

**Minutes**  
**SPSU General Faculty Meeting**  
**12:30pm Thursday, October 1, 2009**  
**Burruss Auditorium**

**1. Quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 12:32pm with the moderator declaring that a quorum was present. (53 is quorum)

**2. Approval of General Faculty Meeting minutes of August 19, 2009**

The minutes were displayed.

Motion: To approve the minutes; Discussion: None

Approved

**3. Faculty Standing Committee Reports**

**A. Faculty Senate (Mark Stevens)** – The Senate approved Tech Fee study proposal, and supported an ROTC office on campus. The parliamentarian, vice moderator, and document review committee were chosen. Faculty issues were prioritized.

**B. Student Life Committee (Kim Haines-Korn)** –Have not met yet. There has been some confusion regarding the meeting time and not overlapping with SGA meetings. The meeting time is being set to coincide with the meeting of the UCC (the first Thursday following the first Wednesday of the month).

**C. Faculty Council (Gouranga Banik)**–Have not met yet, but will hold a meeting by phone shortly.

**D. Undergraduate Student Status Committee (Susan Vande Ven)** –Met in September; new officers were chosen, and the discussion of academic honesty policies was opened. Petitions were handled. The USS requests that any available supporting documents accompany petitions. The committee has had to return petitions for lack of information.

**E. Graduate Programs Committee (Gouranga Banik)** – Met in September; petitions were handled and the discussion of open houses was opened.

**F. UCC (William Griffiths)** –The June meeting was for petitions. The committee met in September. The committee was asked by Business Administration to remove a BA degree; the issue was tabled. It changed the Mechatronics curriculum, approved a concentration in Supply Chain Logistics, considered several course-change requests, and handled petitions.

**G. UITAC (Bob Brown)** – Have not met. The committee met in March when it was announced that Dr. Koger is filling in as interim CIO. The move to ZIMBRA has started.

**4. Acceptance of Recommendations Contained in Committee Minutes**

• Faculty Senate: Sept. 17, 2008

• Graduate Programs Committee: Sept. 15, 2009

• **Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: June 25, 2009 and Sept. 10, 2009**

• **Undergraduate Student Status Committee: Sept. 8, 2009**

Motion: To approve the minutes as a group; Discussion: None  
Approved

## 5. VPAA's Comments

- Updates: It was posted that there are 8 potential research centers; some initial feedback has been received. The research center proposal information can be viewed here: <http://eu.spsu.edu/comments/centers.php>. The purpose of these centers is to encourage research and keep conflicts from arising.
- Update: There was a call for mini-grants; the deadline was 9/30. There is \$125,000 to fund these grant proposals.
- PSLAMP is headed to Fort Valley November 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. Faculty are welcome to attend for support and to serve as judges. The conference is for student research. Participating students will be presenting their work. Transportation will be provided, and there is no cost to attend for those willing to serve as judges.
- The Integrated Robotics Honors course needs instructors. That is being worked out.
- Dawn Ramsey is looking for help with the upcoming Future Cities competition.
- Budget: There is nothing new. It is our understanding that the legislature will convene mid October; we will likely face an additional budget cut.
- The deans have collected a list of positions to be filled, and the president has given permission to post advertisements to fill positions. The University may or may not be able to fill some or all of the vacancies. We are moving forward. Departments have been given the go-ahead, though the process may be slow.
- The process is complicated by the fact that \$600 thousand of the current budget is due to furloughs. When furloughs are ended, that money will no longer be available. An additional \$1.2 million is available due to the stimulus plan. After next year, that money will no longer be available. We must continue to be conservative due to these issues.
- The USG is having a diversity conference Oct. 28-29.
- Next week: The changes in to the CORE are being finalized. The proposed changes have been distributed. SPSU is not required to make any changes; there are some overlaps, but there will be greater flexibility under the new system.
- The question of impact on transfer students was raised. The VPAA said that under the new system, CORE areas completed at one institution will transfer as completed to other USG institutions. The requirements with respect to courses and hours at the degree-granting institution will still have to be met.
- The question: "Are more programs going to be reduced to 120 hours?" was asked. The VPAA responded that focus in the USG was on retention, progression, and degrees completed. We are being compared to other USG institutions. We don't look good. Good news: The graduation rate is up to about 30% from 23% from 5 years ago. We will maintain rigor and academic expectation and try to increase graduation rates through support and advising.
- An issue about graduation ceremony participation was raised by Calros Ortiz. We allow some students to participate in the commencement ceremony before completing all requirements for graduation. We had a student walk in the ceremony who was then dismissed. This sets a bad precedent. The VPAA stated that thoughts or suggestions on this issue should be sent to the deans. Decisions on this will go through the Senate, the UCC or the USS.

- Commencement is getting crowded. Suggestions are coming in to deal with the increase in the number of attendees at commencements. These include splitting the event into two ceremonies, splitting the students according to graduate/undergraduate degrees, and moving the ceremony off-campus. Students surveyed supported moving the ceremonies outside or off campus and were least interested in splitting into more than one ceremony or limiting the number of guest tickets.
- The VPAA expressed thanks to those who participated in faculty/staff campaign.
- There is no news on the Chief Information Officer search, but a posting for the position of webmaster has been placed.

## **6. President's Comments**

- The president was at a Regents' meeting.

## **7. Announcements**

- Future meetings will be online.
- Thanks to those who contributed to Clarksdale Elementary.
- ZIMBRA training is underway.
- This Halloween, several high schools and middle schools will be on campus for robotics competitions. All are invited to drop in.
- Tuesday ET&M colloquium in H-203 on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm
- CTE events: Tools training on basics of Wimba, Second half of Sustainability, Using polling in the classroom, and brown bag each 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. of the month
- International film festival this evening (October 1<sup>st</sup>)

## **8. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:17pm

Next General Faculty Meeting: Thursday, October 29 at 12:30pm in Burruss Auditorium

Submitted by: Laura Ritter, Secretary to the Faculty

Approved by: Mark Stevens, Faculty Moderator