

GENERAL FACULTY MEETING

Minutes

Fall Semester, 2013

Wednesday, August 21st

Townsend Center

9:00 a.m., Reception 8:30 a.m.

Approved April 16, 2014

I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Opening Remarks to Faculty—Dr. Kyle Marrero, President

Dr. Marrero called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. He stated that he is honored to be the new president of UWG. He acknowledged the former president, Dr. Beheruz Sethna, and thanked him for his generosity in assisting the transition. Dr. Marrero also acknowledged the accomplishments of others. In providing an overview of where the University is positioned, he mentioned the record enrollment growth—up to 12K students this fall—the \$300M in new or renovated facilities, the 3300 students on campus from 44 states and 69 countries, the diversity of academic programs, including four doctorates, and SACS level VI status. The economic impact of UWG is \$442M, with the second largest per capita impact in the state of Georgia, and the fourth largest employer in the region.

In the seven weeks that he has been here, Dr. Marrero has been listening and learning and has seen love and pride in the institution and formed a perception of who we are. He has developed a “learning network” of 23 people around the institution who have helped him identify obstacles and challenges of growth. He has talked to all but four of the Board of Regents members, political leaders in the House and the Senate, and community and Chamber leaders. There are great expectations for UWG, with the BOR having designated us a “Comprehensive University.” It is expected that institutions within this sector will be committed to being world-class academic institutions. Where do we go from here? He stated that communication and trust are what we need to work on as an institution, with the president focused on building trust. It is our shared responsibility to communicate, and trust will build from there. He promised to communicate with faculty how decisions are made. The Strategic Plan for 2014-2020 and the Academic Master Plan (with faculty participation in that planning process) will shape our identity as a world-class institution and will be a blueprint for the future. These processes will be finalized later this fall, with a document in place about January/February 2014 as a roadmap for resource allocation. Retention, recruitment, and development of faculty and staff will be important. The President intends to address compression with a three-to-five year plan. He stated that salary increases are a top priority agenda item; in fact, the number one priority.

The State and the BOR want us to continue to grow. The greatest challenge we face is Complete College Georgia. Why? Because in two years we will move to performance-based funding on RPG (retention, progression, graduation) of four- and six-year numbers. At this point, Dr. Marrero asked the assembled faculty to stand up to assist with an exercise and directed certain portions to sit down in conjunction with our attrition as follows: we have 2000 freshmen. By the time they are sophomores, we have lost 30%. Of the remaining 70%, we lose 50% between sophomore and junior year. That leaves 700 in their junior year. We lose another 50% then. That leaves only 17% (340) graduates for a four-year rate. The six-year rate will be the benchmark; we do better there, with 39% graduating. Dr. Marrero stated that we are in “the

business of transforming lives.” We will not lower our standards or expectations in order to increase the graduation rate. If we are successful in raising our RPG, we can use the additional money to hire more faculty and staff, strengthen programs, etc. We all have to work together to figure this out, like Georgia State University has done. The BOR expectation that we are active partners in community development means that we need to develop mutually beneficial partnerships and work with the Chamber. Dr. Marrero said that small groups have been formed to look at this. We need to create more visibility, to tell our story beyond the Go West branding campaign. We want to become campaign ready. We will have a capital campaign that is informed by the Strategic Plan, and it will be a historic campaign, he promised. The faculty are needed to tell that story. Dr. Marrero concluded his remarks by playing a 2:40 video created by University Communications and Marketing for an athletic philanthropic effort. The video stressed the idea of community—that we are a pack; we are Wolves.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of April 17, 2013 was seconded and the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

III. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Remarks—Dr. Michael Horvath

The Provost and VP for Academic Affairs emphasized the need to be future-oriented. He mentioned that UWG graduates of 10 years ago hardly recognize the campus today. Dr. Horvath talked about four trends that help him know where we will be as we think about the future: 1) we are maturing as an institution, and the Strategic Plan, budgeting, and assessment will be more important; 2) we are finding our identity, and must shift resources to support our services; 3) external events are shaping our future, such as compliance with mandates imposed on us (e.g., SACS and Enterprise Risk Management); 4) money matters. Our share of the state funding has been reduced by 25% in the last few years. As we shift to performance funding, we must take up the challenge without compromising academic standards. Dr. Horvath reiterated some of the priorities that the President outlined.

IV. Go West for A Day—Dr. Joey Smith and Ms. Nichole Fannin

Dr. Smith stated that the culture of West Georgia is that of family and that “we save lives” the hard way—over a long period of time. Ms. Fannin talked about the accomplishments of the Go West for A Day campaign of the last two years: two years ago, 441 participated out of 1100 people, which is 35%; \$235 was the average gift, and \$104K was brought in altogether. Last year, 61% participated and almost \$132K was raised. This year the goal is 80% participation and \$150K. Ms. Fannin urged the faculty to think about the size of their gift, as it is important. A total of 43% of scholarships go to freshmen, and 67% of scholarships go to West Georgia area students. The money shows the community that we care about the product that we provide and it attracts external donors. Ms. Fannin added that faculty can direct where their donation goes and that it is tax-deductible. Dr. Smith listed common excuses for not participating and countered them. Both Dr. Smith and Ms. Fannin delivered heartfelt, personal speeches about their own educational histories and why giving is important. The Victory Celebration will be October 17.

