**Faculty Senate Meeting, February 24, Marietta Campus**

**Attendance:** Justin Pettigrew, Heather Pincock, Noah McLAughlin, Paul McDaniel, Jennifer Dickey, Rebecca Hill, Steve Collins, Daniel Rogers, Darina Lepadatu, Uttam Kokil, Michael Van Dyke, Joe Dirnberger, Bill Griffiths, Scott Tippens, Jeff Wagner, Ying Wang, Lin Li, Jonathan Brown, Diana Gregory, Tim Frank, Ken Hoganson, Lei Li, Cristen Dutcher, Abhra Roy, Randy Stuart, Marrielle Myers, James Gambrell, Anissa Vega, Peter St. Pierre, Rene McClatchey, Mary Beth Maguire, Laurie Tis, Ginny Boss, Richard Mosholder, Joanne Lee, Christine Zelt, Robbie Lieberman, Pamela Whitten, Kat Schwaig, Ron Matson, Barbara Wood

**Guests**: Kris DuRocher, Keven Gwaltney, A.W. Allison, Donna Reddix, Nwakaego Nkumeh, Orie Thornton, Michele DiPietro, Andrew Altizer, Andrew Pieper

1. Acceptance of Minutes –
   1. Minutes were accepted and approved.
2. Presidential Report, Dr. Pamela Whitten
   1. The General Assembly had taken up several items regarding education, the President noted. At the time of the meeting, cross-over day had not occurred. Following are the items mentioned:
      1. The governor was pushing a pay raise for public school primary and secondary teachers.
      2. There was another push to increase the salary of governmental employees making less than $40,000.
      3. A number of agencies have been asked to cut 4 percent of their budget this year, and to prepare to make cuts of 6 percent next year. For the most part, Higher Education has been excluded from those cuts since we are funded differently.
      4. The remaining money needed for the new KSU Academic Learning Center has been approved in the Governor’s budget. KSU has also requested more money for chemistry labs.
      5. A House Bill seeks to place restrictions on Dual Enrollment. Currently, when students enroll for dual enrollment, a popular program, the State must pay for the students to be enrolled in both high school and in college. The new bill would restrict Dual Enrollment for 11th and 12th graders who would be limited to 30 hours of Dual Enrollment coursework. (The President noted that this benefits KSU.)
      6. A Senate Bill would require that 90 percent of those accepted for early enrollment to R1 Universities be Georgia high school students.
      7. The University celebrated KSU Day at the state assembly during this period of legislative activity.
   2. The President announced the 9 million dollar gift that Wellstar was providing to help expand out nursing program and with the state shortage of nurses. (As a side note, she noted that the #1 group of transfer students were those in nursing.
   3. The KSU statue on the Green has been unveiled.
   4. The President thanked faculty who had participated in faculty searches.
   5. The University has a need for professional advisors. KSU will be opening an advising center along with a big hire initiative.
   6. Coles College has been reaccredited.
   7. The President applauded the cross-disciplinary collaborations, such as Moondust, a collaboration between the College of the Arts and the College of Computing.
   8. The President noted with sadness the passing of Betty Siegel.
3. Provost report, Dr. Kat Schwaig
   1. The Provost had had a productive meeting that morning with Part-Time representatives that morning. They had brought forth their concerns, which she hopes to address.
   2. The Provost noted that the General Education model, which Tristan Denley had released, was on peoples’ minds. She noted that there is still time for input before the model is voted on in April.
   3. The Provost has put together a taskforce to look at the curriculum process, which is cumbersome and backlogged. The taskforce will be led by Dr. Jennifer Wade-Berg and will include representatives from both UPCC and GPCC.
4. Senior Associate Vice-Provost Report, Dr. Ron Matson
   1. The taskforce on compression and inversion is awaiting to receive a report from the outside consultant.
   2. The taskforce on centers and institutes has begun to update verbiage that was created by previous taskforces. This includes consistently distinguishing research centers and institutes from other university centers, such as CETL, as well as policies and procedures for both.
   3. The taskforce on summer terms is wrapping up its work. It is currently looking at whether to keep the ten-week summer session.
5. Interim Assistant Vice-President for Curriculum and Academic Innovation Report, Dr. Anissa Vega.
   1. All curriculum within the curriculum process will be reviewed for the Fall 2020 Catalog. If you are a creator, you will need to reach out to UPCC or GPCC to make certain that these pieces are being moved along. If they are not approved on time, they will not make it into the catalogue.
   2. Taskforce on Cross-Leveling and Cross-Listing: The taskforce is currently seeking feedback. The group hopes to put forward a policy at the March Faculty Meeting.
   3. Taskforce on Zero Credit Hour Policy: The taskforce has been formed and is beginning its work.
   4. Academic Program Review Taskforce: The taskforce is currently designing a template for the review of academic programs.
   5. The taskforce on Curriculum Structure is currently examining the structure of curriculum committees.
   6. Taskforce on General Education. This group will be looking at guidelines for developing exploratory courses and institutional options.
   7. Dr. Vega thanked Dr. Kris DuRocher for expertise and work with General Education at the University and University-System level as both begin revising the General Education curriculum.
6. Vote on Academic Freedom Proposal – Dr. Andrew Pieper
   1. Dr. Pieper presented a proposal for a standing committee that would review, provide advice, facilitate, and mediate violations of academic freedom. It would then create a formal report for SACs.
   2. Barbara Wood, Library, asked why the proposed committee only included tenured faculty and not untenured faculty, such as library faculty.
