

**General Faculty
Minutes of January 12, 2007 Spring Meeting**

The Valdosta State University General Faculty Spring 2007 meeting convened at 3:00 p.m. in the University Center Magnolia Room.

Ronald M. Zaccari called the meeting to order and informed the group that 258 General Faculty are needed for a quorum and 162 General Faculty signed the register; therefore, a quorum was not reached.

R. Zaccari gave the following general University and System of Georgia updates:

Chancellor Davis has established ten system-wide committees to address various higher education issues across the state of Georgia. President Zaccari has been asked to chair the task force on advising and will be working during the next few months with members of the committee (representing all sectors of USG 35 institutions). A report will be completed by the end of the 2007 Spring semester.

Chancellor Davis completed his second visit to Valdosta State University in November and he is very interested in the North Campus health sciences project.

R. Zaccari announced that although a quorum was not reached, the meeting would continue with general discussion of the proposed changes

- I. Minor Editing Changes
 - A. Quarter to semesters; titles and changes to names of departments and/or divisions; and changes in position responsibilities
 - B. General discussion
 - 1. Kathleen Lowney recommends the insertion of “or an officially appointed designee” into the Faculty Senate Academic structure as outlined in Chapter 4, Article VI, Section 5 (b(2):

(2) The membership of the Academic Committee is composed of:

(a) the Vice President for Academic Affairs, or an officially appointed designee, who serves as the Chairperson;”

R. Zaccari stated he had no objection to this minor edit and asked if there was any opposition from the group. It was agreed that this minor edit would be inserted into the proposed changes to the VSU Statutes.

- II. Proposed amendments regarding President’s response to Faculty Senate
 - A. Chapter 4, Article I, Section 3c
 - “Should the President not respond to the Senate within the above (60)

days, the Executive Committee will write the President for a response before the next Faculty Senate meeting. Should no response be received before the next Faculty Senate meeting, the matter will then be sent to his/her immediate supervisor, the [Chief Academic Officer and Executive Vice Chancellor](#) of the University System of Georgia, in a letter from the Executive Secretary of the Faculty Senate. The President may add comments in that packet.

- B.** This amendment was passed by the Faculty Senate and approved by the President on October 20, 2005. At that time VSU's president reported directly to the USG Chancellor, in 2005 the reporting structure at the System office changed and the VSU president now reports directly to the Chief Academic Officer and Executive Vice Chancellor.
- C.** General discussion
No questions or additional discussion followed.

- III. Combining Administrative Council, Strategic Planning Council, and Master Planning Council into University Council and its' proposed membership
 - A.** R. Zaccari gave background on the Administrative Council, Strategic Planning Council, and Master Planning Council and reasons for combining the three groups into a singular University Council to be a coordinating body; it does not change the function of the Faculty Senate, Student Government Association and/or Council on Staff Affairs. In 2005, President Zaccari asked for a pilot program, which was supported by the Faculty Senate, Council on Staff Affairs, and Student Government Association. This pilot program ended October 2006 and changes in membership have been recommended.
 - B.** List of current University Council Membership (Appendix A)
 - C.** List of proposed University Council Membership (Appendix B)
 - D.** General discussion
 - 1.** Brad Bergstrom stated there is confusion as to the "strategic planning" function currently stated in the VSU Statutes (Chapter 2, Article XII, Section 1) "The President's Cabinet is advisory to the President on administrative matters pertaining to all operational areas of the University and serves as the administrative strategic planning committee for the institution." B. Bergstrom contends that the "strategic planning" element should be moved to Chapter 2, Article XIII, Section 1, as part of the function of the University Council. He further states that additional verbiage stating that the University Council combines the function of the Administrative Council, Strategic Planning Council, and Master Planning Council is needed.
- R. Zaccari agreed that the strategic planning function needs to be clarified under the President's Cabinet and University Council function.

B. Bergstrom further states the Statutes do not contain detailed information on the Diversity Council, as it does with the other committees represented within the University Council membership (Council on Staff Affairs, Faculty Senate, and Student Government Association). He recommends adding a section that will outline the structure, purpose, etc., of the Diversity Council.

2. Michael Noll suggested time limits for some positions on the University Council (i.e., three-years similar to Faculty Senate).

R. Zaccari stated that members of the University Council who are appointed due to the professional position (i.e. Vice Presidents, Directors, etc.) will not have a set time limit; however, those who serve at the discretion of their individual constituent group (i.e. Council on Staff Affairs, Faculty Senate, etc.) will have time limits not to exceed three consecutive years.

3. Louis Schmier asked for clarification of the purpose of the University Council.

R. Zaccari explained that within the past year the University Council has solicited feedback from the Faculty Senate, Council on Staff Affairs, and Student Government Association on all major additions or changes to University policies. The University Council is a coordinating body for discussion of issues, not a group to preempt any of the other three groups.

4. Ivan Nikolova asked how international students and the University's international community could be integrated in the University Council membership.

R. Zaccari stated that there are a number of individuals and/or groups that could ask this same question and trying to include all specialized segments within the University Council's membership would cause an increase in the number of members and the Council's ability to function efficiently. The interests of International Programs can be addressed to the University Council through various representatives currently in place (i.e., Vice President for Academic Affairs, Deans' Council, Department Head Council, and Faculty Senate).

