I. Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:00 on April 18, 2012 in Room 2502. Dr. Will Lynch presided.

II. New Business
A. The Minutes from March 21, 2011 were approved as presented.

B. Dr. Padgett shared the following:

1. Undergraduate Certificate from the College of Education – The certificate was remanded to UCC for further consideration.

2. Absence Policy Report. The report on excused absences was accepted by the Senate.

3. i-Fac Bills from Education Technology Committee. All i-Fac bills were approved but the second bill, i-Fac 2, created Senate discussion regarding the age of faculty computers and the need for classroom technology to be updated in some rooms. The new CIO, Robert Howard, expressed his support for creating a new computer replacement cycle and for updating existing classroom technology.

4. Constitution and Bylaws Vote on Cove. The proposed changes on the Constitution and Bylaws were approved.

5. Elections Committee. Dr. Mincer announced that all committee vacancies have been filled and introduced the new Senate Officers: President Bill Baird, Vice President Beth Howells and Secretary Austin Francis.

6. University Committee Directory Bill from Faculty Welfare Committee. Dr. Collier explained that the bill was aimed at limiting frustrations concerning the lack of clarity in regards to the overlapping of responsibilities of various committees and taskforces on campus. Dr. Bleicken indicated that it would be relatively easy to address the concerns of the bill and recommended that more dialog with her office should take place. The bill was approved.
7. Police Security during the Holidays/Business Office Policy on opening the mail. First, Dr. LeFavi shared some concerns that were brought to his attention regarding some faculty and guests that were restricted from accessing campus outside normal operating hours and/or were questioned by university police during the winter break. Mr. Carson explained that the Police Department increased patrols during the winter and fall breaks but that no orders were given to restrict faculty or staff from entering campus. Nevertheless, Mr. Carson encouraged faculty to inform the police when they are on campus during odd hours. Second, Dr. LeFavi mentioned the Business Office’s policy of opening faculty mail. It was explained that if a person is receiving a check or bank statement and the Armstrong’s name is listed on the address, then the item is typically opened. Personal mail or an item without Armstrong’s name should not be opened. Mr. Carson is open to further discussion on the matter and the Senate expressed its desire for the dialogue to continue.

The Faculty congratulated Dr. Baird in his election as Faculty Senate Chair. Dr. Padgett resigned from the Faculty Senate so that the department could regain those two votes that have been lost due to Dr. Baird’s election as President and his position as parliamentarian.

C. Committee Reports
   i. General Chemistry Committee. Dr. MacGowan reminded everyone to instruct students to place their identification numbers on the scantrons and to remember not to write on the exams. The exams are located in the main office.

   ii. Safety Chemistry Workshop. Dr. Lynch announced that the department is currently negotiating a two-day safety chemistry workshop to take place in August 6, 2012. The workshop will be mandatory for all chemistry faculty and laboratory staff.

Dr. Lynch took the opportunity to emphasize the importance of security in the building, especially in the labs. All labs need to remain locked when not in use.

III. Old Business

A. Awards – EOY Banquet. We will have end of the year luncheon Monday, April 30 at midday in room SC 1407 as usual. The department will provide fried chicken and drinks and faculty should bring side dishes.

B. EOY 2012 Requests – Most of the EOY requests have been addressed, any outstanding items need to be submitted promptly.

C. Gamma Sigma Epsilon Mu Delta, Chemistry Honor Society. Dr. MacGowan shared that the Gamma Sigma Epsilon Mu Delta, Chemistry Honor Society was formally recognized as a chapter here on campus and the induction ceremony was to be held on May 2, 2012 at 3 pm in SC 1407. She thanked Ryan Groom for his involvement and hard work towards seeing this become a reality.
D. Summer / Fall 2012 – Courses. Both summer and fall schedules are up and are full. Specific teaching assignments for the fall will remain tentative pending the analytical chemistry search and final hiring outcomes.

E. NSF – TUES 2012 – Dr. Lynch asked the faculty to keep him informed regarding the planned submission of this year’s external grants.

F. Tenure Track Analytical Chemistry Search. Dr. Lynch shared that we have three very promising candidates and that interviews will, most likely, take place at the end of the semester. He, also, added that the paperwork has been signed to search for a Physics temporary line and that we need to be moving quickly to fill the position.

IV. Announcements

Dr. MacGowan shared that the April 11 meeting had a very good turnout and reminded us of the upcoming April 25, 2012 at the Moon River Brewery at 6pm. The topic will be Trivia Night and Recognition of the Class of 2012 Seniors. Please RSVP Dr. MacGowan by 4/23/2012.

Randall Nowill - hired by Merck in North Carolina
Mark Moody - South University in the Anesthesiology program.
Cassie Connolly – Emory University, PhD program in Chemistry.
Charles Murray - Washington State University, PhD program in Chemistry.
Phung H. Nguyen- North Carolina State University, PhD program in Chemistry.
Donald Roberts - South University, Pre-pharmacy School

On Saturday April 18/2012, the Pre-pharmacy club will be working together with South University School of Pharmacy at the City of Savannah Recyclerama to celebrate Earth Day. You can get rid of computers, paint, drugs, etc. during this time. This event will take place from 7am – 11am. From 11am-3pm the Pre-pharmacy club will be joining the American Chemical Society at Forsyth Park to meet new AASU students.

Dr. Lynch took the opportunity to recognize Ms. Carpenter’s 25 years of service here at AASU. He, also, congratulated Dr. Brent Feske and Dr. Clifford Padgett for their being awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professors and Dr. Delana Nivens to Professor effective August 2012.

President Bleicken - The President was present during the departmental meeting but at her request the meeting was held first, for which she was appreciative. Everyone introduced themselves and then she proceeded to share of how often she comes across former students who are more than happy to share about the instructors and their wonderful experience at AASU.

President Bleicken clarified that one of the reasons why faculty and staff were being stopped and questioned during the fall and winter breaks was because the Police
Department had hired additional police officers who were not familiar with faculty and staff. She, also, mentioned that it was interesting how different people view things differently because some people were concerned that they were being stopped and others were concerned because they were not being stopped.

The President was not aware at the time of the meeting that the Registrar’s Office had planned not to have registration opened for the fall during the months of May and June. She welcomed thoughts regarding advisement and registration periods taking place simultaneously and added that did not think them student friendly simply because this is a time when students are worried about their final exams and the semester is winding down.

Dr. Baird brought up the subject of students’ retention. President Bleicken’s reply was to re-educate legislators regarding the matter and perhaps finding ways in which to create more opportunities for completion and re-package them to attract more potential students. To attract the military community, she suggested coming up with certificates or associates degrees and finished adding that this was an ongoing effort.

**Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

cc: Dr. Anne Thompson, Interim Vice-President of Academic Affairs – Dean of Faculty
Dr. Robert Gregerson, Dean, College of Science and Technology
Dr. Delana Nivens, Interim Assistant Dean, College of Science and Technology