   3. Dr. Pieper responded that since violations of academic freedom are often very delicate situations, his committee felt that it would be best to have faculty who were protected by tenure.
   4. Proposal was unanimously accepted.
7. Vote on UG Grading and UG Registration policies – Dr. Kevin Gwaltney.
   1. Dr. Gwaltney worked to review existing policies, such as academic policies, to clean up and clarify existing language and to align them with BOR and USG language. The revisions that he made were minor and not substantive.
   2. Dr. Heather Pincock, Conflict Management, asked what the process would be for adding plus and minus grades to the existing grade system.
   3. Dr. Gwaltney responded that this was tried years ago and would require KSU leadership to take the issue to the USG. (When this was attempted in the past, the USG rejected KSU’s attempts, stating that plus/minus grades would only be given at the R1 institutions.
   4. 30 Voted to Approve. 1 Person Voted Against the Motion
8. Draft Cross-level and Cross-listed course proposals (see attached document) – Dr. Anissa Vega.
   1. Dr. Anissa Vega presented a draft of the cross-level and cross-listed courses. As she had done in her report, she noted that the committee was seeking feedback on the process.
   2. Dr. Daniel Rogers, Psychology, asked why we needed a new policy.
   3. Drs. Vega and Moodie explained that the UPCC was concerned about some of the existing combinations of courses. They requested that a committee develop a consistent policy for all cross-listed and cross-leveled courses.
   4. Dr. Heather Pincock, Conflict Management, noted that she and others had not received the link.
   5. Dr. Vega said that she would resend the link.
9. Low Course Evaluation Participation Proposal, Drs. Darina Lepadatu, Sociology and Criminal Justice, Rebecca Hill, ISD, and Ron Matson, Senior AVP
   1. Dr. Lepadatu, Sociology and Criminal Justice, put forward a proposal that would require students to opt-out of having to do an evaluation. Students would need to either complete or actively opt out of doing student evaluations in order to receive their grades early. (They simply could not ignore the prompt.) Dr. Lepadatu noted that several faculty have seen the response rates for student evaluations drop since KSU had gone to an online evaluation system. In many cases, especially with online courses, the response rate is lower than 25% of the class. This presents a problem for faculty who have to report response rates in their ARDs. She also noted that several schools within the USG have a similar system.
   2. Several senators noted that this is problem for their Colleges and Departments, too, noting that such low rates are difficult to benchmark. Other senators asked whether we know the response rates for sister institutions.
   3. Dr. Matson responded that he could investigate what other institions are doing, including whether what they are doing is successful.
   4. Dr. Kat Schwaig noted that this had already been raised in the Chairs and Directors Assembly, which prompted CETL to begin pulling together a group that would look into the issue.
   5. Dr. Rebecca Hill, ISD, offered a friendly amendment that the proposal, if it passes, be given to the existing group as a recommendation.
   6. The motion passed with 30 yeas and 1 no.
10. New USG CORE, its implementation, and formation of FS sub-committees – Dr. Kris DuRocher
    1. Dr. Kris DuRocher, Director of General Education, walked the Senate through the proposed USG changes in General Education. The new model forgoes the existing plug and play system for a model that provides greater flexibility. Those changes include a reduction in the number of CORE courses along with the creation of two new areas (Institutional and Exploratory Areas) and a new course in Area F (Writing in the Disciplines).
    2. Dr. DuRocher noted that there were several reasons that the USG has wanted to make these changes, including the following:
       1. The new model provides students with greater flexibility and ease in moving through the Core Curriculum. For example, a number of pre-requisites that often prevented students from moving into their disciplines have been eliminated.
       2. The new model moves students into their major sooner.
       3. The new model helps with transferability and consistency.
       4. It moves the General Education Systems away from a series of checked boxes to a more coherent system.
       5. The revisions are consistent with those of institutions across the nation.
    3. Dr. DuRocher represented KSU on the implementation committee.
    4. Dr. DuRocher noted that the USG has released the model for comment up until the April BOR meeting. In the interim, the USG has established an online form to receive comment, and KSU has set up also set up a link for feedback. Feedback on the KSU link will be anonymous, which is not the case with the USG link, and will be forwarded in total to the USG. Dr. DuRocher said that faculty could also contact her to share feedback. Finally, she noted that the RACs will be providing feedback.
    5. Randy Stuart, Marketing, noted that the university has not looked into General Education for a number of years.
    6. Dr. Jillian Ford, Secondary Educaiton, noted that there seems to be a problem with transferability and consistency.
    7. Dr. Steve Collins, Political Science, expressed concern that KSU seems to have several committees looking at this issue. He wondered why we need a taskforce to look at the structure of the General Education Council when we could have the existing General Education Council.
    8. Several Senators expressed concern about the rushed timeline when universities within the system have to develop and then submit courses, including resubmitting existing courses, for curriculum review by December 2020.
11. Meeting was adjourned at 2:07 PM