

GENERAL FACULTY MEETING

Minutes

Fall Semester, 2016

Wednesday August 3, 2016

Coliseum, 9:00 a.m.

Approved May 2, 2017

I. Call to Order and Welcome—Dr. Myrna Gantner, Interim Provost

Dr. Gantner called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from April 20, 2016 were unanimously approved without revision.

III. Business of the Faculty Senate—Dr. Julia Farmer, Chair of Faculty Senate

Dr. Farmer called for a vote on the revised language for the duties of Executive Secretary of the Faculty Senate. This proposal to change the language of the description at 2E, 1 passed unanimously.

IV. Interim Provost's Address—Dr. Myrna Gantner

Interim Provost Gantner began by announcing that Dr. David Jenks will serve as Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs while Dr. Micheal Crafton is working at the system office as the Interim Executive Vice Chancellor during this academic year (AY). Dr. Gantner also announced Dr. Denise Overfield's promotion to Associate Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School and Dr. Cher Hendricks's promotion to Associate Vice President for Academic Initiatives and Faculty Development. Additionally, Provost Gantner indicated that there will be an Academic Affairs newsletter, the inaugural edition of which will be sent out soon. The new sixteen-week academic calendar was also referenced, with the caveat that faculty have the choice to teach fifteen weeks, omitting the finals week as a required class meeting time.

Myrna spoke next about the ongoing revision of the Strategic Plan, a draft of which the deans worked on collaboratively this July. The draft, when complete, will be sent to various campus contingencies for feedback in the shared governance process. Finally, Dr. Gantner turned to the Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) initiative, helmed by Dr. David Newton. She pointed out that we join twenty other LEAP states in this venture, sharing how LEAP's goals complement Complete College's and will allow us to uphold our current academic standards of excellence. For more on this initiative, Dr. Gantner introduced Dr. David Newton.

V. LEAP Initiative—Dr. David Newton

Dr. Newton directed faculty to the essential outcomes in the LEAP brochure they received along with the agenda. He then emphasized that LEAP will allow us to focus not only on extant best practices but on pathways for towards even better practices. LEAP, then, provides guidelines for improvement as we assess challenge areas; allows us to share our current best practices across colleges and departments on campus; and works to enhance our continuous assessment in accordance with governing agencies like the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

In the coming AY, Dr. Newton noted, a central goal will be to investigate how we can collectively make UWG's extraordinary educational experience available and accessible for all students. LEAP provides a template that can foment dialog regarding the sort of education we all seek to provide to each student. To implement the initiative this year and going forward, David pointed to the crucial role faculty discussions in and across campus will play as we all seek to strengthen the core, making it dynamic.

VI. Go West for A Day: Drs. Sal Peralta and Cale Self; Ms. Sherri Shelnutt; and the Student Philanthropy Committee ONE West

This year's representatives called for faculty contributions, which can be earmarked for particular colleges, departments, or initiatives on campus. Often, Dr. Peralta noted, donations act as gap funding for students, affecting their lives in tangible ways. The new student group One West also spoke, indicating that the fundraising goal this year is 925,000 dollars, 150,000 of which, they hope, will come from faculty and staff.

VII. Engage West Roll Out—Interim Provost, Dr. Myrna Gantner

At this point in the meeting, Dr. Gantner shared a sampling from the Engage West survey, foregrounding high scores in areas of immediate supervision; the mission and goals of departments; and departmental leadership. She turned then towards challenges in the lowest scoring areas of climate; communication; and work-life balance. As a way to begin collaborative brainstorming, Provost Gantner posed two questions to attending faculty and staff: "What kinds of things might explain differences in perceptions about work-life balance?" and "What is the role of Academic Affairs in the work-life balance?" She asked faculty to spend about 20 minutes discussing these two questions before inviting participants to share ideas.

VIII. Engage West! Faculty Edition

During this portion of the General Faculty meeting, faculty were invited to participate in two roundtable sessions, each 30 minutes long. There were 28 tables to choose from, each helmed by a pair comprised of UWG faculty and/or staff who served as experts and discussion moderators. Tables offered the following subjects and facilitators:

1. Capstone Seminars, Meg Pearson and Andy Walter
2. First-Year Experiences, Sal Peralta and Brad Deline
3. Experiential Learning, Dan Williams
4. Core Curriculum, David Newton
5. Sustainability, Hannes Gerhardt
6. Faculty Writing Groups, Katy Green
7. Safe Zone Training, Ryan Bronkema
8. Teaching Honors Courses, Janet Donahoe
9. Grant Funding Opportunities, Denise Overfield and Charla Campbell
10. NSF Grant Opportunities, Elizabeth Ayers and Chris Jett
11. QEP and Writing in the Core, Nadya Williams

