9-25-2009

Faculty Club 9-25-2009

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Georgia Southern University

Faculty club

Submitted by David Seaman

9/25/2009

Discussion:

Please answer the following questions: 1) Who is in charge of creating a faculty club with a physical location? 2) Do those in charge have a plan to accomplish this goal? 3) How much money is in the faculty club account? 4) Who is in charge of disbursing these funds? 5) Where is the money?

Rationale:

All faculty members could benefit by having a faculty club. All faculty members deserve to know what the status of this project is. I have asked in the past about this, and was told by the president of the senate, who came to me in confidentiality, "not to make waves," because the president of GSU had a plan to put us in the Alumni house after it was vacated. This turned out to be fantasy, because the president recently replied to my rfi saying there never was a plan. So I asked again, and my request went into the ether. This rfi is directed at whoever is in charge, maybe the people who occasionally organize those listless wine and cheese evenings. I hope someone will step up and give visible form to the quest for a faculty club.

Response:

The Senate Executive Committee has responded to David Seaman's rfi of 9/25/2009 in the following way.

The Faculty Club comprised of faculty and staff from Georgia Southern has always been a private organization not connected to Georgia Southern in any fiscal or administrative way. It is inappropriate for us to send this rfi to anyone for response.

Further, personal remarks directed toward any individuals or groups are inappropriate in rfis. I call your attention to the following:

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

This site is for use exclusively by Georgia Southern University faculty, staff, and administrators. Submissions are reviewed by the SEC for relevance to the mission and business of the Faculty Senate. This site is a tool not for debate but solely for information exchange. Redundant and contentious submissions will not be accepted.

Finally, we also add the following from the Faculty Senate Handbook:

Requests for Information:

When, Why, & How

A “Request for Information” may be submitted to the Senate, at which time the Senate Executive Committee will decide (1) whether it is within the purview of the Senate, (2) whether it should be pursued by the Senate, and (3) if it meets the first two requirements, how best to seek the information.

(1) The information sought must be relevant to elements of two or more colleges, or to the university and its academic community as a whole.

(2) The information sought must not be readily obtainable through less formal and involved means applied by the submitter, such as a simple phone call, email, or internet search; and must be of sufficient import to warrant the investment of Senate attention.

NOTE: Even if these first two criteria are met in a strict accordance to the letter, the SEC may decline to pursue an RFI if in their judgment the intent is or the outcome will amount to prosecution of a largely personal agenda on the part of the submitter.

(3) The SEC may refer the matter to a standing committee, but more frequently the Chair will contact whoever seems most likely to be able to provide an answer; often, this will be a high-level administrator.

If either criterion #1 or #2 is not met, the SEC will post that response to the RFI on the Senate web page. If the SEC has gathered the requested information to the best of its ability, that information will be posted as the SEC response to the RFI on the Senate web page. Sometimes the response will first come available via an oral report at a Senate meeting either by the Moderator or by the SEC’s source(s), often a University administrator.

“Requests for Information” often are submitted when the individual is not in a position to know what source to approach or access for an answer; when SEC access to upper-level administrators is the best means to facilitate an answer; or when formally, collegially, and publicly asking the question seems the best or only means of garnering the information.

“Requests for Information” should be just that. They should be questions, and should be professionally, succinctly, and collegially phrased. The questions asked should not be phrased so that they appear to be rhetorical, i.e. not phrased so that it appears the questioner already knows (or thinks he/she knows) the answer and is using a question format largely or wholly in order to make a statement.

Statements, including background information and data – such as how long the issue has existed, and what other avenues to an answer have been unprofitably pursued – that have led to the RFI question(s), can be included in the Rationales section.

Minutes: RFI on September 25th from David Seaman on the Faculty Club.
The Senate Executive Committee responded.