

Minutes Faculty Meeting



Tuesday, November 8, 2005
2:30 p.m., room 170, University Hall

132 faculty members present; President Bloodworth called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Agenda Items

I. Minutes of the September 21, 2005, faculty meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

II. Report of the President -- Dr. William Bloodworth - **See Attachment A**
President Bloodworth ceded the majority of his time to Dr. Samuel Sullivan.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Samuel Sullivan – In response to a Board of Regents’ taskforce recommendations and former Chancellor Thomas Meredith’s subsequent taskforce mandates for all University System of Georgia schools, ASU has been preparing a plan designed to increase student retention and graduation. Findings from previous committees and other groups on campus were collected in preparation for this plan. Dr. Ray Whiting, Political Science, was named as a special assistant to the VPAA and asked to lead the effort to develop the plan, which is due to the BOR by November 15. The plan has been reviewed by deans and department chairs and is available to faculty for review. Dr. Sullivan requested that faculty members read the plan and forward their ideas to Dr. Whiting.

II. Academic Policies – Dr. Charles Jenks

A. Items presented for information only – See Attachment B
There was no discussion.

B. Items presented for faculty vote – See Attachment C

- a. CH0183, pdf Add additional upper-division course to major concentration for the Bachelors degree in English, Literature, was withdrawn by the department and will be resubmitted.
- b. C0187, pdf Catalog entry, MATH 1111, to change text description
Discussion: none
Vote: unanimously in favor of the change
- c. C0194, pdf New Master of Arts in Teaching Degree
Presentation: Dr. Richard Harrison
Dr. Harrison noted that the department of Teacher Education (and others) had been working on the new program for more than 1.5 years and thanked ASU faculty, the deans’ offices, biology and mathematics faculty, and many others for their help.

In his opinion the rules have changed for certification more in the past 3 years than in the 25 years before. Current “quality insurers” placed by the certification agencies (2.5 GPA, Admission to Teacher Education, etc.) are now being described by the certification agencies as “barriers” to the accessibility of certification. It is the goal of the certification agencies to remove these barriers. The University System of Georgia produces about one-fourth of the teachers hired in the state, and the chancellor has mandated that the number of initially certified teachers produced by the USG institutions double by the year 2010. The proposed MAT program is designed for those individuals who already have a degree and who desire initial certification to teach. It utilizes the current rules for alternative certification programs in Georgia with respect to the Content Certification Exam (Praxis II). Presentation available at: http://www.aug.edu/faculty_secretary/Master_of_Arts_in_Teaching.ppt

Dr. Sullivan opened the floor to discussion.

Dr. Jonathan Leightner, College of Business Administration, expressed support of the measure and offered an amendment.

Amendment – See Attachment D

Presentation – Dr. Leightner offered the amendment, designed to use the program’s electives to ensure students gain a master’s level of knowledge in the student’s area of certification. He explained that electives currently can be taken from any master’s level program, but that the courses need to be in the content area in which they will be teaching. The difficulty in wording this is that some areas can’t be put in, and that some people coming in have master’s level understanding already. The current MAT proposal seems to trust that faculty will guide them this way, but students may not follow that guidance.

The motion was seconded.

Discussion –

Dr. Gordon Eisenman, College of Education, opposed the amendment because there’s no easy way to determine master’s level of knowledge in the student’s area of certification, because any electives taken can be helpful to their teaching, and because students are not looking for the easy way out and will not sidestep the guidelines. The College of Education is trying to open up the program to more students.

Dean Thomas Deering, College of Education, felt the amendment was redundant. The Praxis II test examines the student’s knowledge of their content area. If the student doesn’t pass, they have to take content courses anyway. Additionally, information will be forwarded to Arts and Sciences to allow

them to pitch to students to take content electives in their department.

Dr. Mary McCormack, Languages, Literature and Communications, supported the amendment because the current proposal does not require content courses. ASU should be requiring content courses in an MAT with initial certification to be in line with other university system schools like Kennesaw State University, whose recently approved MAT with initial certification requires 18 hours of content. ASU would be the only university in the system which offers an MAT with no required content courses. Also, the achievement levels and improved achievement levels for students in the public schools are most closely tied to the demonstrated content knowledge of the teacher in the classroom.

Dr. Cathy Tugmon, Biology, was concerned that if graduate level content requirements were inserted, biology and other fields such as chemistry and physics would be cut out from this program. None of these departments offer graduate level courses and Biology doesn't have enough faculty to do that either as stand alone classes or as cross-listed classes. Changing the MAT to mandate of graduate level content courses in field will limit which students can pursue an MAT to those fields that offer graduate level courses in that subject.

