Attending:
Faculty Senate President Benji Blair: Biology
Scott Beckett: Learning Skills
Robbie Boggs: Family and Consumer Sciences
Sean Corey: Military Science
David Dempsey: Math & Computer Science
Heidi Dempsey: Psychology
Douglas Gordon: Music
Teresa Gardner: Curriculum and Instruction
Larry Gray: English
Gloria Horton: English
Bryce Lafferty: Art
Nancy Mellen: Criminal Justice
Linda Mitchell: Secondary Education
Kerri Reese: Distance Education
Yingqi Tang: Library: Technical Services
Manabu Saeki: Political Science
Charlcie P. Vann: Library: Public Services
Melanie Wallace: Educational Resources

Guests: Dr. Bill Meehan, Dr. Rebecca Turner, Dr. Taylor Colber (guest of Dr. Turner)

Senate President, Benji Blair introduced the guests and Dr. Meehan addressed the Senate.

• JSU has, like all universities in the state, lost appropriations to the point that we can no longer be considered state-funded. We are more appropriately considered state-assisted.
• University resources are allocated based in large part on credit hour production. College of Commerce and Business and Distance Learning were both good. These numbers can be seen on pages 2-3 of the information packet.
• Honors courses are up 12%. Sections are down 2, but student enrollment is up. This program attracts students and encourages strong students.
• Students with lower ACT scores enrolling continues to drop. It is especially important that the composite and discipline scores move closer together and this helps with retention numbers as well. Dr. Turner will be taking an initiative to the board related to changes in enrollment requirements. Scores have moved up steadily and scholarships helped encourage higher ACT scores.
• We had the 2nd highest freshman class ACT scores.
• Part-time enrollment 32%, Full-time 68%; this represents very little change. Breakdown by gender; 49% female. Ethnicity remains largely the same.
• Decrease enrollment. Changes in financial aid have had a big impact. Many for profit colleges are causing problems for all universities in financial aid. The most important thing is that JSU continues to have high quality programs and produce students who are ready for the workforce.
• Reminded everyone that there was a vote coming up the next day and in Nov. Additionally, there is a vote coming up about distance learning. The Attorney General's staff has made
an interpretation that distance learning courses should be charged at three times the regular rate. This would not help us because those courses are growing and continue to grow. If we have to charge much more that will significantly hurt us. All 14 institutions of higher education will be fighting that. When the time comes Drs. Meehan and Turner may be asking faculty and departments to express the importance of distance education to them because the money earned through distance education and the value it gives back is vital. He has asked Dean Fielding to reinitiate a study that shows that is like bringing a major manufacturer to the state.

- There are legislative forces that want to have a chief technical officer. This may be good in some ways for the General Fund, but when it comes to things like technology, one stamp does not fit all. Our students need to know a variety of formats because in the work world students will need to know this variety. There will be more information on this later.

- Calhoun County Chamber is starting a program to increase internships that allow our students to gain a true experience.

- The business community has also asked that we resurrect the resource list for expert knowledge. This is a list where faculty tell their areas of expertise, as well as those areas where they would be willing to speak, teach, or share their knowledge in some way. The bottom line is – we need to advertise the talent here at JSU. That form will be sent to everyone online through the Dept. of Institutional Advancement and through Tim Garner.

- Dr. Meehan shared a letter written by Dr. Daugette wrote to a potential student in 1930. Letter related reasons to find reasons to go to school at the teacher college or some other college if necessary.

Benji Blair introduced Dr. Turner and she addressed the Senate.

- We are retaining most of our freshmen, as indicated by the number of graduating seniors compared to freshmen students. This is a good statistic.

- The number of graduate students who are part-time is too high compared to the number who are full-time.
  - The F.S. is going to develop a proposal for increasing graduate assistant benefits. Dr. Turner suggested that the current system encourages students to be part-time by only paying for 6 hours or by having no G.A. positions available. She recommended that the F.S. consider nine hours as the minimum as a way to possibly reverse the full-time/part-time ratio. It will also help them graduate in a more timely manner.

- Budgets: Most budgets received level funding. None have been cut. A few have more, such as Distance Ed. that needed a second instructional designer and updates to Blackboard. We haven’t had to get into reserves.

- Summer Terms: We have a problem with summer terms. There are too many, they are overlapping, and students have to look in 13 different places to figure out what is being offered in the summer. We have to simplify summer so everyone can understand it. We need to teach what the students need and will take and not just what we want to teach and we need to have the numbers to back up what we do. Faculty will be asked through their department heads and that will go back through the deans to University Council. Benjie represents the Faculty Senate on the University Council and he can take back any comments or information from the Senate to the Univ. Council. K. Osterbind says that we have to have this issue settled by November because that is when summer terms have to be loaded for pre-registration. There is a recommendation that was made by a committee of
people who work with schedules that we have many fewer terms. Dr. Turner is committed
to making this happen. This past summer enrollment suffered and that is probably because
people didn’t know what was out there.
  o Senator suggested that the changes in Pell Grants was a problem. Because there
were none in the summer students shifted to needing courses in the fall and
departments were not prepared for the number of students needing courses.

