

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

MEETING DATE & TIME: FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2025, 3:30-4:45 P.M.

MEETING LOCATION: MICROSOFT TEAMS

ATTENDANCE:

| MEMBERS | | “P” denotes Present, “A” denotes Absent, “R” denotes Regrets |
|--|---|---|
| P | Alex Blazer (CoAS, ECUS Secretary) | |
| R | Cathy Cox (University President) | |
| P | Nicolas Creel (CoBT, ECUS Member) | |
| P | Stephanie Jett (CoAS, ECUS Vice-Chair) | |
| P | Joyce Norris-Taylor (CoHS, ECUS Member) | |
| P | Holley Roberts (Provost) | |
| P | Lamonica Sanford (Library, ECUS Member) | |
| P | Rob Sumowski (CoE, ECUS Chair Emerita) | |
| R | Andrew Allen (APC Chair) | |
| P | Corey Claxton (DEIPC Chair) | |
| P | Jennifer Flory (FAPC Chair) | |
| P | Brad Fowler (RPIPC Chair) | |
| P | Amy Pinney (SAPC Chair) | |
| GUESTS | | |
| Tanya Goette, Interim Dean, CoBT and Academic Calendar Committee Chair | | |
| Dan Nadler, Vice President of Student | | |
| John Swinton, Vice-Chair of APC | | |

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 1 Nov 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 — Provost Holley Roberts

1. **Scholarship Applications** As of January 7, 2025, the 2025-2026 Scholarship Applications had 355 completed scholarship applications versus only 108 last year at this time. Thank you to faculty, chairs, deans, and the GCSU Financial Aid office for their outreach.
2. **Fall 2025 Schedule of Classes** Off cycle course scheduling for Fall 2025 is being limited due to enrollment and the impact of the Herty renovation next fall. Currently, 90 classes will need to be scheduled out of Herty for fall semester 2025.
3. **Dean Searches** for COBT and COAS – Finalizing with Search firm and will begin as soon as possible.
4. **Faculty Compensation** The Provost's Office and Deans are working on the FAPC request on faculty compensation related to part-time, extra compensation for program coordinators, center directors, etc. through MOUs, and overload compensation.
5. **Center of Technology and Empowerment** President Cox has approved the new Center of Technology and Empowerment (CTE). Co-Directors Ward Risvold and Caroline Collier –The Center of Technology and Empowerment aims to create a technology hub that will help address the technology talent shortage as well as advance computing for all. The CTE emerges from the convergence of three existing technology-focused initiatives on campus: the AI lab, the SAP Next-Gen lab, and the E-Commerce Design lab. Each of these entities brings unique strengths and opportunities that, when combined, create a powerful synergy for technological innovation, student empowerment, and community advancement.
6. **Institute for Entrepreneurship and Academic Innovation** The Office of the Provost is currently reviewing the proposal for Institute for Entrepreneurship and Academic Innovation.
7. **Budget Update** Budgets were previously restored 100% of the travel budget and 50% of operating. Twenty-five percent more of the cut will be restored in the operating budget. Making the total overall cut for FY25- 5% for operating. The total cost of this restoration is \$118,682.00.
8. **Events and Meetings**
 - a. January 21 – 3:00-4:30pm – Drop in - Appreciation Reception for Eric Tenbus, Pat Peterson
 - b. January 31 – 3:30-5:30pm – 2nd Annual SGA/Academic Affairs Retreat – Pat Peterson
 - c. February 7, 2025- 2:00-4:00pm – Dr. Spirou, Interim Chief Academic Officer for the USG will be here to provide USG updates to Dept Chairs, Deans, AVPs, Associate Provost, Senate Presiding Officer.
 - d. Wednesday April 16th – GCSU Research Day - Please include in syllabi and participate.
9. **Provost Notes** Important information is included in the *Provost Notes*.

Academic Policy Committee (APC) — Vice-Chair John Swinton for Chair Andrew Allen

1. **Meeting** APC had a meeting scheduled for 7 Jan 2025 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.
 - a. **No Report** APC had no business to conduct, so its meeting was cancelled.

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

1. **Meeting** DEIPC had a meeting scheduled for 7 Jan 2025 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.
 - a. **No Quorum** As quorum was not established, DEIPC did not meet.
2. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**
 - a. **Committee Name Change**
 - i. **Follow Up/Comment: ECUS will create a bylaws motion to be voted on by University Senate by the April meeting.**

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

1. **Academic Calendar Issue** I have invited Tanya Goette, Chair of the Academic Calendar Committee, and Dan Nadler, member of the Academic Calendar Committee, to address an academic calendar question raised by faculty.
2. **University Senate Budget and Foundation Updates**
 - a. State Account: \$3,835.20
 - b. Foundation Account: \$93.75

Subcommittee on Nominations (SCoN) — Chair Stephanie Jett

1. **New Business for February**
 - a. Should Deans, Associate Deans, and Chairs be allowed to serve as EFS?
 - i. If they are listed on the Corps of Instruction list, then they can serve as EFS.
 - ii. 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 amend the by-laws to exclude them from being elected as EFS?
 - iii. What about serving as appointees?

