



FACULTY SENATE
Est. 1991

Chairperson
Patrick J. Schloss

Vice Chairperson
Louis Levy

Executive Secretary
Barney "Jay" Rickman

Parliamentarian
Cindy Tandy

MEMORANDUM

To: Patrick J. Schloss, President

From: Barney "Jay" Rickman, Executive Secretary

Date: June 2, 2009

Subject: 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate convened seven times during the 2008-2009 academic year. Each Senate meeting began with opening remarks by President Schloss (except for the May meeting when he was away for a presidents meeting) keeping Senators updated on campus issues and projects. During 2008-2009, President Schloss focused his remarks on budget developments; he also explained changes to the policy creation process, the Budget Advisory Committee (renamed the Planning & Budget Council), and the Strategic Focus 2010 initiative. After his remarks, the meeting was turned over to the Executive Secretary. During each meeting, the statutory committees updated the Senate on their activities since the previous meeting. At each meeting, the minutes of the previous Senate meeting and the minutes of the Academic Committee were presented and approved, with no more than minor corrections. In addition, several major issues were considered. The following presents a brief summary of these activities during 2008-2009. (For more detail, please see the official minutes of each Senate meeting, <http://www.valdosta.edu/facsen/meeting/minutes/index.shtml>.)

Major Issues

1. At its October 16, 2008 meeting, the Senate approved two minor changes to the Annual Faculty Activity Report, Action Plan, and the Annual Evaluation. These changes had been remanded to the Faculty Affairs Committee for review at the Senate's September 18, 2008 meeting.
2. At its October 16, 2008 meeting, the Senate approved the revised Bylaws for the proposed University System of Georgia Faculty Council.
3. At its October 16, 2008 and November 20, 2008 meetings, the Senate discussed a non-binding resolution in support of a Green Fee as proposed by S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violating the Environment). The Faculty Senate voted to support the concept of the Green Fee with the proviso that the Faculty Senate would like the VSU Fee Committee to recognize the totality of student fees. (Note: this Senate action was taken prior to the BOR creation of a new student fee to offset budget cuts to the USG.)
4. At its November 20, 2008 meeting, the Senate endorsed VSU's participation in the national Presidents Climate Commitment <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/>

with the proviso that the structural interrelation between the Senate's Environmental Issues Committee and the new Climate Council be reviewed (this was resolved at the Senate's February 19, 2009 meeting). At its May 21, 2009 meeting, the Senate approved a resolution in support of the development of an institutional action plan, recommending the President put into policy the two tangible actions proposed (purchase of Energy Star certified products as well as provide access to public transportation), and submit those actions and the framework for the organization of the Climate Council to the American Colleges and Universities Climate Commitment organization.

5. At its February 19, 2009 meeting, the Senate endorsed the new Policy on Policies process.

6. At its meetings in spring and summer 2009, the Senate discussed Senate/faculty representation on the revised Budget Advisory Committee (BAC). Under the revised BAC (renamed the Planning & Budget Council or PBC), the Senate Executive Secretary will be one of the non-voting, ex officio members of the PBC, and there will be two additional faculty members as voting members of the PBC. The Senate eventually decided that the Executive Secretary would issue a call for nominations for the General Faculty Representative to serve a two-year term (July 1, 2009-June 30, 2011) on the Planning & Budget Council (PBC). This call was done on April 13, 2009, and the nominees were informed of the responsibilities of PBC service by a Senate Nominations Committee chaired by Senator Lynn Minor. At its May 21, 2009 meeting the Senate elected Michael Davey to serve as the General Faculty Representative to the PBC. The other Senate/faculty slot on the PBC will be filled by someone from the Institutional Planning Committee as approved by the Senate at its March 26, 2009 meeting.

7. At its March 26, 2009 meeting, the Senate elected Barney "Jay" Rickman to serve as the 2009-2010 Senate Executive Secretary.

