

**Valdosta State University  
General Faculty Meeting  
August 9, 2007**

The Valdosta State University General Faculty Meeting was held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 9<sup>th</sup> in the Magnolia Room, University Center.

President Ronald M. Zaccari welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked Dr. Louis Levy, Vice President for Academic Affairs, to provide an update on plagiarism prevention services. Dr. Levy stated that a few years ago an initiative had been put forth to promote academic honesty at VSU. During September 2006 the Educational Policies Committee of the Faculty Senate recommended that VSU purchase a site license for plagiarism software. A statement of support followed from the Faculty Senate on September 21, 2006 and during the 2007 Spring semester VSU purchased a site license for Turnitin© software, which instantly identifies papers containing unoriginal material. Dr. Levy appointed a working group, chaired by Dr. Sheri Gravett, Assistant to the President for Academic Affairs, to review Turnitin as well as other plagiarism software packages. The anticipated timeframe of implementation of a selected plagiarism software package is the 2008 Fall semester. Training sessions for faculty will be offered before implementation of the software.

President Zaccari attended the Board of Regents meeting on August 7<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Regents approved the following six major goals of the University System of Georgia strategic plan:

**Strategic Goal One**

Renew excellence in undergraduate education to meet students' 21<sup>st</sup> century educational needs.

*As a result of its strategic actions, the University System will re-examine its general education curriculum, renew its commitment to a liberal arts education for this century, and improve the quality of undergraduate teaching and learning.*

The objectives of this goal include restructuring the core curriculum, increasing graduation rates, ensuring high-quality academic advisement, increasing study abroad participation, and supporting and rewarding faculty members who make a meaningful contribution to undergraduate student learning and success.

**Strategic Goal Two**

Create enrollment capacity to meet the needs of 100,000 additional students by 2020.

***As a result of its strategic actions, the University System will increase capacity to accommodate targeted, programmatic growth.***

Objectives of this goal include increasing the diversity of the USG's enrollment and closing enrollment gaps for under-represented groups, increasing the USG's public relations outreach, increasing the use of access institutions to meet higher education needs in underserved areas, creating a more robust sector of comprehensive universities and further delineating their missions within the sector, increasing the joint use of facilities, and positioning the USG among leading systems in distance education.

### **Strategic Goal Three**

**Increase the USG's participation in research and economic development to the benefit of a Global Georgia.**

***As a result of its strategic actions, the University System will increase Georgia's control over its own future in a global economy.***

Objectives of this goal include increasing the USG's competitiveness for federal research funds, increasing the number of health profession graduates, and creating a long-term, System-level academic plan for workforce development.

### **Strategic Goal Four**

**Strengthen the USG's partnerships with the state's other education agencies.**

***As a result of its strategic actions, the University System will work with all of Georgia's education agencies to meet national and international benchmarks on student preparation and achievement.***

Objectives of this goal include supporting the plans of the Alliance of Education Agency Heads to increase the high school graduation rate, decrease the high school drop-out rate, and increase post-secondary enrollment rates; to improve workforce readiness skills; to strengthen teacher quality, recruitment, and retention; to develop strong educational leaders, particularly at the building level; and to improve the SAT/ACT scores of Georgia students. In addition, the USG will create a closer working relationship with the Department of Technical and Adult Education.

### **Strategic Goal Five**

**Maintain affordability so that money is not a barrier to participation in the benefits of higher education.**

*As a result of its strategic actions, University System institutions will remain affordable for students and assist economically disadvantaged students in meeting the cost of college.*

Objectives of this goal include establishing a need-based financial aid program and diversifying and increasing revenue sources.

### **Strategic Goal Six**

**Increase efficiency, working as a System.**

*As a result of its strategic actions, the University System will increase its efficiency while increasing academic quality.*

Objectives of this goal include increasing the efficiency of business functions, developing a leadership culture and engaging the workforce in process improvement, and establishing accountability metrics for the System.

