

### Voting members present:

Charles Abraham

Debra Allen

Lacey Blessitt

Jeff Smithpeters

Leslie Fadiga-Stewart

Severine Groh

William Hayes

Christopher Jurgenson

Jesse Kelley

Michaela Merryday

Lekeitha Morris

Bret Pimentel

Temika Simmons

Timothy Watkins

Virginia Webb

Eyad Youssef

Franco Zengaro

**01) Meeting called to order @ 3:38pm by President Fadiga-Stewart**

**02) Agenda:** Approved

Minutes of 11/12/15 FS meeting approved. Motion by Senators Allen, Webb and Youssef.

**03) President's report:**

1. President-elect Youssef will be guest speaker at the January FS meeting.
2. President-elect Youssef will be the FS representative for Graduate council.
3. Fall graduation ceremonies - Due to the situation with the Coliseum, there will be two graduation ceremonies in December 2015. Senator Hebert will help Registrar Finley and ushers will help with seating. Graduate students and nursing students' graduation will take place Friday 12/11/15. Faculty should be ready at the BPAC by 7pm. The undergraduate ceremony will be held on Saturday morning and the faculty should be ready by 9:30am. For the processional, faculty members will follow the stage party and be seated behind it. Faculty hooding doctoral students should go in front on the faculty members line. The stage party will recess first, followed by the students; the faculty members will be last. Faculty members retiring in fall 2015 will be recognized at Friday's ceremony. The regalia rented at the bookstore came in late but can be picked up till 6:30pm at the campus bookstore. Regalia should be returned to the bookstore immediately after each ceremony.
4. Fall grades have to be entered by Monday 12/14/15 @ noon at the latest.
5. President LaForge will hold his next office hours "First Friday Faculty Meeting" on 1/15/16 from 11am to 3pm. Contact Ms. Leigh Korb at extension 4000 or by email at [lkorb@deltastate.edu](mailto:lkorb@deltastate.edu) to reserve a thirty-minutes time with President LaForge.
6. President LaForge started departmental visits.
7. Arkansas State University is on lockdown today (12/10/15) because of an armed person alert.
8. President LaForge attended an Institutional Executive Officers (IEO) meeting and alerts the members of the faculty that gun advocate groups are going on campuses to show movies and challenge IHL and Mississippi code policies (see <http://www.deltastate.edu/policies/policy/university-policies/student-affairs/rights-and-responsibilities/weapons-on-campus/>). It is noteworthy that current laws and policies do not have a provision for weapons that are posing a threat to campus but are not physically on campus grounds, such as drones for instance.
9. Dr. Caston will continue as the Interim for VP of Student Affairs until end of June 2016.
10. Edwin Craft demonstrated the new Banner for registration. Training sessions will be organized for faculty.
11. Following the issue of September 14, faculty is reminded to use DSU emails.
12. Calendar 2016/2017: pending approval. There will be no fall break and spring pre-registration will be pushed back to the second week of November.
13. The issues of academic honesty policy and the lack of an honor code were raised after finding out that many test banks were available online and that at least one website was reselling previous examinations of faculty to students.

#### **04) University Entities:**

**Report from Staff Council** – The DSU Annual Toy Drive will continue until Thursday 12/17/15. Contact Christie Rocconi or Rhonda Loper.

**Report from BPAC** – Tickets are available for the performances Mama Mia, Annie, and Flashdance. It is also possible to purchase gift certificates by \$25 increments.

#### **05) Faculty Senate Committees:**

**Committee on University Services** – The committee will start meeting in January 2016 and should be able to report at the February FS meeting.

**Committee on Elections** – Senator Groh indicated that the committee was preparing the elections to fill the senator and/or proxy vacancy in Counselor Education and Psychology, Social Sciences and History, HPER, and Languages and Literature. The new senators and proxy should start attending the meetings in January. The new representatives for the Merit Pay Appeals Committee should be known by the start of the spring semester.

**Committee on Technology** – Senator Abraham will attend demonstrations of the new Banner version of the Pilot software. Login to Delta State network will be changed after we return from Winter break.

**Committee on General Academic Affairs** – Senator Smithpeters indicated that he will draft a resolution about the last day to drop a course. Consensus is that the date should be moved earlier in the semester to coincide with or to shortly follow the financial aid cutoff date (60% of the semester).

#### **06) New Business:**

1. Flag – A discussion took place about the possibility of holding a joint students-faculty forum. It was pointed out that a survey, while useful to get faculty opinion about the flag issue, would not fulfill the educational component that a forum would. Motion from Senator Simmons to issue a survey to poll on the 2 following questions: 1) Should the flag be redesigned? and 2) What to do in the interim should the majority of the faculty agree on a flag redesign? SGA would be encouraged to do so as well. A joint students-faculty forum could be held after survey results are known. Motion approved (majority minus 2 abstentions). Senator Youssef will design a survey on Survey Monkey and a comment box will be added.
2. Safety on campus – Non-University people have been found on campus and in some buildings. It is necessary to keep the building doors locked after business hours and on weekends. Many lights are out in the parking lots. There are no phones in the classrooms. President Fadiga-Stewart has delegated the Academic Affairs committee and the Service committee and any senators interested to tackle the question of safety on campus.

#### *Questions to Faculty Senate*

Dr. Ellen Green is asking if all the critical DSU deadlines, especially the ones for curriculum changes, could be communicated to the chairs at the start of the academic year.

Senator Hayes is asking the FS to observe one minute of silence to honor the memory of Patricia Roberts, for whom the service will take place Friday 12/11/15.

**07) Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned @ 5:25pm. Motion by Senators Jurgenson and Groh.

#### **Next meetings**

Executive Committee Meeting Date:

January 14, 2015 – Faculty Lounge

Senate Meeting Date:

January 21, 2016 – 3:30pm – Union 302A