

**COMMITTEE NAME:** EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF UNIVERSITY SENATE (ECUS) WITH STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS (SCC)

**MEETING DATE & TIME:** FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2024, 3:30-4:45 P.M.

**MEETING LOCATION:** PARKS HALL 301

**ATTENDANCE:**

<b>MEMBERS</b>		<b>“P” denotes Present, “A” denotes Absent, “R” denotes Regrets</b>
<b>P</b>	Alex Blazer (CoAS, ECUS Secretary)	
<b>R</b>	Cathy Cox (University President)	
<b>P</b>	Nicolas Creel (CoBT, ECUS Member)	
<b>P</b>	Stephanie Jett (CoAS, ECUS Vice-Chair)	
<b>P</b>	Joyce Norris-Taylor (CoHS, ECUS Member)	
<b>R</b>	Holley Roberts (Provost)	
<b>P</b>	Lamonica Sanford (Library, ECUS Member)	
<b>R</b>	Rob Sumowski (CoE, ECUS Chair Emerita)	
<b>P</b>	Andrew Allen (APC Chair)	
<b>P</b>	Corey Claxton (DEIPC Chair)	
<b>R</b>	Jennifer Flory (FAPC Chair)	
<b>P</b>	Brad Fowler (RPIPC Chair)	
<b>P</b>	Amy Pinney (SAPC Chair)	
<b>GUESTS</b>		
Mandy Jarriel, Interim Associate Provost of Academic Affairs & Director of The Graduate School		
Amy Sumpter, Vice-Chair of FAPC		

**Legend**

**Highlighted text denotes follow-up.**

**Bold text denotes action or recommendation.**

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by Nicholas Creel (Chair).

**II. Approval of Agenda:** A **Motion** to approve the agenda was made and seconded. **The agenda was approved as circulated.**

**III. Approval of Minutes:** A draft of the 4 Oct 2024 minutes of the Executive Committee with Standing Committee Chairs had been circulated to the meeting attendees via email. A **Motion** to approve the minutes was made and seconded. **The minutes were approved.**

**IV. Reports**

**University President — President Cathy Cox**

1. **Regrets, No Report** As President Cox had extended *Regrets* and was unable to attend this meeting, there was no President’s Report.

**University Provost — Associate Provost Mandy Jarriel for Provost Holley Roberts**

1. **Scholarship Applications** open December 2; in January and March you will see heavy advertising. There will be a big push from financial aid. This is in response to a concern of unawarded scholarships.
2. **Grants & Sponsored Projects** Kadian Leslie, our Director for OGSP resigned and last day was 10/31. Please be sure to use [grants@gcsu.edu](mailto:grants@gcsu.edu) for OGSP communication. We will soon begin the process to fill her position.
3. **Graduate Admissions** Today, November 1, ends the fee waiver application period for graduate students.
4. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**
  - a. **MURACE**
    - i. Question: Do we know anything about MURACE cutting back funding of students? Is MURACE returning to the prior formula of funding the first two presenters (two students per project; \$500 each)? There is a concern that this funding formula is too restrictive to students, especially in science projects which often feature more than two authors; and SGA only has \$10,000 for funding student research.
    - ii. Comment: To take a specific example, recently, there was a collaborative project of ten students attended a conference. Also, funding ignores projects of creative expression.

#### **Academic Policy Committee (APC) — Chair Andrew Allen**

1. **BOR Policy Updates** The Academic Policy Committee worked through email to craft suggestions regarding the proposed new University System of Georgia policies. In the committee's monthly meeting, we further discussed recommendations and approved a list of suggestions to be forwarded to Presiding Officer Dr. Nicholas Creel.

#### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy Committee (DEIPC) — Chair Corey Claxton**

1. **Meeting** DEIPC had a meeting scheduled for 1 Nov 2024 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.
  - a. **No Quorum** As quorum was not established, APC did not meet.
2. **Recommended Syllabus Statement** DEIPC will continue to work on the recommended syllabus statement.
3. **Committee Name Change** DEIPC will discuss changing its committee name.

