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# Faculty Development Committee motion to clarify “full-time faculty”

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Faculty Development Committee

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*Approved by the Senate: 2/13/2006: Motion Tabled*

*Not approved by the Senate:*

*Approved by the President*

*Not approved by the President:*

# Faculty Development Committee motion to clarify “full-time faculty”

Submitted by Bill Yang

2/3/2006

## **Motion:**

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“The definition of “full-time faculty” eligible to apply for Faculty Development and/or Faculty Service grant money be explicitly expanded to include full-time temporary faculty, as long as their appointment coincides with the project period.” That is the wording that is used in the Faculty Research grant competition, in terms of defining eligibility

## **Rationale:**

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We have received several requests from temporary instructors regarding whether they are eligible to apply for the travel grant and some faculty development related grant. In the application the guidance only says “all fulltime faculty are eligible to apply.” In the very last case, we approved one request from a temporary instructor. In the last meeting, I was asked by the committee to bring this issue to the Senate. However, when I checked the record last year, I also found that a request from another temporary instructor about a summer award had been rejected by the same committee for the concern that we were not sure the temporary instructor would be back after summer or not. And similarly, we have the third round of travel grants, which are now for travel to be after July 1, which is next fiscal year. And then the same question would need to be addressed as to whether the temporary instructor will be back next year when we give the money for travel. So, we are not quite sure which way to go. The majority of the

committee members believe that we should allow the temporary instructors also to be eligible to apply for the travel grant, but this concern has not been answered yet. Also, if someone is not back, then should we give the money or not? When I say approval, that does not actually mean approve the proposal itself, but rather, should this proposal be reviewed or not?

### **SEC Response:**

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After the agenda setting meeting, I received an e-mail from Bill Yang, Chairman of the Faculty Development Committee, and he questioned whether temporary faculty were eligible to receive funding. After reviewing the web pages for the various grant competitions, I found that temporary faculty were specifically included for research grants, but no mention was made of them for either service or faculty development grants. And even though the FDC has finished this cycle, the Service Committee is still working on evaluating requests for funding. Therefore, I wanted to get the views of the Senate, so I placed an agenda item request as #9 on today's agenda. I should state I have no investment in the way that the motion was worded, but I thought that we should make it positive rather than negative.

### **Senate Response:**

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Motion: Faculty Development Committee motion to clarify "full-time faculty."

Bill Yang (COBA): We have received several requests from temporary instructors regarding whether they are eligible to apply for the travel grant and some faculty development related grant. In the application the guidance only says "all full-time faculty are eligible to apply." In the very last case, we approved one request from a temporary instructor. In the last meeting, I was asked by the committee to bring this issue to the Senate. However, when I checked the record last year, I also found that a request from another temporary instructor about a summer award had been rejected by the same committee for the concern that we were not sure the temporary instructor would be back after summer or not. And similarly, we have the third round of travel grants, which are now for travel to be after July 1, which is next fiscal year. And then the same question would need to be addressed as to whether the temporary instructor will be back next year when we give the money for travel. So, we are not quite sure which way to go. The majority of the committee members believe that we should allow the temporary instructors also to be eligible to apply for the travel grant, but this concern has not been

answered yet. Also, if someone is not back, then should we give the money or not? When I say approval, that does not actually mean approve the proposal itself, but rather, should this proposal be reviewed or not?

Pat Humphrey (COST) Senate Moderator: Okay, I think you listed the rationale first, I'll read the motion that was submitted. The motion reads "The definition of "full-time faculty" eligible to apply for Faculty Development and/or Faculty Service grant money be explicitly expanded to include full-time temporary faculty, as long as their appointment coincides with the project period." That is the wording that is used in the Faculty Research grant competition, in terms of defining eligibility. The motion was seconded. Mary Marwitz (CLASS): I am definitely in favor of this, but the complication is that temporary full-time instructors do not get their appointments until just before the beginning of the year, so they cannot verify that they will be employed even though the chances are that they will.

Bill Yang (COBA): That is true. I realize that. Clara Krug (CLASS): Could there not be a codicil that would indicate that if the temporary faculty member was unable to avail himself or herself of the funding because of non appointment there be the person who was the next on the list in rank of his or her proposal receive the funding?

Pat Humphrey (COST) Senate Moderator: That could get to be an administrative nightmare. I think.

Clara Krug (CLASS): But I mean, you would have to wait until the next year but that would mean that the person whom you thought had the most meritorious proposal could avail himself or herself with the funds if actually appointed. But then if that person was not appointed the next person on the list would receive the funding. You are talking about summer travel only?

Bill Yang (COBA): No, it could be next fall.

Clara Krug (CLASS): So it could be in the regular academic year between August and May, or not?

Bill Yang (COBA): No, basically from summer to fall.

Clara Krug (CLASS): Then I withdraw what I said.

Pat Humphrey (COST) Senate Moderator: Is there any other further discussion?

Mary Marwitz (CLASS): I guess I am looking for some way to protect those people who fall in that grey area. The condition is that they verify that they are eligible for the next year.

Pat Humphrey (COST) Senate Moderator: They cannot, and that is the problem.

Joe Franklin (B&F): Pardon me for getting out of my field, but after some date would the temporary employee no longer be considered an employee of Georgia Southern University? And how would you apply funding or a grant to someone who is not an employee? And whether they could travel or not may be an issue for the legal team of the University to look at as opposed to just something we would vote on. Clara Krug (CLASS): Could I make a motion that we table this?

Pat Humphrey (COST) Senate Moderator: Yes, you may make a motion to table it. The motion was made and seconded, and the motion carried. We will table the discussion and refer it to Legal. Thank you, Joe.