

## **Statutes Committee Annual Report September 2010 – September 2011**

### **Committee Members:**

TyAnna Herrington (LCC), Chair  
Jeanne Balsam (GTRI), Secretary, Acting Chair spring and summer semesters  
Sam Graham (ME)  
Jud Ready (GTRI)  
John Stein (Dean of Students)  
Brooke McDaniel (Student)  
Mary Ann Ingram (ECE, Executive Board Liaison)

**Overhaul of the Faculty Handbook** – A Task Force commissioned by Senior Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs Andy Smith was delivered to the Statutes Committee as a guide to streamlining and bringing up to date the material in the Faculty Handbook. The scope of the changes was considerable and a careful review was begun. While it was not judged feasible to proceed immediately to implement the recommendations, many aspects provided a sound model for a needed overhaul. Needs for renewal have accumulated over the years as actual processes, organizations, other policies have evolved in the University System of Georgia and the Institute. Work on this would continue into the 2011-12 academic year.

**Section 38 - Conflict of Interest and Outside Professional Activity Policy:** Proposed modifications were submitted by Mr. Jeff Steltzer, Director of Conflict of Interest Management. Modifications to the policy were needed to the Faculty Handbook to clarify the process and rules. Mr. Steltzer met with the Statutes committee to respond to our suggestions and questions. The Statutes Committee voted favorably for the proposed policy to be presented to the Faculty. Mr. Jeff Steltzer presented the information to the General Faculty, General Faculty Assembly, and Academic Senate on February 15, 2011 and it was approved.

**Section 14.3.3 Formulation of a Formal Hearing Committee** – responded to request from the Faculty Status and Grievance committee for change in procedures to section 14.3.3. The changes provides that in grievances concerning academic faculty status such as rank or tenure, then hearing panels may be restricted to tenured faculty of appropriate rank and status. The Statutes Committee voted to have the recommendations presented to the Faculty. Dr. Paul Neitzel, Chair of the Faculty Status and Grievance Committee, presented the recommendations to the General Faculty, General Faculty Assembly, and Academic Senate on February 15, 2011 and they were approved. An additional change to Section 14.3.3 was presented to the Academic Senate, Academic Faculty, and General Faculty to properly set the number of people included in a panel from which hearing members are chosen; this was presented and approved on April 26, 2011.

**Section 47 – Freedom of Expression Policy and Campus Use Procedures** – The statutes committee worked directly with Dr. William Schafer, Vice President for Student Affairs; Gary Wolovick, Managing Attorney; and Howard Wertheimer, Director Capital Planning and Space Management to address the recommended replacement to Section 47, Facilities Use. The recommended changes were to reflect actual practices, address findings from a legal review,

clarify policy and procedures, reduce duplication, and include input from a National Webinar on Freedom of Expression with other Institutions. After addressing the Statutes Committee concerns and recommendations, the proposed Policy and Procedure was also vetted with the Student Rules and Regulations Committee. The Statutes Committee voted and approved Section 47 being presented to the Faculty. Jeanne Balsam presented this to the Academic Senate, Academic Faculty, and General Faculty on April 26, 2011 and it was approved.

**Section 5.10 and 17.3.2 Discipline and Removal** – The Statutes Committee was directed by the Executive Board to look at Section 5.10 (Procedures for Removal of Faculty Members) and Section 17.3.2 (Grounds for Removal) to bring them into compliance with the Georgia Board of Regents policies concerning dismissal of faculty members. The Statutes Committee identified changes concerning policies and procedures and presented them to the Academic Senate, Academic Faculty, and General Faculty on April 26, 2011. Modifications to section 5.10 were approved for a first reading, but since this is a section of the Statutes, a second reading will be heard at a subsequent faculty meeting. Changes to Section 17.3.2 concerning Grounds for Removal were approved; this section is not part of the statutes so they required only one reading and vote and are in force as of April 26, 2011.

**Section 50 Intellectual Property Policy** – GTRC brought recommended changes in the Intellectual Property Policy to the Statutes Committee who reviewed and discussed the proposed changes. Feedback was provided to Lauren MacLanahan in GTRC and the committee participated in a discussion of the topic with the Executive Board, Ms. MacLanahan and Ms. Kate Wasch from Legal Affairs. It was anticipated that final versions of the changes will be brought to the faculty in Fall 2011.

**Faculty Handbook usability improvements** - The Statutes Committee has assisted the Secretary of the Faculty in the evaluation of the Faculty Handbook being implemented in Drupal. Rollout is scheduled for the beginning of the Fall 2011 semester.

FY2010 Annual Report respectfully submitted, TyAnna Herrington, Chair and Jeanne Balsam, Secretary