#### **Executive Committee of University Senate (ECUS) — Chair Nicholas Creel**

1. **Feral Cats on Campus** We discussed whether feral cats on campus were an issue we were aware of. Dr. Flory forwarded [an article from the Chronicle of Higher Education](#) about how university/faculty senates at other campus have worked to address the common problem of feral cats on campus
2. **BOR Policy Updates** We discussed how the Board of Regents proposed policy changes. We went over what these changes were and what recommendations we would make regarding them.

3. **AI Issues** It was noted how the Honor Code (Bobcat Code) and the Student Academic Dishonesty policy are not in alignment on the use of AI. We discussed how perhaps an ad hoc Senate committee that runs for two years could address this and other policy issues related to AI.
4. **University Senate Budget and Foundation Updates**
  - a. State account: \$3835.20
  - b. Foundation account: \$93.75
5. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**
  - a. **AI Issues**
    - i. Comment: The Honor Code came from the Student Judicial Board and Student Life while the Student Academic Dishonesty policy is designed for classroom instructors.

**Faculty Affairs Policy Committee (FAPC) — Vice-Chair Amy Sumpter for Chair Jennifer Flory**

1. **Additional Assessment Plan for Teaching Effectiveness** FAPC is working with CTL to provide resources for alternative course assessment for faculty in GeorgiaView. Faculty have been encouraged to use multiple means to assess teaching effectiveness, and these resources would provide alternatives which are complementary to the SRIS.
2. **Student Rating of Instruction Survey Policy** This semester, all students in all courses (not just the two courses selected by faculty) will be provided with access to the SRIS. This has created some logistical issues for faculty who oversee or are the instructor of record for multiple lab sections. Additionally, there are concerns about the way that cross-listed courses may be represented in the list of an instructor's courses.
3. **Faculty Emeritus Policy** FAPC worked with Academic Affairs to modify the existing Faculty Emeritus policy. Limits on the application for Emeritus status were limited to 1 year prior to and 3 years after retirement. This policy change was approved by the University Senate during the October meeting.
4. **Program Coordination** FAPC has requested data from the Provost's Office concerning compensation for academic program coordinators across campus and the turnover rate for employees at the institution. The Provost's Office provided the turnover data, which is below the national average. The Provost was working on multiple data requests but put FAPC's request in the queue.
5. **Professional Leave** FAPC is following the University's Academic Leave Policy and the allocation of faculty leave. The decision about how candidates are selected or prioritized is not clear, but COAS currently has a committee working on clarifying the procedure. Much of the debate centers around the purpose of the leave, the department's ability to cover the teaching responsibilities and cost of the faculty on leave, and who ultimately makes the decision about the allocation of resources.
6. **Course Seating Minimums** FAPC asked the Registrar about course minimums. How many students does a course need in order to "make?" The Registrar's answer was that minimum course size is determined by the Deans and Chairs, based on programmatic needs.
7. **BOR Policy Updates** FAPC also discussed the Board of Regents Policy Change guidelines and likewise felt that the guidelines were not specific enough to be of use in

guiding change but specific enough in other areas to make following the guidelines difficult. The relationship of the guidelines to recent changes in Core curriculum is not clear. FAPC also had concerns about potentially conflicting statements required by students on campus who may be required to sign statements in field placements, etc. FAPC also had significant concern over who/how any decision might be made on the relevance of disciplinary content to the University Mission. FAPC has shared a document with Secretary Blazer concerning the committee's response to particular statements within the Board of Regents Policy Change document.

8. **ECUS SCC Discussion**

a. **Student Rating of Instruction Survey Policy**

- i. Comment: Implementation of SRIS on labs is difficult because the lab instructor is different from the instructor of record.
- ii. Comment (Associate Provost): The Provost's Office is working with David Smith in IT to have labs assessed.

