentage of college-age Americans who are either from ethnic minority groups (especially Hispanics), from families with no college experience, or from both ethnic minority groups and families with no college experience. It's something to think about and prepare for—but what I had prepared to say about this matter sounded too much like a lecture and not enough like a report from me.

So let me leave that subject—college-age demographics in the United States—by quoting the ancient words of Bob Dylan: “The times they are a-changin.” He said that in 1964. It was true then. For us, looking at the students likely to be coming our way, it's certainly true today—and is something to think about and prepare for.

But this is my report to you, and it should begin properly, with my appreciation to all of you who have written or said something to me about prostate cancer. And about this subject, to me, there are two distinct bits of good news, one regarding me, the other regarding some of you. First, about me, the side effects of hormone blocking (and I won't go into any gruesome details about what could happen) have been absolutely minimal so far. Second, about some of you, and more important than anything about me, I've heard from a large number of men here that they've made an appointment to get their PSA checked or soon will.

Now, even more properly for my report, I want to thank the 68 faculty members who have invited me to visit their classes. I have not visited as many as I wanted to by this point—that little health matter intervened, as did a few new assignments that our new chancellor has been doling out to presidents—but I can tell you, with a firm guarantee, that there is little if anything that a president at Augusta State University can do that's more inspiring than to watch Augusta State University faculty members at work in the classroom.

I understand that it may be a little unusual to visit classes in the manner that I'm doing it, and maybe a little presumptuous of me, and maybe even ever so slightly anxiety-producing when I call up one of those 68 faculty members ten minutes before her or his class to ask, “Is it okay if I sit in on your class today?” But I appreciate very much your willingness to let me do this. When I do it, I take a lot of notes—some on the subject at hand, some on the techniques of the faculty member, some on the behavior and reactions of students.

At some point I'll look back through all those pages of notes to see if there are any observations worth pointing out to you. But I need more visits and more notes. Thank you for the opportunity to make those visits and take those notes.

Thank you also—and thank Peggy Ruth Geren in particular—for this fall's *A Day for Augusta State University* campaign results, which, as usual, send a powerful

message to the community outside the campus. I think, for example, that Mr. Jim Hull heard that message.

And perhaps even the new chairman of the Board of Regents, Mr. Alan Vigil, can hear part of that message on November 30—because on that day, in his efforts to visit each of the 35 institutions in the University System of Georgia, he will join us at the official dedication of the Hull College of Business.

We have not worked out all the details for Regent Vigil's visit. I don't know, for instance, if he'll be able to stay for the lighting of our holiday tree that evening. But if he'll give us some time, we'll show him the best of those 35 institutions in the system—and show you off as well.

Now, there's much system news that I could deliver to you: Chancellor Davis' genuine interest in remedying the Optional Retirement Plan problem, a new budget process, those new assignments being doled out to presidents, and much more.

But as important as such matters are, they never feel as important as matters that directly involve our students.

Let me close today with a message from a student. I often get messages from students. Sometimes they are messages about problems. But many times they are simply expressions of gratitude. Here's part of a message of the second kind, in a letter I received a few weeks ago:

As one of Augusta State's newest graduates, I would like to take this opportunity to praise my alma mater for having such a positive impact on my life. I transferred to Augusta State in the summer of 2004 and was immediately met with open arms. Coming from both Georgia Southern and Georgia State University, I immediately developed a great appreciation for all things a smaller institution has to offer. Every single person I ever came in contact with, be it faculty, staff, or campus services, always displayed a positive attitude and willingness to help me with any questions or issues I had. There was never a time where I felt as though my pursuit of a college degree was being hindered.... The experience is one that I will look back on for the rest of my life with the highest regard and utmost appreciation. If I can ever be of any service to the university, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you and have a wonderful day.

And you, ladies and gentlemen of the Augusta State University faculty, you probably know what I want to say **to you** about receiving such messages.

Please keep those cards and letters coming.