

East Georgia State College Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2015

1 p.m. President's Conference Room, Swainsboro/
Polycom with Statesboro & Augusta

Type of meeting: Called meeting concerning FESA Courses

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. Walt Mason, President

- I. Call to order (1 pm by Dr. Mason)
- II. Roll call: John Blackburn, Breana Simmons, Jessica Todd, and Walt Mason (Swainsboro); Bob Marsh and Reid Derr (Statesboro); and Lindy Blount (Augusta)
- III. Introduction of Guest: Dr. Mason welcomed Beverley Walker to the Faculty Senate. He introduced her and asked her to give the Faculty Senate a brief summary of her background in Fire and Emergency Services Administration (FESA). Ms. Walker discussed her 25 years of experience working with FESA; she also discussed her educational background (i.e. M.A in Administration as well as an M.A. in Education), and previous work experience teaching and developing FESA curriculum.
- IV. FESA Course Proposals: Dr. Derr made a motion to approve all 17 course proposals and syllabi with the condition that the FESA program listen to the comments of the Faculty Senate and all comments be received as advice.

There was a call for discussion concerning the syllabi. Mr. Marsh, Mr. Blount, and Dr. Simmons all pointed out courses where there were no pre-requisites required. Questions arose concerning who would be eligible to enroll in these courses. Ms. Walker discussed that the FESA program is designed for students who already have their Associate of Arts degree in Fire Science or who already have another two year degree. Students will have to apply to the FESA program, and there will be holds placed in Banner so that students who are not in the program cannot register for these courses.

There were also questions raised concerning the Practicum (FESA 4202) and Capstone (FESA 4203) courses. Mr. Marsh pointed out that the wording on the pre-requisite of FESA 4202 states, "This is a capstone

course to be taken after the majority of Fire Administration courses have been satisfactorily completed." Mr. Marsh expressed that the use of the word "majority" is vague; what constitutes the majority? It was recommended that this pre-requisite be revised to reflect the actual number of courses required or list the courses required. Dr. Simmons suggested simplifying the matter by stating, "This is a capstone course to be taken in the last year of the Fire Administration courses."

Professor Blackburn also raised a question regarding the qualifications of instructors scheduled to teach the FESA courses and whether or not SACS would approve. Mr. Blackburn was concerned that instructors have to have 18 hours of graduate credit in the area of expertise in which they are teaching. Dr. Simmons and Ms. Walker brought up the point that Fire and Emergency Service Programs generally do not have PH.D programs. These programs are usually two or 4 year programs; after completing these programs, those who wish to advance in these fields tend to go into M.A. or Ph. D. Administration programs. Therefore, since the courses that are being taught for this FESA program are in the area of Administration, there should be no issue with faculty qualifications.

Dr. Simmons also asked a question regarding Practicum hours; she wished to know why the Practicum was listed as a 3 hour credit. Dr. Simmons researched other FESA programs and saw that they had Practicum hours between 1-6 hours. Ms. Walker stated that based on individual need, students would be able to either take the FESA 4202 course once for a 3 hour credit or at the most twice for a total of 6 credit hours.

After finishing our discussion over pre-requisites, qualifications, and other FESA programs (face-to-face as well as online programs), there was a call to question by Dr. Simmons.

A vote was called to approve all 17 course proposals and syllabi. There were 5 votes to approve the program and 1 abstention.

After voting, there was a motion to adjourn by Mr. Blackburn, which was seconded by Dr. Simmons. The meeting adjourned at 1:36 pm.