

East Georgia State College Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2024

9:00AM via Zoom

Type of meeting: Regular Meeting

Meeting Facilitator: Breana Simmons, President

- I. Open Pre-meeting discussion
- II. Call to order (9:00am) – regular meeting
- III. Roll call: Members in attendance, President Breana Simmons, Senators Christian Kraus, Dan Mancill, Christine Xie, Laura Chambers, and Carmine Palumbo
- IV. Greeting of Visitors: Dr. Catherine Whelan, Provost, and Johnna Eaton
- V. Approval of minutes from February and Adoption of Agenda: Minutes from February meeting were reviewed and approved.
- VI. Committee Reports: None
- VII. Open Issues
 - a. Elections for 2024-2025 Academic Year: Dan, Christine, and Laura’s seats are going to be up for election for 2024-25. Dr. Chevalier will open elections following Spring Break. Breana noted that all three are still eligible for to run for their seats. Dr. Chevalier feels he will be able to have the elections filled before the end of the semester.
 - b. Office Hour “Prorating” was discussed. There was a faculty member who has a course release this semester who was asking if they could have fewer office hours because they were teaching fewer hours, and their supervisor denied their request. There was discussion about whether or not the policy wording supported the supervisor’s decision, and both Laura and Dan felt that because faculty already have established a maximum of seven office hours, that it would not be a good idea to press this issue because it could threaten the currently established existing maximum of seven hours. Dr. Whelan assured the senators that if someone challenged the existing policy, there would be no retaliation, but she also argued that if the problem was that faculty members were worried about not being able to get work done during their office hours, that it really didn’t make much sense to worry about the office hours because they could do whatever work they needed to do during those office hours.

VIII. New Business

- a. New Course Proposal BUSA 1000: Discussion was had about the required qualifications to teach the course. Dr. Whelan stated that a call for interest to teach the course was going to be announced. Dr. Palumbo stated concerns about the course description and whether or not the course would fulfill requirements for the course as a general education course. The course description seems to be more skills based, rather than academically based, and the learning outcomes are not worded in such a way that the General Education council would approve the course. Dr. Whelan pushed back on Dr. Palumbo's concerns as the course, "Professionalism in the Workplace," is not, necessarily, a Business only course and, as a result, the more general wording might not be as much of an issue. Dr. Palumbo, also as senior member of the Gen Ed council, worried about the wording of the learning outcomes and could not vote to approve the course because of the wording and its placement in the academic area proposed (area B). Faculty senate could vote to table the course until the learning outcomes were worded correctly. Christian Kraus agreed that tabling the course for now was the appropriate way to go. Laura reminded everyone that we could also do a vote by email before the next scheduled senate meeting if the learning outcomes were amended effectively. Vote to approve the course as written failed and the course approval was tabled until the learning outcomes were re-written.
- b. Course Additions to the Catalog – eCore Courses: New courses were discussed and approved.
- c. Removal of WELL 1000 Degree Requirement: Removal of the WELL 1000 was up for discussion. Johnna Eaton, who teaches the course, assured senators that she was okay with the removal of the course. Dr. Whelan noted that she and Johnna had discussed ways to create another course that didn't have such an activity-centered focus to increase student success rates, and she noted that the rationale for removing the course was centered on removing barriers to graduation both financial and academic. Dr. Palumbo questioned what the success rates were. Laura Chambers voiced how much of a shame it is that as an institution we are removing a course simply because students aren't succeeding in it. Dr. Palumbo made a motion that the senate is not in favor of the removal of the course, but does not stand in opposition to the removal of the course. The motion passed, and the course will be removed as an institutional requirement.
- d. Removal of BIOL 2660K from Biology Track in A.S. Natural Science: Discussion of removal of the course as a requirement from the Biology degree track, but the course will still be offered as an elective. The course will simply not be required for the Biology concentration. Breana discussed the rationale for removing the course from the concentration. Removal of the course was approved.

- e. Updated MATH Requirement for A.S. Business Majors: Updated addition of MATH 1101 as a requirement for Business degrees was discussed. Dr. Whelan offered justifications for the change noting other institutional requirements in Math areas for Business degrees, and offering students additional flexibility in courses to fulfill those requirements. Christine Xie also offered support for Math Modeling as a more appropriate course for Business majors. Motion to pass the change passed.
 - f. New Policy Proposal for Classroom Observations: Changes to classroom observation policy were discussed. Breana offered support for the changes and noted that they have been needed for awhile. Dr. Palumbo also offered that he would have been very grateful for such a policy and/or a universal rubric for observations.
- IX. Unfinished Business: No unfinished business was discussed.
- X. Adjournment: Breana called for adjournment at 10:05 AM, and the meeting adjourned.