V. UWG Ombuds Program—Dr. John Fuller

Dr. Fuller has represented the faculty in the Ombuds office for five years now, but after 32 years of service to UWG, he is retiring on January 1, so a new Ombuds person is needed. Dr. Fuller talked about the qualifications, including the fact that one must be tenured. He explained that working with the faculty is the true benefit of the position and urged those interested to apply. He thanked President Sethna.

VI. American Association of University Professors (AAUP)—Ms. Anne Barnhart

Ms. Barnhart is the current president of the UWG chapter. She explained that AAUP is an advocacy group, the retention and progression arm for faculty, and is not a collective bargaining unit. Faculty who have concerns, such as regarding health insurance changes in past years, may bring those issues to the attention of AAUP. One does not have to be a member of AAUP to attend meetings. In addition to Ms. Barnhart, the current officers are Lara Willox, Sal Peralta, David Boldt, Yan Yang, Felix Tweraser, and Debra MacComb. Let them know how they can help you.

VII. SACS and QEP Update—Dr. Jon Anderson

Dr. Anderson issued a sincere thank-you to all who have been involved in these processes. The compliance certificate has 95 statements and 955 linked documents. It will be sent out in a week or so. Dr. Anderson mentioned that as a result of 1001 assessments, 362 improvements have been made in programs across campus. The compliance certificate will be reviewed November 5-7, then April 1-3 the on-site team will focus on the compliance certificate and the QEP.

VIII. Accessibility Services—Dr. Lisa Adams

Dr. Adams is the Director of Counseling & Career Development (Accessibility Services, formerly Disability Services, is located in CCD). Their mission is to assist in access for students with disabilities, to empower students to become independent learners, etc. If a faculty member has an issue with a student with a disability, please contact them. They will work with you and the student to resolve the issue. Dr. Adams mentioned that you should get an accommodation letter from the student. Please see the Accessibility Services website for podcasts that may answer your questions, or get directly in touch with them at www.westga.edu/counseling.

IX. International Services and Programs—Dr. Maria Doyle

This area has some new things this year. They are under the umbrella of Honors and Transdisciplinary Programs. Dr. Doyle presented a brief PowerPoint about who they are. They cover international students and study abroad opportunities. This fits in with our institutional priorities, especially Strategic Imperative #2: Commitment to International Education, and the UWG Statement of Values. Dr. Doyle stressed that students studying abroad come back with more in their arsenal to help them succeed. This department has a new ISP software package this year that will provide a centralized space to advertise programs and opportunities and has an online application system. Dr. Doyle mentioned the following events:

- September 10, 2:00 p.m., Ingram Library: Study Abroad Photo Contest Awards Ceremony

- October 9, TLC Atrium: Study Abroad Fair
- October 17, 4:30 p.m., Ingram Library: Study Workshop
- November 18-22: International Education Week
- early Spring semester: International Night
- Spring 2014: Faculty Workshop

Dr. Doyle's office is 229 Row Hall. Please let her know if she may be of assistance to you.

X. Bookstore—Mr. Mark Rhodes

Mr. Rhodes mentioned the UWG Bookstore's progress in regard to marketing, graphics, website development, and a new boutique. They have more products and affordable pricing; e.g., no clothes over \$45. A new version of electronic books is available. They are planning many in-store events in September and October. Look for College Days, in which each college gets its own day. A special event will be the Bookfest, with over 30 local authors committed to appear on September 18, 7:00-9:30. The Fall Sidewalk Sale is September 23-27, with 40% off. October 3 is National Student Appreciation Day. The Bookstore will be open on football days.

XI. Good Librations—Ms. Anne Barnhart

Good Librations is an Ingram Library-sponsored workshop for faculty and staff that was started last year. It is the first Friday of the month when everyone is here. Each workshop has a different theme. Survey results from last year informed this year's plan. Each workshop will start at 3:00 p.m. and adult beverages are available. (This is funded through specifications via Go West for A Day or gifts in kind.) Cards that discuss the program were available in the Townsend lobby before and after this faculty meeting. The next Good Librations will be Friday, September 6 on leveraging Google apps in the classroom. April 4, 2014 will be the second annual celebration of faculty research.

XII. Closing remarks—Dr. Kyle Marrero, President

Dr. Marrero stated that this is an exciting time and he is thrilled to be our president. He issued an invitation for anyone to join him on his Tuesday and Thursday morning run in a loop around campus.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Rogers
Executive Secretary of the Faculty Senate and General Faculty