

# Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

## October 12, 2016

### Recorded Attendees

**Senate Members:** Randall Gooden (Chair), Kathryn Pratt-Russell (Vice-Chair), Seth Shaw (Secretary), W. Gail Barnes, Marcy Butler, Debra J. Cody, Craig Hill, Keith Miller, Eugene Ngezem, John Mascaritolo, Kendolyn Smith, Meri Beth Stegall, J. Celeste Walley-Jean, Mark Watson.

**Guests:** Patricia Todebush and J. Allen Ward.

### Minutes

#### I. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

- A. September 26 Regular Meeting – approved by unanimous consent

#### II. Reports of President, Provost and Standing Committees

- A. President's Report – The president was absent but submitted a written report (attached).
- B. Provost's Report – absent, no report given
- C. Academic Policy Committee

Report given by John Mascaritolo. They are currently working on creating consistent guidelines for online courses to ensure they don't come too close to the SACS and Federal definition of a "correspondence course" which impacts student financial aid. There are already some courses identified (previously known to the committee members) that may not stand up against an audit based on the SACS and Federal definition. The group has a meeting scheduled for later today to further the discussion.

Senate members inquired on what is required of an online course to avoid the correspondence course classification. The classification is based on the degree of faculty member engagement and faculty-driven education.

Senate members also inquired on the expected use of the guidelines for course audits or if the instructors of known courses that may not meet the new guidelines have been consulted. Oversight is not the purpose of this group and they have not approached any instructors about particular courses. Gooden commented that he hoped that the Colleges would take the responsibility of monitoring their own online courses to ensure they meet the forthcoming guidelines. Walley-Jean also commented that she hoped course instructors will use the guidelines while creating the courses rather than as simply a tool for review or audit.

#### III. Reports of Special Committees

- A. Information Technology Council

Report given by Pratt-Russell who also provided a hand-out (attached). They received a briefing on the current goals for Campus IT. ITC will be asking the faculty about desired features and timing for a future telephony update.

#### IV. Items from the floor

- A. Cody inquired if there are any updates regarding an email the Senate members received on September 20th concerning “regional accrediting commissions will be conducting a special review of institutions to address low graduation rates and high student loan default rates or low loan repayment rates.”

Gooden responded that he didn't have any information on hand but will forward what he has.

- V. Shaw motioned to adjourn. Walley-Jean second. Unanimous approval.

## President's Report

### Faculty Senate

October 12, 2016

- **Budget Discussions** We introduced a discussion at the administrative council on long term financial resources, financial ratios as a required means of estimating long term financial security of the university, and strategies to improve those ratios over the next three years. For example, it has only been in the last 2 years that government related institutions <http://www.gasb.org/resources/ccurl/988/315/GASBS%2068.pdf> have been required to carry on their books long term retirement liability for guaranteed benefit retirement plans (such as TRS). The addition of such a liability dramatically modifies financial assessment of the institution, required to be reviewed as a required demonstration of institutional soundness in our SACS review. That 5 year review is scheduled for 2019. We will share with the campus (and of course the senate) the university budget request narrative as we send it to the university system office.
- **Tree Campus USA** <https://www.arboday.org/programs/treecampususa/campuses.cfm> the university was named once again as a national tree campus—one of 15 in Georgia. Institutions are required to meet five standards to be eligible for such a designation, reflecting the shared work of faculty and staff in planning and supporting the attractiveness of our campus
- **Additional recognition** <http://buccareer.com/30-best-colleges-and-universities-in-georgia/30/> A colleague at Wake Forest shared with me the following site, designating Clayton State as 4<sup>th</sup> best among Georgia Universities. Others outside Georgia are beginning to recognize the exceptional value students receive from interactions and learning with our faculty and staff.
- **Apologies** I am attending the USG Board of Regents meeting today, and am unable to attend the senate—I will share any information I receive at the board meeting later this week.
- **Strategic planning roll out** Announcement of formal activities will be made soon. <http://www.clayton.edu/portals/1/strategic-plan/CSU-Strategic-Plan.pdf> A number of colleagues in this senate have worked very hard to create a document that will reinforce our focus on dramatic improvements in student success, and focus on student's ability to identify through learning ways in which they can engage their communities, and understand how what they learn can be understood to bring value to the outside community. It will commit us to invest in student success, and resources that can support that success. My thanks!!
- **Questions?** Please send me an e-mail if there are items you wish for me to address before the next session.

## **Information Technology and Services Goals Fall 2016**

Support the University by providing strategic partnerships and operational services that return value to the University and help Divisions and Departments meet or exceed their individual and institutional goals. We will do this by:

Providing and supporting reliable and relevant teaching environments that adopt innovative technologies in the classroom, both physical and virtual.

Providing robust, stable, and reliable infrastructure and application aimed at allowing all aspects of campus life to function at optimal levels.

Providing quality applications to operate both the business of the campus and the business of the classroom by delivering and maintaining innovative and enabling technologies/processes that improve learning outcomes and bring efficiencies to both instructional and business practices.

Protecting all of the campus technology assets, both physical and informational. Assisting with the utilization of our assets to provide access to data in order to inform decision-making processes, optimize resource utilization, and guide strategic directions.

Providing collaboration and communications tools which foster innovation, transparency, and collegiality between campus constituencies.

Providing a support environment that is user friendly, high impact, and effective, with a focus on self-service platform that enables customer access to knowledge, targeted tutorials, and tools.