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Description automatically generatedFaculty Senate Meeting held via MS Teams

September 20, 2021, started at 11:00am EDT.

Senators in attendance: Ann Showalter, Anthony Stinson, Augustine Ayuk, David Williams (Chair), Deborah Gritzmacher, Eric Bridges, Erin Nagel, Eugene Ngezem, Joshua Kitchens, Ken Nguyen, Kendolyn Smith (Vice Chair), Larry Menter (Secretary), Laura Herndon, Mario Norman, Mark Watson, MeriBeth Stegall, Rebecca Morgan, and Sharon White.

Non-Senators in attendance: Ramon Stuart (President), Jill Lane (Interim Provost), Alexander Hall, Anthony Hannah, Antoinette France-Harris, Antoinette Miller, Bruce Blair, Cantice Greene, Carol White, Chizara Jones, Christie Burton, Christopher Kodani, David Plaxco, Deborah Deckner-Davis, Derrick Vanmeter, Dmitriy Beznosko, Erica Dotson, Feechi Hall, Gail Barnes, Heather Ruggiero, Celeste Walley-Jean, Jennifer Parrott, Keira Davis, Keith Miller, Kevin Demmitt, Kitty Deering, Joie Hain, Margaret Thompson, Melanie Poudevigne, Michael Sitvarin, Michelle Nelson, Naquilla Thomas, Nichelle Gause, Reza Kheirandish, Robert Pfeiffer, Samuel Maddox, Scott Stegall, Terri Summers, Thomas McIlwain, Xueyu Cheng

There was a quorum present.

1. Provost’s Report.
   1. Meeting began with remarks from Interim Provost, Dr. Jill Lane – Gave a COVID update: we remain at 0.2% for students and employees. No in class transmissions. In Spring 2022, class length of 75 minutes in classroom remains. We will continue mitigation strategies. Seating charts and contact tracing continue. Astra will make schedule class assignments in the spring. COVID reporting has been good. Keep sending the Covid reports.
   2. Annual Reviews and P&T – System office is working on edits on proposed language. Colleges need to look at their post-tenure guidelines. We will continue to review faculty handbook. Some changes have been done at the BoR level. Proposal is moving quickly out there. Board policy discussion to happen later. One issue is that tenure is being taken away. It has been delegated to Presidents but might be pulled back in certain instances.
   3. Issue on federal vaccine mandates for large employers. OSHA has not put the rules in place yet.
   4. Guidance for on-line class? Contingency planning from last year still – send them to the contact tracing team. They will assess when done with 10–14-day period. Faculty needs to continue to be flexible.
   5. Regarding an expedited process for those with long haulers to accommodate disabilities. Normal process has been followed.
2. President’s Report – (From the road)
   1. Thanks to all – Communicate better so education continues in seamless manner. His listening sessions are about to end. Appreciates feedback and candor. Waiting till State of the University address to tackle. But a few now – Monthly communication from HR with new hires and what they do. Provide contact info and background.
   2. Another thing – processes of CSU are cumbersome and challenging. Updating people through communication. Look at our processes and see where to streamline. Example, travel and procurement.
   3. Tough environment – thanks for us to be models.
   4. Jill compiled with Deans a list of various faculty accolades. The list is so exhaustive and extensive. Thanks for your work and efforts. Continue to tell the story.
   5. A question was raised about the issue of filming on campus. It can be disruptive and by being kept a secret no advance planning by faculty is possible. Issue is centered around secrecy. Occasionally we have to sign non-disclosure agreements. This needs to be worked out.
3. Discussion: sufficiency of COVID-19 mitigation measures
   1. Documents have been sent and asked to share with faculty colleagues. These are copies of resolutions passed by Ga Tech. They are attached in Teams. A discussion was held about mask mandates.
   2. Since these resolutions were not part of the agenda, they cannot be introduced without a motion to amend the agenda. He will put them out electronically for discussion and vote next week.
4. Discussion: BOR policy updates affecting faculty careers
   1. Copies of resolutions from Ga Tech regarding these issues have also been distributed and filed in the Teams site. Pone of the issues is a new category of evaluation: Student Success Activities. They don’t define it and leave it to the institutions to interpret. This is a major overhaul of Post-tenure review process. CSU is robust but across system varied.
   2. Concerns – Mid contract can be fired without due process. There are political implications.
   3. Dave can call for an electronic vote on these things. There will be space for a time for discussion in the meeting chat. Then followed by a Qualtrics survey to vote on the resolutions.
   4. Jill pointed out that it is Important to set post-tenure guidelines for the college – to be referenced by colleagues. Focus on things that will be valuable rather than doing everything. Do it as soon as possible.
5. It was mentioned that Ann Showalter replaced Jelani Favors from the College of Arts & Sciences. Ken Nguyen is the new Senator from CIMS. Kendolyn Smith is the new chair of the Student Affairs Committee. Larry Menter continues as chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee.

The Chair declared the Meeting adjourned at 12:39pm EDT.

Minutes Recorded by Larry Menter, Secretary