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When was the Faculty Senate Secretary removed from the Georgia Southern Foundation Board of Directors?

Submitted by Clara Krug

3/6/2005

Question:

When was the Secretary of the Faculty Senate removed from the Board of Directors of the Georgia Southern University Foundation? Why was the Secretary of the Faculty Senate removed from the Board of Directors of the Foundation?

Rationale:

Faculty in all colleges are asked to solicit donations to the Foundation from other faculty members. Faculty in all colleges are encouraged to make donations. Sometimes, faculty hear that the goal is 100% donations. We are told that a high percentage of faculty donations is helpful in soliciting from the Statesboro/Bulloch County community. Given these expectations, it seems logical that a representative of the faculty serve on the Board. At least one representative of Georgia Southern University's staff serves on the Board.

Response:

Mark Edwards (COST, Senate Secretary), stated that he had two things to say before moving that the posted minutes of the March 23, 2005 Senate meeting be approved. The first thing was to apologize for having posted revised minutes of the previous meeting. Edwards noted that the first set of minutes he posted incorrectly reported the outcome of a vote on a motion. Furthermore, Edwards stated that he had neglected to include some important information given by Clara Krug at the previous

meeting. Then, for the record, he read, verbatim, what Clara said near the close of the previous meeting. It went as follows:

“I just would like to thank the campus community for your response to my request for information about the change in membership of the Board of Directors of the Foundation. Specifically, Jeanette Rice and the other members of the Senate Executive Committee, and, Billy Griffis, who I know had to work quite hard to do research into procedures that predated his arrival by at least several years. And I know that that must have taken a lot of time. I also would like to thank my colleagues who have communicated with me about their own reactions to the information that that research provided. In regard to reducing the number of those associated with the University on the Board of Directors from 20 to 6, and then 7 on the Board of Directors the rationale that was produced and I quote “reduce the number of trustees and limit the number of ex-officio members restructuring the Board would enhance the Board’s independence and allow volunteer membership to conduct the Foundation’s business more officially, collegial, and effectively.” Perhaps, without increasing the number to 20, it could nonetheless be increased. I will repeat my rationale, “Faculty in all colleges are asked to solicit donations to the Foundation from other faculty members. Faculty in all colleges are encouraged to make donations. Sometimes, faculty hear that the goal is 100% donations. We are told that a high percentage of faculty donations is helpful in soliciting from the Statesboro/Bulloch County community. Given these expectations, it seems logical that a representative of the faculty serve on the Board.” I intend to propose this increased number as a motion to be considered at the next Senate meeting. I think it’s possible for all of us to work collegially together, whether we be faculty or non-faculty. Thank you.”

Other Response:

TO: Dr. Jeanette Rice FROM: William I. Griffis DATE: March 21, 2005 SUBJECT: Senate Executive Committee Request The current Bylaws of the Georgia Southern University Foundation call for a maximum of seven ex-officio members, with previous Bylaws calling for up to 20 ex-officio members. Bylaws as of November 16, 2002: President, Georgia Southern University Vice President, Business and Finance, Georgia Southern University Vice President, University Advancement, Georgia Southern University President, Georgia Southern University Foundation, Inc. President, Georgia Southern University Alumni Association Chair, Southern Boosters, Inc. Chair, Executive Advisory Board Previous Bylaws as of February 9, 1998: President, Georgia Southern University Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs Vice President, Business and

Finance Vice President, Student Affairs Vice President, Development and University Relations President, Georgia Southern University Foundation, Inc. President, Georgia Southern University Alumni Association Secretary, Georgia Southern University Faculty Senate Chair, Southern Boosters, Inc. President, Georgia Southern Botanical Garden Board of Advisors President, Georgia Southern Museum Advisory Guild Chair, Executive Advisory Board Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Undergraduate Studies Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Dean, College of Business Administration Dean, College of Education Dean, College of Health and Professional Studies Dean, Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology President, Student Government Association

In June 2000, Alexander, Haas, & Martin Partners, Inc., a fundraising consulting service, conducted an audit of our Foundation and Development office. In their final report, they addressed a number of challenges and made some specific recommendations for strengthening our private fundraising efforts. In regards to the organization of the Foundation Board of Trustees, they recommended that we restructure the committees, reduce the number of Trustees, and limit the number of ex-officio members. Restructuring the Board would enhance the Board's independence and allow volunteer membership to conduct the Foundation's business more efficiently, collegial, and effectively. After reviewing the audit report, the Chair of the Board appointed an ad hoc committee, which reviewed the findings and recommendations of the consultants. This committee concurred with the suggestions to restructure the committees and limit the number of ex-officio members. These recommendations were approved by the Bylaws Committee and the Executive Committee and presented to the full Board for discussion and a vote. At the January 30, 2000 meeting, a motion was made and passed unanimously to amend Article II, Section A to read: The Board of Directors of this Corporation (later changed to Trustees) shall consist of a maximum of 50 active members and a maximum of six voting ex-officio members as follows: President, Georgia Southern University Vice President, Business and Finance President, Georgia Southern University Foundation, Inc. President, Georgia Southern University Alumni Association Chair, Southern Boosters, Inc. Chair, Executive Advisory Board

At the November 16, 2002 meeting, the Bylaws were once again amended to include a seventh voting ex-officio Board member – the Vice President for University Advancement.

3/23/2005: Clara Krug submitted an RFI asking when was the Faculty Senate Secretary removed from the Georgia Southern Foundation Board of Directors. The response, from Vice President William Griffis, was that, prior to November 16, 2002, the Board membership was heavily skewed towards University personnel having twenty ex-officio members. An audit by Alexander, Haas & Martin, which is a fundraising consulting

service, in June of 2000, recommended limiting the number of ex-officio members as part of a plan to strengthen private fundraising efforts. An ad hoc committee reviewed the firm's recommendations and concurred on, among other things, the issue of ex-officio membership. The Foundation Bylaws were amended at the January 30, 2000, meeting to include six ex-officio members, and again modified on November 16, 2002 to add the VP for University Advancement.

Clara Krug was recognized from the floor. Krug stated her wish to thank the campus community for their response to her question about membership of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Southern Foundation.

Jeanette Rice Jenkins (COST, Senate Moderator) stated that she met with Mr. William Griffis and that one result of this meeting was that Foundation Board meeting agenda and minutes would be made available to faculty via the Foundation website.