

USGFC meeting

Morning session

Chair indicated that they were looking for a volunteer University to host next fall's meeting. Spring meeting will be held in ATL area. That is customary every time.

Discussion led by Dr. Wrigley (Executive Vice Chancellor of Administration and incoming Chancellor)

Discussion was held about the USG appointing university presidents without a search (Kennesaw used as an example). 10 of current USG university presidents were appointed without a search. Dr. Wrigley indicated that having a faculty led search was the "gold standard" and would be the process sought when possible. However, certain situations, like Kennesaw, had very public problems, that required a suspension of that process. Indicated that this option would continue in the future.

He indicated that part of the problem was with communication. He said that, if the system was bad at communication, it was incompetence (his terminology) not an attempt to hide or deceive.

Discussion led by Dr. Michael Crafton (interim Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer)

Discussion of program prioritization – system has no prioritization plan. Low enrollment programs have never been terminated by the system. To not be considered a low enrollment program, a program must graduate at the following levels:

Assoc – 5 per year

Bachelor – 10 per year

Master – 5 per year

PhD – 3 per year

Small programs require justification from the university. USG has never rejected justification. Two years later, if still small, will begin to ask questions.

Changes in the pay system, will allow faculty to opt for a 12 payment option, instead of a 10 payment one. New system is called 1USG and will replace ADP.

Textbook costs are becoming a burden; system is looking for options to reduce that.

System is developing a task force on workload and annual evaluations

He was asked when we will discuss the issue of the decline in the number of teaching faculty system wide. This was noted as an issue, but no solution offered.

Reports:

AAUP

Indicated that all faculty should be in AAUP. They ensure academic freedom, shared governance.

Focus on eval of admin.

Confidentiality agreements

Faculty role in administration

AAUP redbook, has answers to many issues related to university governance.

Retiree council

Reported on updates to health insurance

Defined contribution model to health plans

Less support for dependents

Only 6 USG schools have active retiree organizations. Listed the names, CSU not one. Encouraged those with retiree communities to form retiree groups.

Staff council

Working on improving communications

Afternoon session

Discussion occurred regarding changes to the funding model for current employee health insurance (defined contribution model) which involves the same university contribution, regardless of plan chosen. Serious concerns indicated about ensuring that the percentage match to remain constant and not degrade.

Because of the mergers, a new university sector has been approved by the BOR. It is called "dual function" and is intended to ease the problems of merging state colleges with state universities (such as Darton/Albany). Faculty can be classified as either access (5/5 load no research) or research (3/3 or 4/4 with appropriate research expectations).

USGFC wants a link to the current faculty handbook of each institution

A proposal was forwarded by one member of the USGFC to allow in state tuition for undocumented immigrants. Several other members resisted this proposal because they had no input from their respective faculties. The proposal was tabled, with the request that each faculty senate or equivalent discuss the issue and have a position for the spring meeting.