**Resources, Planning and Institutional Policy Committee (RPIPC) — Chair Brad Fowler**

1. **BOR Policy Updates** The committee discussed the proposed changes to the USG policies. We identified multiple items that we felt like had concerns to be addressed. The committee highlighted these items as topics to be discussed in the ECUS-SCC meeting.
2. **Student Summer Online Fees** Our SGA representative asked to discuss the student summer online fee. Students pay an online fee for summer classes. This is a single fee that all students who enroll in summer classes must pay. The fee is dispersed among the normal student fees. These include Parking and Transportation and student activities. The students have concerns about having to pay for services that they do not use. This fee was implemented by the USG a few years ago.
3. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**
  - a. **Student Summer Online Fees**
    - i. Comment: A lot of the overhead stays the same because buildings and data center cannot be turned off.
    - ii. Question: Can we determine what percentage of students stay on campus during the summer?
    - iii. Comment: Some students take online courses and use facilities.

**Student Affairs Policy Committee (SAPC) — Chair Amy Pinney**

1. **BOR Policy Updates** We discussed the proposed changes to the BOR policy changes. I've provided a summary of that feedback to Presiding Officer Nicholas Creel.

**Subcommittee on Nominations (SCoN) — Chair Stephanie Jett**

1. **Election Oversight** Letters were sent to the Deans and Library Director on 8 Oct 2024 to start the elections process in the colleges. Election procedures will be requested from the Deans and Library Director by 1 Dec 2024.
  - a. Should Deans, Associate Deans, and Chairs be allowed to serve as EFS?

- i. According to senate bylaws, if they are listed on the Corps of Instruction list, then they can serve as EFS.
  - ii. However, Given the extensive additional responsibilities of the aforementioned individuals as well as the power differential that exists between faculty and these CoI administrators, should ECUS/University Senate amend the bylaws to exclude them from being elected as EFS? What about serving as appointees?
- 2. **At-Large Faculty Senator Election** The next step for election season is to plan the at-large faculty senator election procedure preparation including timeline (completion deadline March 1).

## VI. Unfinished Business

- 1. There was no unfinished business.

## VII. New Business

- 1. **BOR Policy Updates** Nicholas Creel shared his draft letter to the BOR concerning proposed policy changes and invited feedback from the committee. A rigorous discussion followed.
  - a. **Teaching Historical Documents** The proposed policy does not state how instructors have to cover historical documents. The proposal appears to restrict student curricular choice by dictating that students take American History rather than World History. Students are already taking US and Georgia History texts. If they now have to take American History courses, time to graduate will be increased. The proposal seems to forget that students are exposed to these documents in high school, and might overlap with AP standards. While K-12 students from Georgia should know the Georgia Constitution, why should college students from different states and nations?
  - b. **Liberal Arts and Higher Education** The proposed changes limit liberal arts education and undermine the fundamental purposes of higher education.
  - c. **Accreditation** The proposal will cause problems for transfer students as well as students applying to graduate and professional schools. If the underlying reason for the removal of SACS is to merge the technological school system and the USG, would it not make more sense to have different tiers and, therefore, different accreditation standards?
  - d. **Political Opinions and Social Programs** The policy is too broad. Who is to say what a political and social opinion is, and who decides what fits the university mission? Universities have a large social impact on the communities; therefore, they must be responsible citizens of their communities. What would happen to such social programs at GCSU such as community health, entrepreneurship, and community engagement? Do those programs fit the university academic mission? How can a student become a leader without social commitments?
    - i. **Protected Status** Does this affect the Cultural Center, the Women's Center, and the Women's Leadership Program? Federal law precedes everything the USG can do. Lots of opportunities outside of the USG are

based on protected status factors listed in the policy proposal that could negatively impact our students' opportunity for success. Scholarships, such as the Lettie Pate Whitehead Scholarship in the Nursing Program, and programs based on protected status give students opportunities on the national stage; limiting those opportunities puts them at a disadvantage.

