

**South Carolina State University  
Faculty Senate Meeting  
Tuesday, December 2, 2008  
Room #121A Turner Hall**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order:**

President M. Evelyn Fields declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 3:39PM.

**Adoption of the Agenda:**

Senator Rahman moved to adopt the agenda and the motion was seconded by Senator Brantley. The motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Senator Robinson moved to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Senator Cassidy. Senator Ihekweazu moved to adopt the minutes with the following corrections on page 6: Senator Apt: ...'close' should be 'closed' and ... 'anyone' should be 'the faculty'; Senator Miah's name is misspelled – Mia should be Miah; and one additional type-o. The motion was seconded by Senator Robinson. The motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

Senator Spann handed out a copy of the treasurer's report which shows cash on hand in the amount of \$1,791.91 as of November 31, 2008. There was a total of \$540 collected in dues. The report was accepted as information.

President Fields reminded senators to pay their dues if they have not and to continue to collect the dues from their faculty in their departments. It is important that faculty pay their dues in order to participate in any activities such as voting, etc.

**Report of Committees:**

Executive Committee: – No report at this time.

Membership Advisory Committee: No report at this time.

Election Committee: No report at this time.

Planning & Projects Committee: No report at this time.

**Educational Policies Council:**

- Department of Electrical Engineering: Senator Ihekweazu presented on behalf of Dr. Basher. The department is proposing a four (4) year off campus program in Electrical Engineering Technology at York Technical College. He stated that they now offer similar programs at both Greenville Tech and Piedmont Tech. This program will give persons who are employed full-time an opportunity to complete their degree without having to come to Orangeburg.  
Discussion: President Fields stated that she has a problem with the fact that no faculty from

SCSU will be teaching any of the courses. SCSU is offering a degree in with all the faculty are adjunct professors. She asked if they had checked the SACS requirements on that fact. Senator Ihekweazu responded that the adjuncts are fully qualified and they use the departmental syllabi and textbooks. Since their program is accredited by ABET they are going to make sure that all the standards are met. Senator Brantley stated that she felt this proposal is an excellent idea but she felt as far as SACS is concern a little further investigation may be necessary. Senator Swain stated that the similar programs have been at Greenville Tech and Piedmont Tech for about twelve (12) years and has had no problems with SACS. Senator Rech stated that SACS criteria have changed in the last ten years. President Fields reiterated that she wanted to be sure the program would meet SACS standards with all adjunct faculty teaching all the courses and SCSU awarding the degree.

After additional discussions the motion carried with the following vote count: 10 senators for; 4 senators opposed; and 7 senators abstained.

- Department of Family & Consumer Sciences: President Fields presented the information she received in Dr. Jones absence. The department is proposing the courses IFD 601, IFD 602, & IFD 603 be eliminated from the Master of Science degree in Individual and Family Development (IFD) program. These courses are connected to the thesis writing phase and in the past when a student didn't complete the thesis they would enroll in the next course. These courses are no longer needed because of the contract that is required with an Incomplete grade. Senator Whitaker moved to adopt the proposal and the motion was seconded by Senator Doucette.

Discussion: After some discussion the motion carried with a vote of 14 senators for; 0 senators opposed; and 2 senators abstained.

Educational Facilities Committee: No report at this time.

Graduate Council: Will meet next Tuesday.

Welfare Committee: No report at this time.

Research Advisory & Human Council: No report at this time.

Space Utilization: No report at this time.

Ad Hoc Committees:

Constitution and Bylaws

### **Old Business:**

- Class Attendance of Athletes: President Fields stated that in an earlier meeting Senator Thornburg brought this problem to the senate. The Athletic Director, Charlene Johnson, was invited to this meeting today but she was called away to a conference and is out of town. Senator Thornburg restated his problem with student athletes missing up to or more than 30% of classes. We received a memo stating that a student must not be penalized if they miss class to represent the university. He states his attendance policy in his course syllabi as we are asked to do but he needs clarification on what that policy is.

Discussion: President Fields stated that she has a problem with what's stated in the student handbook because it was never approved by the policy making bodies of this university. After

some additional discussion Senator Robinson moved to send this problem to the Educational Policies Council for further investigations/discussion. The motion was seconded by Senator Doucette. The motion carried.

### **President's Report**

- Budget Cuts: Since our last meeting President Fields met with President Cooper and sent out an email with a summary of that meeting. The next day the executive committee of the Board of Trustees met and approved the president's recommendation for budget cuts on a vote of 4 to 2. The full board will meet on Thursday. Since the budget cuts are ongoing the topic will probably come up during that meeting. The president stated that he is aware that the faculty has concerns and that he will schedule some time to meet with the faculty. President Fields said that she expressed to the president that she was disappointed that he did not take questions at the last faculty meeting. President Cooper stated that he did not want to stray away from the agenda which was to approve the graduates. Senator Whitaker suggested that we may need to start having faculty forums. President Fields said that she is concerned that budget cuts will become permanent. The total number of students needed to support the budget is 5,100 but the current enrollment is about 4,800. There will be another four (4) percent budget cut in January. President Fields stated that nobody knows what is going on with SACS. Everyone has to know about the QEP. We need guidance and resources this will happen. What happened to the SACS's budget? There should be an assessment team to go around to the various divisions and departments and gather the needed information for the reports that must be completed. The two (2) major concerns at the institution right now are
  1. Finances
  2. Accreditation

### **New Business:**

- Progress Standards and Student's GPA will be tabled until the next meeting.

### **Other Business:**

### **Adjournment**

The motion to adjourn was made by Senator Varnum and seconded by Senator Robinson. The meeting was adjourned at 5:06PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cynthia T Davis*

Cynthia T. Davis  
Recording Secretary