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Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, Faculty Senate SEC, "Senate Executive Committee Minutes" (2022). *Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes*. 3.

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SEC Meeting with President and Provost
Sept. 22, 2022
2 to 3 p.m.

Attending: Bill Dawers (CAH/senate president); Ed Mondor (COSM/president-elect); Carl Reiber (Provost); Scott Taylor (Staff Council); Wilhelmina Randtke (LIB); Leigh Price (President's Office); Kwabena Boakye (PCOB); Hayden Wimmer (PCEC); Marieke Van Willigen (CBSS); Annie Mendenhall (CAH); Kymberly Harris (COE)

Absent: Rob Terry (CAH/secretary); Bill Mase (JPHCOPH); Christine Bedore (COSM/librarian); Kyle Marrero (university president)

The meeting began at 2 p.m.

Provost Carl Reiber began with an update on the Armstrong Task Force. He praised the efforts of the various work teams and noted that the program development team is finalizing a list of programs to recommend to the president for special emphasis and promotion before fall 2023. Provost Reiber said that the program development team had looked at data on demand, including the area job market, internal demand, and the enrollment trends in existing programs. While nothing has been finalized, the work team's leader Brad Sturz had put the almost-final list of programs into a matrix that would be discussed with the entire task force as well as with deans of specific colleges. Reiber emphasized the need to focus on programs that can expand quickly and be marketed effectively, with special attention to the Savannah market. He said that the matrix would go to the full committee next week (i.e., the week of 9/26), and soon after the list would be shared with the SEC, senate, and faculty as a whole.

Carl Reiber said that the marketing work team has already been engaged with the program development team. He stressed that the task force is trying to take advantage of the Armstrong Campus's location in and connections to Savannah. As an example, he said that Bill Dawers, who has been a freelance columnist for the *Savannah Morning News* for many years, can help students find work in local media.

Bill Dawers, who is also a member of the program development work team, said that it will need to be clearly communicated that the task force will be looking at medium- and long-term possibilities beyond the short list of programs being recommended soon to President Marrero. As an example, he talked about the Music Department's music industry concentration, about which he feels especially upbeat after a recent conversation with interim chair Steve Primatic. Carl Reiber agreed about the potential for the music industry program and added that there might be potential for music education on the Armstrong Campus. He said that university officials are actively talking with people involved in the Savannah-area music industry about possibilities for collaboration.

Bill Dawers added that the task force would need to be vigilant about 1) building up programs on the Armstrong Campus without hurting programs on the Statesboro Campus and 2) addressing concerns across the university about so much emphasis on one campus.

Wilhelmina Randtke asked about the degree to which Savannah State University is being considered in the task force meetings. Carl Reiber said that Georgia Southern wants to partner with SSU in whatever ways are possible. He noted the PhD in marine science as a new program that meshed perfectly with SSU's undergrad program.

Bill Dawers pointed out that Annie Mendenhall has done some fascinating research on the historical relationship between Armstrong and SSU. Mendenhall added that there are larger issues with enrollment at both institutions and especially complicated issues related to the underfunding and treatment of HBCUs.

Scott Taylor, another member of the task force's program development team, said that it is important for the university community to know that the team has looked at many variables and focused on programs that are ready for implementation and expansion in the short term, while also considering current resources. He said that the work team has been asking chairs and deans to think outside the box about program development and about long-term strategies to serve various constituencies (e.g., dual enrollment, military, etc.).

In open discussion and via the chat, Ed Mondor and Carl Reiber discussed possibilities for growth in forensics programs in the Savannah area and about the ways in which forensics is distinct from criminal justice. Ed Mondor said that there might be avenues for more collaboration between SSU and Georgia Southern.

Carl Reiber next discussed possibilities for greater efficiencies and growth in information technology on the Armstrong Campus. Hayden Wimmer confirmed that there are issues with course offerings and staffing. Reiber told Wimmer that he would follow up.

Marieke Van Willigen said that the university needs to foster programs that can draw on expertise and resources from various areas. She said that business is the number two career of sociology majors. She said that it's easy to think about professional degrees rather than liberal arts degrees and that we need to think more creatively about our use of resources. Ed Mondor agreed and said that, for example, forensic anthropology would make a fantastic interdisciplinary program. He said that students interested in forensics often get steered toward criminal justice, but that isn't the best program for all of them. Bill Dawers agreed about avoiding an over-emphasis on programs that are most clearly linked to specific jobs. He noted yet again that the Armstrong Task Force will soon have data on secondary majors, and that those data need to be given considerable weight.

As the meeting neared its end, Marieke Van Willigen asked when the changes to post-tenure review (PTR) will go into effect. Carl Reiber said that the Board of Regents language says that the new policies go into effect on Jan. 1, 2023, but he added that, pragmatically, next year's evaluations need to be based on the expectations of recent years. He said that it would be fundamentally unfair to change the rules of the game for someone coming up soon for

promotion. Marieke Van Willgen agreed but emphasized that she would like to see that policy in writing and that the annual evaluations and major reviews should align.

Ed Mondor asked when the Armstrong Task Force short list would be available. Carl Reiber laid out the timetable for the release of the list in two to three weeks. Bill Dawers said that Provost Reiber and President Marrero might be able to give faculty a clearer sense of the timetable during their updates at the faculty senate meeting on Sept. 29.

The meeting adjourned at 3:01.