Dr. Hubert Van Tuyl, History, Philosophy and Anthropology, supported the amendment, noting that it tries to address the issue of teacher knowledge and competence while allowing some flexibility. The former chancellor's mandate calls for an increase in quality of teachers as well as content.

Dr. Harrison agreed to a point, but noted that if students choose an online program, they will lack classroom management skills, a crucial skill.

Dean Deering reiterated that students must pass the Praxis II test, the same standard to which the state holds certified teachers. The main reason teachers are not rehired is a lack of classroom management skills.

Dr. Lillie Johnson, Languages, Literature and Communications, supported the amendment, pointing to research indicating that teachers have more staying power if their content training is better. She added: based on the current proposal, Augusta State would not just be offering certification; it would be offering master's level credentials. The master's degree would qualify graduates of the program as academic leaders in their schools, and yet they would not necessarily have any master's level courses in the subjects that they teach. The MAT proposal as it

stands would undermine education in this community. It should be revised.

Dean Robert Parham, Arts and Sciences, said that this program is a good option for students compared to others available in the state, and reminded faculty that the program addresses only those students seeking certification.

Dr. Randall Miller, Political Science, noted that in his experience, secondary school systems preferred to hire bachelor's degree students with a certification rather than master's graduates.

Dean Deering felt this is not as true today as previously, due to teaching shortages. He also noted an agreement with Richmond County allowing students to teach while working toward their master's, so they will have experience, enabling them to compete better in the market.

Dr. Eisenman noted that a CSRA P-16 council has met with ASU faculty from the College of Education on these issues and the council wants this program to move forward. They prefer this program to a one year certification or a RESA-TAPP program.

The question was called for the amendment

Vote – nays have it on voice vote and subsequent count of hands. The amendment to the proposal failed.

The meeting returned to the original proposal

Vote – The proposal passed on voice vote

C. The Academic Policies Committee presented for information only changes to the *Proposal for Change in an Academic Program form*. One minor change updates a label. A larger change inserts an area for tracking the form to ensure that affected departments are notified of all changes. The VPAA's office will ensure the changes are made.

III. Faculty Policies – Dr. Peggy Geren – *See Attachment E*

Dr. Geren presented the change to the Faculty Manual, consisting of the addition of the Director of Grants and Sponsored Programs onto three standing campus committees.

Discussion –

Dr. Wendy Turner expressed a concern that placement of a grants officer on the committee would tend to bias the decisions made by the committee toward grants originating in the grants office. Since grants tend to be more plentiful in the sciences, would decisions be made more in that direction?

Kimberly Gray, Director of Grants and Sponsored Programs, responded “no.”

Dr. Sullivan noted that the addition of the person to these committees is intended to improve communication and locate more resources for the committees.

Dr. Geren will add the status of “ex-officio and non-voting” to the third committee choice before publication. The faculty secretary will correct a title that needs updating in the Faculty Manual relating to these sections.

Vote – The updates were unanimously approved on voice vote.

IV. Announcements

Dr. Charles Jenks, College of Education asked that faculty note his recently sent email concerning the scheduling of Academic Policies meetings. The set dates have been chosen to improve the flow of proposals.

Mrs. Camilla Reid, Associate Director of Reese Library – Mr. Joseph Greene from ASU's Business Administration department will speak at the next Meet the Author session, presenting his book "From Cotton Fields to Board Rooms." The event is Tuesday, November 15, at 2:30 in the library on the second floor. Also, an online trial edition of the Chronicle of Higher Education is available to everyone on the campus through the end of November. The library is assessing purchase of a campus license. Go to <http://chronicle.com> to reach the trial.

Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Joyce Jones – Mr. Kelly Thomas is the new director of the Performing Arts Theatre.

Dr. Brigitte Ziobrowski, College of Business - The benefits enrollment period is over, but faculty should continue to consider supplemental retirement options, which may be joined or altered at any time.

Dr. Samuel Sullivan – thanked everyone for attending and thanked the faculty of the College of Education and all others involved in preparing the material for the Master of Arts proposal.

Adjourned 3:41 p.m.

Attachments

Attachment A

President's Report to the Faculty
November 8, 2005

Your president's report will be brief this afternoon because I wish to cede most of my time to Dr. Sullivan so that he can report on our current efforts to increase student retention and graduation rates, which were the subject of my last report to you. In that last report, at our meeting on September 21, I asked for your thoughts on how we might improve "student success" here. And before I turn this lectern over to Dr. Sullivan, I'd like to reiterate my interest in and my "take" on this subject.