12. Contemplative Practices, Dawn Neely and Lisa Gezon
13. Using Open Educational Resources, Mark Kunkel and Kathie Barrett
14. Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Julia Whisenhunt
15. Study Abroad Opportunities, Maria Doyle
16. Community Engagement, Melanie McClellan
17. Service Learning, Amber Smallwood
18. Center for Teaching and Learning, Rod McRae
19. Governor's Teaching Fellows, Susan Hall Webb
20. Go U with UWGO! Jessica Loiacono
21. Best Online Writing Practices, Wendy Grisham
22. New Faculty Support, Keith Pacholl
23. Move on When Ready! Brandy James and April Wood
24. Supplemental Instruction, Carrie Carmack and Karen Tefend
25. Rethinking the College Freshman Seminar, Muriel Cormican and Anne Gaquere
26. School of the Arts, Chad Davidson
27. Working with ESOL Students, Bric Barker and April Oglesbee
28. Working with Student Athletes, David Haase and Kim Holder

After this hour of lively faculty and staff discussion, Dine West catered lunch.

IX. President's Address and Closing Remarks—Dr. Kyle Marrero

Dr. Marrero's address first turned to UWG's Vision Statement. He asked faculty to strive to find a personalized way to connect our work to the vision. He focused next on areas in which UWG is seeing tangible evidence of our growth and success. Finally, Dr. Marrero presented his 2020 vision for UWG.

The President shared the University's Vision Statement: **"The University of West Georgia aspires to be the best comprehensive university in America – sought after as the best place to work, learn, and succeed!"** He emphasized faculty members' roles in achieving this institutional vision, charging us to connect our professional activity to its precepts. Faculty success equals the institution's, not vice versa.

Dr. Marrero pointed first to growth statistics in enrollment (over 13,400 students); a record number of degrees conferred (2,448); scholarships granted (\$1.1 million); funds raised (\$27 million to date); increased retention, progression, and enrollment (74%, 41-42%); economic impact (\$518 million); faculty and staff merit and equity raises (3% merit allocated and at 87% of CUPA, totaling \$7.3 million over the last three years); and growth in employment (99 new fulltime employees including 49 faculty lines over the past 3 years).

Tangible results of our successes also include:

- The institution of Dine West, which employs 168.5 people, over 40 retained from Aramark and others from the surrounding community. This increases our economic impact in the area.
- Purposeful efforts in Diversity and Inclusion
- Morale Improvement, as demonstrated by Engage West survey (3.88 up from 3.79)

- Athletic Successes—3 conference championships and 2 national semi-finals (our division II football team’s record was noted here)
- Unprecedented recognition by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (ASSCU); the University System of Georgia (USG); and Georgia Project for Excellence in Environmental Education (GPEE)
- Fiscal Sustainability of UWG with a record annual budget (\$192 million, up from \$170 three years ago)

The 2020 vision for UWG targets the following goals:

- UWG will experience record enrollment with over 15,000 students.
- Full and Part Time Employees will increase to over 1,900.
- Faculty and Staff salary equity goals will be achieved—we will be at CUPA Median and at the Market Entry Point.
- Our economic impact will expand to \$650 million dollars.
- We will see academic program expansion in the College of Health Sciences, STEM programs, eCampus, and LEAP will be fully implemented.
- The university will have \$10 million dollars of sponsored research annually.
- UWG will see \$120 million devoted to new and renovated facilities to accommodate our population.
- In the area of student success, UWG targets an 80% and 50% of RPG.
- “Engage West!” will offer us a comprehensive university model.
- UWG will continue to participate in the Carrollton-Carroll County Education Collaborative (CCEC) alongside all 7 counties in the West Georgia region, striving for improved graduation rates and workforce and post-secondary readiness of students.
- UWG will have a greater community impact with initiatives that involve transforming Maple Street and the entrance to the university to control traffic and present the best the West has to offer; the Bike Share program which enhances sustainability; and expanded housing developments surrounding campus.
- UWG will continue to focus on diversity and inclusion that creates a campus and community working together to celebrate our differences and similarities.
- In the area of athletics, we will retain our perennial national power in the Gulf South Conference and as All-Sports Trophy Winners. We will retain our student athlete graduation rate as well.
- UWG will strive to raise over \$50 million in its Capital Campaign

Dr. Marrero emphasized that all of these aims reflect our cogent vision and will necessarily involve the work and dedication of faculty and staff. President Marrero closed by inviting questions and collaboration and wishing all attendees a productive year at the University of West Georgia.

X. Adjournment

Dr. Marrero adjourned the meeting at 12:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Dr. Angela Insenga
 Associate Professor of English
 Executive Secretary of the Faculty Senate and General Faculty