



Faculty Senate Minutes

September 23, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

3:30 P.M.

President Dr. Felicia Jefferson, Presiding

- I. Call to Order and Quorum Determination**
 1. Dr. Felicia Jefferson called the General Faculty Senate meeting to order at 3:35 PM via Zoom. Faculty senate members in attendance constituted a quorum.

- II. Approval of Agenda**
 1. Dr. James Newton moved to accept the agenda; it was properly seconded by Dr. Clarence Riley.

- III. Review of Minutes..... Jessica Jefferson, Assistant Secretary**
 1. Professor Jefferson stated that the minutes were shared with faculty prior to the meeting. Time was provided for review.
 2. Dr. Clarence Riley moved to accept the minutes as written.
 - Dr. Newton properly seconded this motion
 - Dr. Dwayne Daniels noted a correction with the spelling of Dr. Kannan's name (Change from Dr. Cannon)
 - Motion carried with the stated revisions,

- IV. Nominations and Elections**
 1. Secretary
 - Dr. Clarence Riley moved to nominate Professor Jessica Jefferson as Secretary.
 - Dr. Meagan Fields properly seconded this motion.
 - The floor was open for other nominations; no other nominations were presented.
 - Dr. Riley moved to close nominations and it was properly seconded by Dr. Roddrick Chatmon.
 - Professor Jessica Jefferson accepted the role of Secretary.
 2. Assistant Secretary
 - Professor Jessica Jefferson moved to nominate Dr. Fields as Assistant Secretary.
 - Dr. Newton properly seconded this motion.
 - The floor was open for other nominations; no other nominations were presented.
 - Dr. Riley moved to close nominations and it was properly seconded by Dr. Newton.
 - Dr. Meigan Fields accepted the role of Assistant Secretary.

- V. Provost Report.....Dr. Olufunke Fontenot, Interim Provost**
 1. Interim Provost Fontenot was not present

- VI. Faculty Senate President's Report.....Dr. Felicia Jefferson, Faculty Senate President**

- University System of Georgia Faculty Council
 - All University System of Georgia Senate Presidents will meet
- Provost Search
 - The final candidates visited last week and additional updates will provided
- Faculty Senate Calendar
 - Dr. Jefferson stated that the Faculty Senate Calendar must be voted on by the Faculty Senate
 - Dr. Jerry Mobley moved to accept the calendar
 - Ms. Betty Rogers properly seconded this motion
 - The motion passed and the Faculty Senate Calendar was accepted.

VII. Faculty Senate Representation.....Dr. Clarence Riley, Faculty Senate Vice President

1. Department/Colleges

- The Faculty Senate Executive Board reviewed the bylaws and constitution to ensure that there is adequate representation on the Faculty Senate. As long as we maintain the same membership qualifications for the number of representatives, there is no need to make changes at this time.

VIII. Faculty Welfare Chair Report.....Dr. James Newton, Faculty Welfare Chair

1. Contract Information (9 month to 10 month contracts)

- Dr. Newton shared contracts that shoed the following start and end dates per academic year:
 1. 2011 – 2012, 8/8/2011 – 5/7/2012
 2. 2012 – 2013, 8/6/2012 – 5/7/2013
 3. 2013 – 2014, 8/5/2013 – 5/15/2014
 4. 2014 – 2015, 8/11/2014 – 5/13/2015
 5. 2015 – 2016, 8/10/2015 – 5/11/2016
 6. 2016 – 2017, 8/8/2016 – 5/9/2017
 7. 2017 – 2018, 8/17/2017 – 5/18/2018
 8. 2018 – 2019, 8/9/2018 – 5/14/2019
 9. 2019 – 2020, 8/1/2019 – 5/31/2020
 10. 2020 – 2021, 8/1/2020 – 5/31/2021
 11. 2021 – 2022, 8/1/2021 – 5/31/2022
- Dr. Newton shared that this change happened during the time when we did not have a fulltime Human Resources Director. Faculty are considered nine month employees that are paid over ten months.
- Dr. Calloway - Why did this change to faculty contracts happen?
- Dr. Newton responded by stating he was told it was an error in 2019-2020.
- Dr. Fesseha Gabremikael asked for clarify on the time between 2019/2020 or 2020/2021 in which the change occurred.
- Stacey Barrett shared that her contract in 2018 stated 10-month employee.
- Dr. Seyedmehdi Mobini commented that he worked closely with Human Resources, and faculty are considered nine month employees. This includes one month for vacation. He suggested that we check the handbook from USG and other places for clarity.
- Dr. Newton – What is the wish of the Faculty Senate on this matter?
- Dr. Chatmon stated that he is in favor of moving back to faculty going back to nine month faculty.