Dr. Zaccari mentioned that Chancellor Davis established 10 task forces to review various aspects of the 35 institutions. The Chancellor asked President Zaccari to chair the Enhanced Advising Processes Task Force. This task force was charged with reviewing advising processes at all 35 USG institutions and presenting ways to improve the overall aspects of advising at the institutions. President Zaccari will present the findings of the task force to the Board of Regents at the October meeting.

President Zaccari introduced Mr. Ray Sable, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities Planning and informed the faculty that Mr. Sable is coordinating the Master Plan.

Currently there are 260,000 individuals enrolled within the University System of Georgia. Georgia is the 4<sup>th</sup> fastest growing state in the nation and the southern region of Georgia is projected to grow by 40,000 by the year 2020. Due to the projected growth, VSU will begin an aggressive marketing campaign in the near future.

As part of Valdosta State University's master plan, the university has already begun to make progressive changes to the campus. Hopper Hall is being demolished and a new residence hall will be constructed in the same area with an estimated completion date of summer, 2008. Georgia and Reade Halls are being remodeled. Two new parking decks will be constructed simultaneously beginning in December 2007 and should be completed in August 2008. Construction on the new Student Health Center, which will be located on Georgia Avenue, is expected to begin during spring, 2008. The current Student Union and old gymnasium on main campus will be demolished and a new Student Union will be constructed in the same area with an estimated completion date of fall, 2009. Construction on the athletic practice fields will begin during the 2007 Fall semester. A new fence, which

**will enhance the beauty of the main campus, will be installed along the front lawn on Patterson Street during the 2007 Fall semester. President Zaccari also noted that the Health Sciences and Business Administration Center will be under construction within 32 months and VSU will receive funding next year for the second phase of the Nevins Hall renovation.**

**President Zaccari asked Dr. Cindy Tori, Associate Professor of Marketing and Economics, to share some of the results from a recent economic impact study. Dr. Tori noted that freshmen would impact the local economy by \$3 million within one week, and over the next year a \$200 million impact is expected from VSU students.**

**President Zaccari informed the faculty that Dr. Jane Kinney, Professor of English, has agreed to chair the SACS visit that is scheduled for 2010. The emphasis for SACS is accountability and VSU will also be going through a new round of program reviews and regional accreditation.**

**President Zaccari provided an overview of the 2009 budget. State appropriations for the system increased by 10.5% in 2008. Total state funding exceeds \$2 billion annually and the University System of Georgia's share of state funding is 11.5%. State revenues are up this year. The Chancellor is asking for \$2.31 billion for the overall fiscal year and this includes \$18.1 million for the increase in health insurance premiums. Additionally, \$2.7 million is being requested for the increase in electricity cost.**

**President Zaccari informed the faculty that criteria for tenure will remain very much the same – superior teaching, excellence in instruction, outstanding service, professional growth and development. The President has total authority to award tenure to VSU faculty.**

**Campuses across the United States are looking at ways to identify and assist students with mental health issues as well as those who have discipline problems. It is imperative that FERPA and HIPPA guidelines are followed when dealing with these circumstances.**

**Mr. Jim Black, Vice President for Finance and Administration, provided an update on the Environmental Protection Agency Campus Audit. The University System of Georgia Environmental Health and Safety Office requires that VSU participate in a self-audit initiative to assess any potential violations. A series of teams will be established throughout the University System of Georgia and training will take place on each campus. Four to eight units will be reviewed each semester with one to three auditors being provided. It is important to note that no auditor will audit their respective institution. The campus will be notified when VSU is scheduled for an Environmental Protection Agency campus audit. VSU has established an environmental management plan – the office of Environmental and Occupational Safety has been working closely with the Faculty Senate**

**Environmental Issues Committee. Implementation of the plan will begin within several months. Mr. Black also noted that a Web site is being created which will contain information about new construction, potential routes around construction sites, and photographs of the progress of the construction.**

**President Zaccari closed the meeting by informing the campus that the Legislature is investigating how institutions within the University System of Georgia use funds and are holding the institutions accountable for the most efficient use of direct state appropriations.**

**The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.**