- We are on a mission to continue upgrading technology for instructional purposes. Vincent
Houston is the V.P. for University Technology is looking at obsolete equipment in offices
and determining what needs to be upgraded first. Deans have been given a mission to go
find out what is in offices. There is an opportunity to get faculty offices upgraded through
that division. Dr. Turner’s goal is to increase technology for instructional purposes. Dr.
Meehan, Dr. Turner, and others were going to Apple headquarters to discuss the future of
technology in order to be ready when the money is available.
  o Senator mentioned the need for training. There was a discussion about the iTunes U
training and iPad training being listed late. K. Reese indicated that some of the
poorly timed training was scheduled from outside our university and other training
would be repeated later.
  o Around the university many departments are determining what they need and
setting up their own training in their department.
  o Dr. Turner will be mentioning the need for more training and more professional
development while visiting Apple headquarters. She will also be encouraging
faculty to help train other faculty around campus.
  o Senator asked about determining the types of hardware needed in the classrooms
because the classrooms are not designed for students who are plugged in and
online. The question was asked if the Apple products would work in the classroom.
Dr. Turner suggested working with existing technologies and improving what is
there. K. Reese suggested that Apple TV would be very beneficial and Dr. Turner
indicated that some departments are already using these. The issue was raised
that the campus network will not work because of a firewall. Dr. Turner and K.
Reese indicated that there was a work around to allow the Apple TV and an iPad
work together. Dr. Turner indicated that she is excited about watching students
learn using these new technologies.

- Two new categories for promotion. Distinguished Professor and Distinguished Lecturer.
The call for these will go out but they will be different from the typical call for promotion
and tenure. The call for these will go out Nov. 1. There are for instructors with 10 years
and who meets the same qualifications as required for promotion. The Distinguished
Professor is someone who has been a professor for seven and years, is a high performer,
and is still very productive. There is an unlimited number of these positions. It will be very
selective and every year the deans will get together and make the recommendations to Dr.
Turner who will make recommendations to Dr. Meehan.

Faculty Senate President Benji Blair: Call to order.

Announced that the minutes of the last meeting [May 2012] are posted on the Senate website.

There is no old business.
There are some new action topics:

- IDEA evaluation system. During the Executive Committee this topic was a big discussion. Senators were asked to send B. Blair suggestions for improving the evaluation system through email. Senators were requested to send specific suggestions. B. Blair indicated that one problem is that many classes are not getting enough participation to provide statistically significant data so this information can’t be used for any type of assessment or evaluation. B. Blair will take all of the information gathered and put it together for the next Faculty Senate meeting.

- Someone requested that the Faculty Senate develop a policy for dealing with lost receipts, however, B. Blair believes this is Tony Bennett’s job, not the job of the faculty senate. It would be more appropriate to as Mr. Bennett, the new auditor, to come up with a one-page policy to let faculty know what they should do if they have lost a receipt.
  - There was discussion about which committee should handle this task. It was decided that the welfare committee would deal with this issue and would draft a request that Mr. Bennett develop an official policy.

- Faculty Senate webpages need to be updated in order to ensure that they make sense and have the information users will need.

Committee Reports:

There was a discussion about whether or not there were enough Senators present to have a quorum. Some Senators indicated that there was some miscommunication regarding the timing of the meeting. The president said an email was sent to the last known email list and it was posted on JSU news. The president decided to go on and ask the committees to report on what each committee does and major accomplishments last year.

Welfare Committee: Deals with policies that directly effect faculty welfare and moral. Last year the welfare committee dealt with developing a mentoring program for new faculty.

Admissions and Scholarship Committee: Deals with anything that has to do with admissions policies, ACT scores, GPAs, etc. This committee helped with raising the ACT requirements for incoming freshmen. Hopes that another recommendation from the Senate will be acted on. B. Blair asked if it was in the works from previous years and T. Gardner said it had gone to a committee and might need to be checked on.

Policies Committee: Currently the deans are discussing revising parts of the Faculty Handbook because they haven’t been updated in years. That may be coming up this year and it would be something the Policies Committee would look at.

Elections Committee: The Vice President serves as chair of the elections committee. Works to elect the new Senate president and other elected positions.

Faculty Honors: Has worked to get all of this online so that it is completely paperless and the information is easy for everyone to see. To see the information, a Faculty Senate account has been set up that will allow this access.
President’s Report:
- Because there are not very many people attending the meeting, a Senator suggested having everyone email B. Blair to let him know if anyone wants to serve on a particular committee. He will put all of that together in time for the next meeting.
- New guidelines have been established for renting university facilities, but no one has been hired for that position. By the next meeting we should have that information.
- JSU organizations are required to do E-Verify to say whether or not your organization hires non-U.S. citizens. This is for the organization, not for each member.
- There was a change of the university level requirements for upper level (300-400) courses required for graduation (52 hours to 36 hours). This does not change what your individual concentration requires, but it does change the overall total number of these courses required for graduation.
- Faculty Senate purchased three-ring binders for all new faculty and provided them with some guidance about. Do we want to have a committee put together an advice page for new faculty?
- There was a question about how much the summer contracts might be cut. The president said he thought the administration was talking about cutting about 20%. If you can offer a class that has enough students then it will most likely make, but they are talking about proration and there is not enough funding for summer. There was some discussion of allowing proration of individual classes in order to allow a professor to teach a course that will have less students. A Senator said that this summer that happened but the professor did not know the pay would be prorated until two weeks into the semester when the contract finally arrived. At that point there were no options. Part of the problem is that if we teach many of the courses our students need in the summer they don’t fill, while an online basic course would fill up immediately. The president said this is why the deans are going to be asking for a list of requirements for majors. A Senator said that another problem is that summer is the only time when some classes are taught because they are electives, but they may not have a lot of students in them. We don’t usually teach required courses in the summer. Additionally, last summer some departments were told that they had to teach an equal number on campus and online, but this doesn’t make sense if we know that online courses will usually have higher enrollment and bring in more money. The President asked if we need to develop a committee to deal with summer. There was a discussion about whether this would fall under the Welfare Committee, Policies Committee, Admissions and Scholarship, or if an Ad Hoc Committee would be best. Additionally, there the suggestion was made that the SGA should be involved.
  - An Ad Hoc committee will be formed to put together a recommendation for the University Council regarding summer courses and schedules.

Meeting is adjourned by Senate President, Benjie Blair.