

*University of West Georgia
General Faculty Meeting
Townsend Center
May 2, 2006
Approved August 9, 2006*

Date: May 2, 2006

1) Call to Order: President (Dr.) Beheruz Sethna called the meeting to order at 3.08 pm. He started off by thanking and congratulating the faculty and staff for their many contributions over the past year. He proudly presented the achievements of the students and the school to the faculty. He discussed a whole gamut of agenda items which are forthcoming. Among them is the new tuition policy of the entire university system, which will require a new four year plan. He discussed the centennial celebration earmarked for fall 2006 and also the proposed “4 ½ day” summer session. He expressed great pride in UWG’s commitment to intellectual discourse and diversity of perspective emblematic of a true university – evidenced by having three internationally-recognized speakers known for very different views and with very different backgrounds and perspectives, all within a period of two months: Cornell West, Arun Gandhi, and Andrew von Eschenbach.

2) Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2005 meeting was made and seconded, and it passed unanimously.

3) Recognition of Retirees: This was conducted by President Sethna and Vice-President Hynes. They were individually awarded and feted.

4) Faculty and Staff Awards: The faculty and staff awards were presented by the Vice President of University Advancement, Dr. Tara Singer, starting with the 10 year pins all the way up to the 35 year pins, for glorious service to the institution.

5) Foundation Presentation: The Foundation Presentation was done by Dr. Andrew Leavitt. As he put it, “fund raising this year was a mix of the good, the bad and the ugly.” He went on to elaborate the state of “unrestricted funds” and presented a breakdown of fund allocation, which emphasized that 90 percent of these funds were spent for student scholarships and the bulk of the remainder on other activities directly related to our academic mission. He also touched on the “A day celebration for our centennial year.”

6) Election of Officers: On the request of the Vice President Dr. Hynes, the faculty unanimously voted to suspend the elections till the fall of 2006.

7) Faculty Awards: The Big Night mentors and the Faculty Recognition Awards were given out by Drs. Hynes, Leavitt and Sethna.

8) Vice Presidents Remarks: Dr. Hynes praised and recognized the faculty and staff for their selfless acts of helping others and in the process making the institution a wonderful work environment. He then talked about “institutional priorities,” student retention and graduation rates. He also discussed the pivotal role played by the faculty senate, whose job encompasses departmental policy to bookstore policy to the centennial celebration policy. He also mentioned the positive steps taken towards remediation of “salary compression” and the new academic initiatives proposed for the future.

9) President’s Closing Remarks: The President said his closing remarks would be brief and indeed they were. He thanked all colleagues again, congratulated one and all on the good work done, and wished them well for the bright future ahead.

Adjournment: 3.55 pm

Respectfully submitted by Swarna (Bashu) Dutt, Executive Secretary Faculty Senate