

**Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
March 21st, 2014**

ATTENDANCE:

Jessie Bishop, Russell Fulmer, Phil Gaffney, Libby Gore, Fred Green, Brandan Harrell, Christine Hicks, Teresa Hutchins, Lisa Jellum, Leslie Johnson, John Kwist, Melanie Largin, Bronson Long, David Mathis, Donna Miller, Shea Mize, Laura Musselwhite, Melinda Myers, Laura Ralston, Steve Stuglin, and Jake Sullins. Please email Sharryse if you were inadvertently left off this list.

CALL TO ORDER: Teresa Hutchins called the meeting to order at 9:06 am via videoconference between all campuses.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from the February 21st meeting were distributed via email to the members of the faculty senate prior to the meeting. Teresa called for any additions, deletions, or corrections. None were given. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made and seconded. Vote to approve the minutes was unanimous. As a point of clarification, Sharryse has requested the March minutes indicate that the source of the numbers quoted in the summer pay section of the February minutes is from the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts (2007 and 2012). Sharryse will post the February meeting minutes in public folders of Outlook for all faculty members to access.
- B. **Athletics:** Teresa welcomed Phil Gaffney, GHC Athletic Director, to discuss concerns expressed by faculty. Mr. Gaffney briefly addressed the senate and thanked them for the opportunity to improve athletics and stressed his commitment to prioritizing academics among the various athletic programs. Teresa then opened the floor to questions, comments, and concerns from the senate:
 - a. **Consistency:** Several Cartersville faculty expressed concern about inconsistency between softball players versus baseball players. Most stated things were going well with softball players but the baseball players had not requested grade/progress reports and were regularly late for class, failing class, or missing class due to non-game related activities. Some faculty have had mixed experiences with the basketball teams. Mr. Gaffney stated that originally they allowed each coach to establish their own mechanisms for reporting, study hall, etc. However, Dr. Musselwhite asked him earlier this semester for more consistency and he has agreed to make efforts to continue to streamline and standardize the process. Mr. Gaffney further stated that he would investigate the problems specifically related to the baseball team.
 - b. **Heavy course load:** Mr. Gaffney admitted that athletes do have heavy course loads as this is a customary practice to help ensure eligibility of the players. To help offset the heavy course loads, athletes are required to participate in a minimum of 6-8 hours of study-hall per week in a very structured daily schedule. Furthermore, much of the money raised by fundraising activities is used to hire tutors to assist athletes that find themselves in academic trouble. Mr. Gaffney went on to say that as a result of these efforts, the retention rates and graduation rates of athletes is at least 75+% while the graduation rates for the college as a whole are much lower.
 - c. **Missing classes for non-game related activities:** Mr. Gaffney unequivocally declared that missing class for physical therapy appointments is not acceptable. Missing class for practice is not acceptable. Missing class for fundraising events is not acceptable. Furthermore, no athlete should be arriving late to class and such issues should be indicated on the athlete's reporting form or an email sent directly to the coach.
 - d. **Study hall:** Mr. Gaffney stated that each coach sets up their own study hall structure and athletes are required to participate. Mr. Gaffney thanked the faculty for being willing to provide individual tutoring to the athletes and suggested maybe more of this needs to be initiated by the students and coaches during faculty office hours.

- e. **Student responsibility:** Both David Mathis and Brandan Harrell spoke to this topic. They indicated that they are attempting to hold students responsible by: 1) not bringing back some athletes because of behavior issues, 2) taking away scholarships because of academic issues, 3) monitoring study hall participation, 4) suspending athletes from one or more games for behavior infractions, and 5) tracking students through progress reporting and requiring the students to be responsible for submitting the progress reports to instructors.

Teresa thanked Mr. Gaffney, Brandan Harrell, and David Mathis for attending the meeting. Mr. Gaffney, in turn, thanked faculty for bringing these issues to their attention so they can improve athletics at GHC and establish a good working relationship among student athletes, faculty, and coaches.

- C. **Lecturer Proposal:** The re-vamped proposal was presented to senate for discussion. The new proposal requests that all faculty members in lecturer positions be converted to tenure-track positions and the title of lecturer be eliminated. Those faculty members holding a PhD will be given the title of Assistant Professor and those not holding a PhD will be given the title of Instructor. Teresa indicated that her interactions with administrators at the administrative retreat suggest they are in favor of such a proposal. Motion to accept the proposal as written was made and seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous. Teresa will forward the proposal to Dr. Musselwhite to present to the administration.
- D. **Part-time Faculty at Graduation:** A proposal for part-time faculty to be allowed to sit with full-time faculty at graduation was presented for discussion. A motion to accept the proposal was made and seconded. The vote to approve the proposal was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Committees of the Faculty and Committees of the College:** Dr. Musselwhite explained the new process for electing faculty members to serve on Committees of the Faculty and Committees of the College. In the past, Instructional Council has traditionally served as the body that made recommendations for replacement of faculty positions on these two committees. However, as part of the senate by-laws, the senate now becomes the Committee on Committees and will thus be responsible for making the recommendations on faculty replacements. The senate then worked together to suggest replacements for the Committees of the College followed by Committees of the Faculty. Nominees will be contacted to determine if they want to serve and the list will be sent to Dr. Musselwhite. The final list will then be presented to the faculty for voting at the April 25th Assessment Day meeting.
- B. **Free-Hour for Student Activities:** Several senate members recalled that the last time the college tried to block an hour devoted to student activities it did not bolster participation as hoped. Furthermore, it would require moving classes normally offered during the free-hour (proposed 12:15- 1:50) which unfortunately is a large number of classes when classroom availability is already limited. A motion was made and seconded for the senate to not take up this issue. The vote was mixed but motion carried.
- C. **Academic Integrity:** Issue for consideration: if there is an issue of academic integrity issue prior to the withdrawal, many times the student simply withdraws from the course and essentially the student suffers no penalty. Furthermore, unless the faculty member insists on it, there is potentially no record of the incident for tracking patterns of cheating for individual students. Most felt there needs to be a "warehouse" for housing/tracking reports of academic integrity similar to the Care Team Memos.
- D. **Budgets:** Budget books for this year will soon be available. Senate members are encouraged to review these so we can continue discussions relative to inequities in pay, pay-raises, and summer salaries.

Next Meeting: Teresa reminded everyone of the next senate meeting scheduled for April 18th 2014 at 9:00 am. It will be video-conferenced on all campuses and all senate members are encouraged to participate.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 10:58 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharryse Henderson, secretary