- e. A **Motion to extend the meeting** 10 minutes was made and seconded. **The motion to extend the meeting was approved.**
2. **Steering of Items to Committees**
  - a. **Honor Code and AI** was steered to APC.
3. **University Senate Agenda and Minutes Review**
  - a. **Tentative Agenda 15 Nov 2024**
    - i. Motions: None.
    - ii. Reports: Administrative reports and committee reports will also be agenda items.
      - i. Supplemental Items of Business: None.
  - b. **University Senate Minutes Review** A **Motion** that the *DRAFT minutes of the 18 Oct 2024 meeting of the 2024-2025 University Senate be circulated for university senator review* was made and seconded. **The motion to circulate the minutes was approved.**

## VIII. Open Discussion

1. There was no open discussion.

## IX. Next Meeting

1. **Calendar**
  - a. University Senate Meeting – Friday, 15 Nov 2024, 3:30 p.m., Arts & Sciences 272
  - b. ECUS Meeting – Friday, 10 Jan 2025, 2:45 p.m., Microsoft Teams
  - c. ECUS+SCC Meeting – Friday, 10 Jan 2025, 3:30 p.m., Microsoft Teams
  - d. University Senate Meeting – Friday, 24 Jan 2025, 3:30 p.m., Arts & Sciences 272
2. **Tentative Agenda** Some of the deliberation today may have generated tentative agenda items for ECUS and ECUS-SCC meetings. **Nicholas Creel will ensure that such items (if any) are added to the agenda of a future meeting of ECUS or ECUS-SCC.**

## X. Adjournment

1. As there was no further business to consider, a **Motion to adjourn the meeting** was made and seconded. **The motion to adjourn was approved and the meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.**

## XI. Supporting Documents

1. There are no supporting documents.

**Distribution:** First, these minutes will be sent to committee members for review; second, they will be posted to the Senate website.

**COMMITTEE NAME:** EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE (ECUS) WITH STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS (SCC)

**COMMITTEE OFFICERS:** NICHOLAS CREEL (CHAIR), STEPHANIE JETT (VICE-CHAIR), ALEX BLAZER (SECRETARY)

**ACADEMIC YEAR:** 2024-2025

**AGGREGATE MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR:**  
**“P” denotes Present, “R” denotes Regrets, “A” denotes Absent**

Acronyms	EFS = Elected Faculty Senator CoAS = College of Arts and Sciences; CoB = College of Business; CoE = College of Education; CoHS = College of Health Sciences										
Meeting Dates	9/6	10/4	11/1	1/10	2/14	3/7	4/4	P	R	A	
Alex Blazer <i>EFS, CoAS ECUS Secretary</i>	P	P	P					3	0	0	
Cathy Cox <i>University President</i>	R	R	R					0	3	0	
Nicholas Creel <i>EFS, CoBT ECUS Chair</i>	P	P	P					3	0	0	
Stephanie Jett <i>EFS, CoAS ECUS Vice-Chair</i>	P	P	P					3	0	0	
Joyce Norris-Taylor <i>EFS, CoHS ECUS Member</i>	P	P	P					3	0	0	
Holley Roberts <i>Provost</i>	P	P	R					2	1	0	
Lamonica Sanford <i>EFS, Library ECUS Member</i>	P	P	P					3	0	0	
Rob Sumowski <i>EFS, CoE ECUS Chair Emerita</i>	P	R	R					1	2	0	
Andrew Allen <i>APC Chair</i>	P	P	P					3	0	0	
Corey Claxton <i>DEIPC Chair</i>	R	P	P					2	1	0	
Jennifer Flory <i>FAPC Chair</i>	P	P	R					2	1	0	
Brad Fowler <i>RPIPC Chair</i>	P	R	P					2	1	0	
Amy Pinney <i>SAPC Chair</i>	P	R	P					2	1	0	