- Dr. Newton shared that contracts started on the day of the Faculty and Staff Institute (reference 2011). This change happened in 2018/2019 under Vice President Kane. Contracts started two weeks before classes started due to allow for additional time to process students (Admissions and Financial Aid). This was detrimental to faculty and was a source of faculty burnout.
- Dr. Newton shared the need for faculty to yield more authority over the academic calendar. He suggested moving forward faculty should have more representation on the Academic Calendar Committee.
- Dr. Sharif – What is the formal process to make changes to the faculty contracts?
- Dr. Chatmon shared that he thinks this is the formal process. Faculty Senate should take it to Academic Affairs.
- Dr. Chatmon made a motion that Faculty Senate should make a motion to Academic Affairs to revisit the start and end dates on faculty contracts.
- Dr. Luiz stated that there was not a formal announcement when the changes to contracts were made.
- Dr. Newton shared that the people that made the error are no longer here at Fort Valley State University.
- Dr. Riley commented that faculty members know we are nine month employees. It is up to HR, if they disagree, to prove otherwise.
- Dr. Fields suggested that we find out from the university reasons and provide them with the opportunity to address the concerns.

IX. Campus Parking Updates.....Chief Anita Allen

1. Chief Allen shared that she was asked to join to answer specific questions about faculty parking.
 - She stated that there is not enough faculty and student parking on campus. She is aware of the faded spots and is working to get them repainted. She also stated that there are missing signage. A contractor will assist with the parking concerns in the B-Zone and E-Zone. They are revisiting the signage and plan to make it larger in those areas.
 - Chief Allen also stated that Fort Valley State University has a smaller budget for parking when compared to other universities. The changes for parking are not included in the Campus Police budget.
 - Dr. Riley shared that there is not any faculty parking present in the Health and Physical Education Complex parking lot.
 - Chief Allen stated she will look into adding faculty/staff parking around the curve.

X. Homecoming.....Dr. Bridget Moss, Homecoming Committee Chair

1. Dr. Moss stated that Homecoming will be October 17 – October 23, 2021.
 - There will be a farewell brunch on October 24, 2021
 - Faculty participation is encouraged throughout the week. Faculty are asked not to plan any major exams during this week as well
 - The Homecoming Kick-off will be held in the stadium on October 18, 2021 from 12:00 (noon) – 2:00 PM.
 - Some of the events will be invitation only.

XI. Miscellaneous

1. Dr. Fields shared that there was a notice that all faculty should have 3:00 PM teaching appointments. She asked if the Faculty Senate was involved with this decision.

- Dr. Jefferson commented that it was not presented to the executive board and she was unsure of the rationale for this change. The Executive Board will reach out to Interim Provost Fontenot.
 - Dr. Daniels stated that he was told the decision was based on data that shows students perform better during this time (3:00 PM).
 - Dr. Grace Seaman shared that the Faculty Senate should vote on this decision.
 - Dr. Archie Williams shared that it was presented to the deans.
 - Dr. Fredrick Mclaughlin shared that this change is supposed to take place in the spring. The suggestion was made to have a called meeting with Dr. Fontenot, Interim Provost.
2. Dr. Archie Williams – Is there anyone having trouble getting course proposals approved? He shared that this is important because the next Curriculum Committee meeting is on November 2, 2021.
 3. Dr. Jefferson asked that we hold other comments for further discussion with Interim Provost Fontenot.

XII. Adjourn

1. Dr. Riley moved to adjourn the meeting; it was properly seconded by Dr. Archie Williams at 5:10 PM.