As I said in September, I'm concerned and think we all should be concerned about a growing form of inequality in higher education. Since the 1980s, the rate at which students in the upper half of the socio-economic scale achieve higher education is far outstripping the rate of students in the lower half. It is not a very pretty picture, especially with the growing percentage of Hispanic and African-American students—generally from the lower half of the socio-economic scale—now coming up through K-12 classrooms.

To see this picture more clearly than my few words can sketch it, please read Ross Douthat's article in the November issue of *The Atlantic Monthly*. It's entitled "Does Meritocracy Work," and the answer seems to be that it doesn't. Douthat—looking at American higher education in general—suggests that while colleges may pay lip service to access and diversity, most policies and practices work against low-income students.

Now, there is much about this situation over which we have little control—such as the increasing shift in federal financial aid from grants to loans, or the fact that the state of Georgia does not offer need-based financial aid to students.

But there are things that schools like ours can do and, in fact, have been doing. A large percentage of our students come from the bottom half of the socio-economic scale. Thus, to the extent that we challenge and advise and care about our students so that they are successful, we improve the national picture student by student and, by so doing, make our society a little better, person by person.

This general subject is the subject of the report from Dr. Sullivan, to whom I cede the rest of my time this afternoon—and I thank you for all the suggestions and opinions I have received, and I welcome more of the same.

Attachment B

Items approved unanimously by Academic Policies Committee, for Information Only

1. **CHANGE:** Catalog entry, MATH 0096, to change COMPASS score [pdf](#) C0184
2. **CHANGE:** Catalog entry, MATH 0097, to change COMPASS score [pdf](#) C0185
3. **CHANGE:** Catalog entry, MATH 1101, to change text description [pdf](#) C0186
4. **CHANGE:** Catalog entry, MATH 3020, to change text description [pdf](#) C0188
5. **CHANGE:** Catalog entry, MATH 4011/4012, to change text description [pdf](#) C0189
6. **CHANGE:** Catalog entry, MATH 6011/6012, to change text description [pdf](#) C0190
7. **CHANGE:** Catalog entry, HONR 1010, to remove as Area F option for the Psychology major [pdf](#) C0191
8. **CHANGE:** Catalog entry, History degree with a Certificate in Secondary School Teaching, to reflect Chancellor's Office Area F requirements [pdf](#) C0192
9. **CHANGE:** Catalog entry, CHEM 4830, to correct lab hours [pdf](#) C0193
10. **CHANGE:** Catalog entry, EDTD 6120, to remove 6010 as prerequisite [pdf](#) C0195
11. **CHANGE:** Catalog entry, EDTD 6910, to change text description [pdf](#) C0196

Attachment C

Items approved by Academic Policies Committee but requiring a faculty vote.

- 1. CHANGE:** Undergraduate Major for the Bachelors degree in English pdf C0183
Add additional upper-division course to major concentration
Item removed from the agenda at the request of the department; the item will be revised and resubmitted for future consideration
- 2. CHANGE:** Catalog entry, MATH 1111, to change text description pdf C0187
- 3. ADD:** New Master of Arts in Teaching Degree pdf C0194
See full proposal at: <http://www.aug.edu/~pedbmt/rdh/>

Attachment D - Proposed Amendment for MAT proposal:

On pages 22 and 24 replace

“Elective courses may be any graduate courses offered on campus.”

with

“These electives should be selected so that the student obtains graduate level knowledge in his or her area of certification if possible. If the student enters the program with graduate level knowledge of his or her area of certification, then these electives can be any graduate level course offered on campus.”

Attachment E

Proposed changes to Faculty Manual

1. p. 25/ 204.9/ The Faculty Research and Faculty Development Committee

The Faculty Research and Faculty Development Committee shall consist of one representative (ex-officio and non-voting) of the Augusta State University Research Center, **the Director of Grants and Sponsored Programs (ex-officio and non-voting)**, and six additional faculty members (one from the College of Business Administration, one from the College of Education, and four from the College of Arts and Sciences).

2. p.26/ the Intellectual Properties Committee/ 204.12.1/ Membership

The committee shall consist of nine voting members: six tenured full-time teaching faculty (two from the College of Business Administration, two from the College of Education, and two from the Pamplin College of Arts and Sciences), a fiscal affairs representative who directly reports to the Vice President for Business and Student Services, **the Director of Grants and Sponsored Programs (ex-officio and non-voting)**, a full-time student, and a member of the Staff Advisory Council.

3. p. 28/ the Oversight Committee on Human and Animal Research/ 204.16.1/ Membership

The Oversight Committee on Human and Animal Research will consist of five faculty members, **the Director of Grants and Sponsored Programs**, and one community member, all with particular interest and expertise in this area and who will normally be reappointed annually.