

**Minutes
General Faculty Meeting
Thursday 17 February**

The SPSU Faculty met in the Burruss Auditorium at noon on 17 February 2005, Faculty Moderator Becky Rutherford presiding.

1. Quorum

Moderator Rutherford confirmed that a quorum was present upon the arrival of 55 faculty members.

2. Future Meeting Schedule

Moderator Rutherford asked the faculty for input about the possibility of reducing the number of General Faculty meetings per semester. Currently, 4 meetings per semester are scheduled; in the past, only 2 were.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1 The faculty approved the Minutes of the General Faculty Meeting of 20 January 2005.

3.2 The faculty approved the Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meetings of 18 January and 1 February 2005.

4. VPAA Hornbeck's Comments

4.1 Three department head searches are now ongoing

4.2 Equipment proposals are being requested. Deans will prioritize them.

4.3 Some minor renovation and repair is being considered for the J Building basement former video lab, for Building M, and a few others.

4.4 Floyd College will be holding some freshman and sophomore classes on our campus this summer while building projects are taking place on their campus. Floyd classes will be held in Buildings D (6) and G (2).

4.5 Faculty assessment is coming up. The VPAA would like some changes, including some self-assessment and less emphasis on SIRS.

4.6 Freshman retention: We have a low retention rate, despite high SAT entry scores. The VPAA is hoping to formulate action plans at the departmental level and include some student input. Faculty input will be at the departmental level, though it may also be made directly to the VPAA. Consistency in student advising is another goal to aid retention. The VPAA stressed again the need for assessment in dealing with the problem.

4.7 Prof Ortiz pointed out that our IRPA Office, which once played a major role in retention, has been downsized over the past several years.

5. President Rossbacher's Comments

5.1 The President thanked the faculty for the many condolences on the death of her father.

5.2 The President made several comments about the upcoming 2005-06 budget.

5.3 An open meeting about the administration's plans for the SPSU presentation to the BoR for the 2006-07 budget will be held.

5.4 The university is working to rein in textbook costs.

- 5.5. The President addressed the current national controversy about an Academic Bill of Rights that assures students the right to disagree with their professors. She stated that SPSU already has policies that protect this right already.
- 5.6 The Governor's proposal for free SAT prep courses might help improve Georgia's low SAT scores.
- 5.7 Prof Nuhfer-Halten asked about faculty equity salary adjustments. The President spoke about the need for both staff and faculty adjustments and asked for faculty input to help find resources. She believes that we'll make some progress next year.
- 5.8 Prof. Rainey inquired about campus policies for dealing with used book buyers. Moderator Rutherford has spoken with Chief Chasteen and with officials on other campuses about the problem. Dealing with it may require a specific P&P. Some other campuses allow used book solicitation only if the buyers have made an appointment.
- 5.7 The VPAA search is well underway. We have six strong candidates who applications are currently going under reference checks. We hope to have the top three or so candidates on campus after spring break, or even sooner.
- 5.8 The legislature may well hold up raises again till January.
- 5.9 The President praised the Men's Basketball team for its #3 NAIA national ranking and encouraged the faculty to attend the remaining games and the Conference Tournament in early March. The Tournament will be held in the SPSU Gym.
- 5.10 The Foundation is planning to put on an April 22 fundraising ball. The faculty felt that it would be best if black tie were not required.

6. Announcements

- 6.1 The Georgia State Forensics Tournament will be held on campus on Saturday, 26 February.
- 6.2 Also on 26 February, the Science Olympiad will be going on. Prof. Crimm is still looking for volunteers.
- 6.3 Dean Unsell invited faculty and students to attend next week's Engineering Week activities.
- 6.4 Nominations for next year's faculty committees will be coming up in March.

The **next meeting** is scheduled for noon, Thursday 17 March in Burruss Auditorium.

Becky Rutherford
Moderator of the Faculty

David Hornbeck
Vice President of Academic Affairs

Mark Stevens
Secretary to the Faculty