IV. Changes to voting procedures within General Faculty and amendments to the University Statutes

- A. Voting is addressed in two separate areas within the current VSU Statutes:

1. Chapter 3, Article IV, Section 4 (voting at meetings of the General Faculty) states “A quorum consists of fifty percent of the General Faculty.” The proposed addition “In the event no quorum is assembled, issue(s) will be considered without voting. Later voting will occur by another means (i.e., paper, electronic, online or other accurate means of securing a vote total within the next week after the meeting. Amendments will be passed by a simple majority of those voting, defined as 50 percent of those voting plus 1.”
2. Chapter 6, Article III, Section 1(c) (ratification, interpretation, amendment, and miscellaneous provisions of the VSU Statutes) “Proposed amendments are to be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the General Faculty present at the faculty meeting, provided the required quorum is present at the time of voting.” The proposed addition “In the event no quorum is assembled the issue(s) will be considered without voting. Later voting will occur by another means (i.e., paper, electronic, online or other accurate means of securing a vote total within the next week after the meeting. Amendments will be passed by a simple majority of those voting, defined as 50 percent of those voting plus 1.”

(Note: See page 23 of the 2007 Revised VSU Statutes for changes)

B. General Discussion

1. Kathleen Lowney is concerned with the time frame of the voting (after a General Faculty meeting) and that minutes from the minutes are distributed in advance of the voting.

The proposed change states “Later voting will occur by another means, i.e. paper, electronic, online or other accurate means of securing a vote total within the next week after the meeting.”

R. Zaccari suggested that the “next week” timeframe can be altered to allow for ample time for minutes to be distributed and opportunity for faculty to review and vote within an appropriate amount of time.

Blake Pierce suggested changing the language to “ten working days” from date of open General Faculty meeting.

R. Zaccari agreed that this change would be acceptable and give adequate time for minutes to be distributed and voting to take place.

2. B. Bergstrom raises the issue of “two-thirds” instead of simple majority of 50 percent plus 1. He recommended a differential in what constitutes a majority on general voting issues and amendments. Bergstrom recommends a 50 percent plus 1 for

general voting but believes amendments should carry a larger majority of two-thirds.

R. Zaccari supports a differential in voting of general items and amendments and supports a two-third majority of those who vote (electronically or alternate method).

3. Linda Calendrillo supports B. Bergstrom's previous comments in that there has been a change in what is stated in the two different venues of voting (general items and amendments) in terms of what is a successful outcome of the voting. To change amendments, two-thirds of those who have voted should be the standard rather than a simple majority.

R. Zaccari agreed as long it is two-thirds of those who vote electronically and not two thirds of the entire General Faculty.

4. L. Schmier states that bringing statutory consideration to the faculty involves more than just voting, it also involves open discussion and deliberation. He is concerned how the General Faculty will consider and deliberate on various issues before voting. He offers a possible electronic means for pre-voting discussion (i.e. blogs, etc).

R. Zaccari states that open discussions will continue, as it has today, at all scheduled General Faculty meetings. We are not eliminating the discussion process. In the event a quorum is not present, the issue(s) will be considered without voting and voting will occur later by electronic procedure.

Joe Newton stated that a blog or other electronic message board could be implemented to facilitate discussion before voting.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Submitted by:

Chuck Hudson, Registrar

Appendix A

Current University Council Membership

1. President
2. Planning Officer
3. Chair, Council on Staff Affairs
4. Council on Staff Affairs—minority representative
5. Executive Secretary, Faculty Senate
6. Faculty Senate—minority representative
7. President, Student Government Association
8. Vice President for Academic Affairs
9. Vice President for Finance and Administration
10. Faculty Representative from Deans, Directors, and Department Heads
11. Dean of Students
12. Director of Information Technology
13. Director of Human Resources
- 14.** Director of Physical Plan and Facilities Planning
15. Director of University Relations
16. University Attorney
17. Representative from Budget Advisory Council

Ex officio members

1. Associate Vice President for Strategic Research and Analysis
2. Vice President for Student Affairs
- 3.** Vice President for University Advancement
4. Director of Athletics
5. Chair, Diversity Council
6. Chair, Enrollment Management Council
7. Representative from Faculty Senate Environmental Issues Committee

Total 17 members and 7 ex officio members

Appendix B

Proposed University Council Membership

1. President
2. Planning Officer
3. Chair, Council on Staff Affairs
4. Representative from Council on Staff Affairs
5. Representative from Council on Staff Affairs (Added Position)
6. Executive Secretary of Faculty Senate
7. Faculty Senate Representative
8. Faculty Senate Representative (Added Position)
9. President, Student Government Association
10. Student Government Association Representative (Added Position)
11. Student Government Association Representative (Added Position)
12. Vice President for Academic Affairs
13. Vice President for Finance and Administration
14. Vice President for Student Affairs (Changed from ex-officio member)
15. Vice President for Advancement (Changed from ex-officio member)
16. Dean's Council Representative
17. Council of Department Heads (Added Position)
18. Chair, Diversity Council (Added Position)
19. Diversity Council Representative (Added Position)
20. Diversity Council Representative (Added Position)
21. Director of Information Technology
22. Director of Human Resources
- 23.** Director of Physical Plant and Facilities Planning
24. Assistant Vice President for Finance (Replaced Budget Advisory Council Representative)

Ex officio Members:

1. Association Vice President for Strategic Research and Analysis
2. Dean of Students
3. Director of Athletics
4. Director of University Relations
5. University Attorney
6. Chair, Enrollment Management Council

Total 24 members and 6 ex officio membership