

**University of West Georgia
Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes**

**December 6, 2013
Approved January 24, 2014**

1. Call to order: the meeting convened in room 1-303 of the Technology-enhanced Learning Center and was called to order by Jeff Johnson, Chair at 3:01 p.m.

2. Roll call

Present

Blair, Butler, DeFoor, DeSilva, Erben, Gant, Geisler, Griffith, Halonen-Rollins, Haynes, Hooper, Insenga, Johnson, Boldt (substitute for Kassis), Keim, Kilpatrick, Kramer, Lloyd, Mayer, Moffeit, Noori, Packard, Ponder, Popov, Robinson, Rutledge, Samples, Sanders, Schroer, Skott-Myhre, Stanfield, Steere, Thompson, Vasconcellos, Welch, Willox, Woodward

Absent

Banford, Basu-Dutt, Farmer, Faucette, Hannaford, Pencoe, Van Valen, Velez-Castrillon, Xu, Yeong

3. Minutes: a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of November 15.

Item approved unanimously by voice vote.

4. Committee reports

**Committee IV: Academic Policies Committee (Vickie Geisler, Chair)
Information Item:**

A) Recommendations sent to the VPAA's office and his response

In the discussion, the Committee agreed to work with the Provost's office to add language that offers flexibility to faculty in the times that proctored online finals may occur, augmenting the designated times.

**Committee V: Faculty Development Committee (Michael Keim, Chair)
Action Item:**

A) Faculty Handbook: language changes to section 103.0602, Instruments for Evaluating Teaching

In the discussion on this item, Senator Hooper expressed dissatisfaction with removing language about the self-evaluation *mode* as a method of measurement (i.e., changing "three modes" to

“two modes”). The Faculty Senate Chair explained that removal of the self-evaluation *form* was previously approved by the Faculty Senate; the motion on the floor was directed to the removal of the language about that form.

Item approved by voice vote with four (4) objections noted and one (1) abstention.

5. New business:

A) Returning to a full 15-week semester plus final exams (Mark Faucette)

Rationale: we now have the shortest semester in the USG. This makes it very difficult for those in STEM fields to provide adequate education to our students.

Although Dr. Faucette was not present to speak about this agenda item, Vicki Geisler, chair of the Academic Policies Committee, led discussion. She gave an overview of the committee’s research and discussion on this topic. She studied the USG calendar across the system and discovered that UWG has 41 MWF classes, whereas others have 42-45 because UWG does not make up for Labor Day in the fall semester and MLK Jr. Day in the spring. There are not the same number of MW classes as TTh because of the shortage from this one Monday. UWG does not have a reading day (typically Wednesday of finals week); there are five consecutive days of finals. Senator Geisler said that these issues are more important than whether we should have a 15- or 16-week semester.

The faculty survey of Fall 2010 was mentioned in the discussion, in which the faculty expressed a strong preference for the 15-week schedule over the 16-week schedule. [Secretary’s note: changing the academic calendar according to the most popular option in the survey was approved by the Faculty Senate at the November 12, 2010 meeting, as recorded in the minutes. An additional survey was conducted in Fall 2011, but it regarded a change to class slots available for scheduling, not a change to the length of the semester. Someone in the present meeting mentioned that the faculty had confirmed its approval of the 15-week calendar in a survey conducted after its implementation, but this is not the case. In Spring 2012, department heads and faculty were invited to send feedback on the 15/16 semester to Academic Policies in anticipation of the possibility of revisiting the issue. The Chair of the AP the following year, David Leach, compiled these results and forwarded them to the provost. At that time, opinion was basically evenly split amongst respondents. Thanks to former AP Chair Robert Kilpatrick for providing this detail.]

Dr. Geisler and Jon Anderson emphasized that we have to look at the data of student success in relation to the calendar and do what leads to increased RPG. The implication is that the need to use this methodology outweighs the possible desire of faculty for a shorter work calendar.

Senator Kramer spoke about the desire of the Department of Music faculty to communicate to the Faculty Senate their dissatisfaction with the 15-week schedule. It has been “very difficult” for the music faculty because their collaborative learning and performance-based curricula do not easily adapt to the shorter schedule. Dr. Kramer elaborated on some of the difficulties; e.g., performance venues are heavily booked at the times that recitals are needed. The music faculty are in favor of returning to a 16-week schedule.

Regarding the QEP and its emphasis on writing, it was noted that it would be helpful to have an extra week. President Marrero commented that when we lost the week, Housing and Food Service did not reduce the cost to students by a week. If we add a week back, these units will absorb the costs. It was also mentioned that not fully utilizing building spaces on Fridays has been an issue and should be considered.

B) Students parking in faculty parking spaces in the evenings (Mark Faucette)

Rationale: even faculty lots which have signage designating them as faculty only 24/7/365 frequently have students parked in them in the evenings. Some faculty return to campus to work in the evenings when the buildings are quieter and parking spaces are needed at those times.

In the discussion on this item, it was theorized that the parking on Back Campus Drive (between the business school and the library, around the math/geosciences area) is what Senator Faucette thinks is a problem, due to the elimination of the gate at the entrance, increased student traffic with the East Commons, etc. It was noted that Parking & Transportation Services will be enforcing the parking codes more, and hopefully that will alleviate the problem.

6. Announcements: none.

7. The meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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