8. At its meetings in spring and summer 2009, the Senate discussed different ways to bring Academic Committee actions before the Senate in a more timely fashion. See the minutes of the May 21, 2009 Senate meeting for the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Interaction between the Academic Committee and the Senate.

Major Issues that will carry over into the 2009-2010 academic year

1. At its November 20, 2008 meeting, the Senate reviewed a number of documents from the Senate Executive Committee and the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) in considering whether (a) faculty without terminal degrees or (b) in non-tenured track positions should be allowed to vote on such issues as (1) curriculum changes, (2) faculty hires, & (3) peer evaluations. FAC Chair Renee Hannibal reported on a conference call between the FAC with BOR personnel during the week of October 20, 2008. As a result of that conference call, the FAC learned that the email by VSU Attorney L. Gaskins (included in Attachment B of the Senate agenda for November 20, 2008) was consistent with BOR policy that FT Instructors can be part of the governance process within a department. The Board of Regents concurred that FT instructors can be part of the governance process within a department. It is up to the department or institution for assignments to committees.

On November 20, there was a lengthy discussion regarding this policy. Marty Williams proposed that Bruce Caster write up his concerns regarding the policy and that the FAC seek clarification from the Board of Regents Legal Office regarding the email by VSU Attorney L. Gaskins in Attachment B. A motion was approved for Faculty Affairs Committee to follow up with the Board of Regents. Dr. Caster sent his comments for the FAC to the Executive Secretary on November 23, 2008, but the FAC has had difficulty setting up a conference call with the BOR Legal Office to fully resolve this issue.

2. At its February 19, 2009 meeting, the Senate asked the Senate Technology Committee to consider a university-wide standard for “clickers” on campus. The Technology Committee and Director of IT Joe Newton have been working on this issue, but the issue’s complexity has prevented a rapid resolution.

3. At its February 19, 2009 meeting, the Senate remanded to the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) whether VSU should insert a policy in the *VSU Faculty Handbook* on guidelines for promotion from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer.

4. At its April 16, 2009 meeting, the Senate requested that the Educational Policies Committee during the 2009-2010 academic year review policies and procedures regarding Academic Dishonesty to determine if VSU should create a faculty committee to hear student complaints when a student is sanctioned because of academic misconduct. At the May 21, 2009 Senate meeting, the EPC was also asked to evaluate priority registration for AA degree students.

5. At its May 21, 2009 meeting, the Senate requested the Minority & Diversity Issues Committee discuss with the university attorney a possible policy on prayer at university functions, and that the results of these discussions then be submitted to the new Policy on Policies process endorsed by the Senate at its February 19, 2009 meeting.

Reports of Senate Standing Committees

At its May 21, 2009 meeting, the Senate reviewed annual reports from the 11 Senate Standing Committees. All standing committees up for renewal were renewed (see below).

Academic Scheduling & Procedures: Chair John Elder. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be reviewed again in Spring 2012.

Academic Honors & Scholarships: Chair Nanci Scheetz. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be reviewed again in Spring 2012.

Athletics: Chair Scot Raab. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be reviewed again in Spring 2012.

Educational Policies: Chair Michael Elliott. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be reviewed again in Spring 2012.

Environmental Issues: Chair Brad Bergstrom. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be reviewed again in Spring 2012.

Faculty Development and Research: Chair Karin Murray/Jennifer Lambert-Shute. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be reviewed again in Spring 2012.

Library Affairs: Chair Charles Talor. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be reviewed again in Spring 2012.

Minority & Diversity Issues: Chair Mark Kiyek. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be reviewed again in Spring 2012.

Student Activities: Chair Gina Doepker. This committee was reviewed & revised with help from Vice President Kurt Keppler in 2006-2007. It was renewed in May 2007 and will be reviewed again in Spring 2010.

Student Services: Chair Luis Bejarano. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be reviewed again in Spring 2012.

Technology: Chair Mary Gorham-Rowan. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be reviewed again in Spring 2012.