Faculty Affairs Policy Committee (FAPC) — Chair Jennifer Flory

1. **Unintended Consequences of SRIS Policy Change**
 - a. Co-taught classes (e.g., TREK) where the instructor on record (therefore the instructor being evaluated) is not the only instructor they experience
 - b. Lab courses and any other course where the instructor on record is not always the instructor facing them (e.g., taught by GAs)
 - c. Cross-listed courses
 - d. David Smith's suggestion for a more long-term solution was to have departments mark courses in Banner that need to be evaluated based on the policy, but also the individual needs of the courses, to eliminate this level of confusion in the future.
 - e. FAPC recommends that faculty who co-teach, supervise labs, and/or teach cross-listed courses to be in touch with departmental admins and David Smith, if necessary, to make sure that their courses are being evaluated correctly.
2. **Teaching Effectiveness Ad Hoc Committee**

- a. Kim Muschaweck, Suzanna Roman-Oliver, Dana Gorzelany-Mostak, Roberto Leon, Jennifer Flory, and Jim Berger met January 8.
 - b. Issue a call to departments for measures or tools that are in use by departments already (Jen and Dana will cover CoAS, Health Sciences, Business, and Library; Kim and Suzanna will cover Ed)
 - c. Invite one representative from each college and A&S Division to join committee by reaching out to award winners from past few years (Jen and Dana will cover CoAS, Health Sciences, Business, and Library; Kim and Suzanna will cover Ed)
 - d. Kim and Roberto will work together to put together models of evaluation and best practices from other schools
 - e. Jim and/or Suzanna will see about getting on college meeting agendas for February 14
 - f. Next Meeting: Friday, February 7, 12 pm
 - g. Add questions to needs assessment for each department
 - h. After gathering and reviewing data, create templates and examples to share with all departments
3. [Faculty Compensation Policies](#)
- a. We have asked Academic Affairs to add summer salary to the data collection
4. [Professional Leave Policy](#) (old form for reference, [current application form](#))
- a. 10 total applications in A&S reviewed by a faculty committee and sent to Provost in priority order. Academic Affairs put together a faculty review committee which put together a rubric and reviewed 11 total applications. FAPC is requesting a copy of the rubric and recommends that standards be reviewed and clarified first, and then the rubric aligned with those, and to be shared when application is requested.
5. [Faculty Attendance at University Ceremonies and Academic Regalia Policy](#)
- a. Current policy: GC holds official ceremonies at which faculty will wear appropriate academic regalia including but not limited to Graduation, Freshman Convocation and Honors Day. Faculty members are expected to provide their own academic regalia either representing their alma mater or GC. **In light of our student-centered mission, all faculty are encouraged to attend all graduations, Honors Day and Freshman Convocation events, but departments will be responsible for their own procedures for insuring that an appropriate number of faculty attend each event.**
 - b. From our 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Contracts: Every faculty member is expected to participate in Convocation (8/23/2024) and Commencement ceremonies.
 - c. A faculty member has brought to our attention the following concerns about required events that have “that have ignored the overall health and well-being of our faculty and staff.” They provided context by explaining briefly how several events have “failed to fully protect the physical and mental well-being of faculty who are required to attend” and provided potential solutions to these issues.
 - d. **Occupational health and safety of our faculty at university events**
 - i. **Graduation/Convocation**
 - 1. Issue: The line-up location for graduation and convocation has very little airflow which is problematic for people who have a variety of health conditions. Additionally, the space is extremely

claustrophobic and requires faculty to stand in close quarters for up to one hour, which negatively affects those with anxiety or other conditions. In fact, one faculty member had to be removed from the line-up last year due to an induced health issue. The increasing length of the ceremonies is also problematic as it requires faculty to sit in extremely close quarters in folding chairs that are physically harsh on those with a variety of health conditions. In addition, the events following convocation this past year required faculty to walk an extended distance to a secondary location in the August heat - after enduring the previously stated conditions.

2. Remedy: These problems could be easily remedied by shortening the length of the line-up/ceremony, spacing out chairs during the event, creating a more open space on the mezzanine with chairs for the faculty to congregate prior to the event starting, and hosting the secondary events at the Centennial Center or making these events optional for faculty to attend.
3. FAPC Feedback: CoB has had people with heat issues including someone collapsing from the heat outside. Another faculty member had issues with standing as long as they had to prior to the ceremony. Maybe need to add seating inside where we need to wait. The chairs are too close together, especially for certain body types. Add more chairs. Clarity with communication in terms of health concerns/accommodations. Availability of alternate arrangements should be clearer.

ii. **Academic Expo**

1. Issue: This year the academic expo had no air conditioning. This was known in advance of the event starting. Yet, the event continued without adequate fans or airflow for several hours. This is problematic for faculty with a variety of health conditions or medications that make them heat intolerant.
2. Remedy: This event could have been rescheduled, moved online or made hybrid, or ensuring the placement of adequate fans before the event started.
3. FAPC Feedback: The AC was out in Magnolia.

iii. **Fall Fest/Spring Fest/Summer Orientations**

1. Issue: Over the last several years, these events have occurred outside in the sun, in extremely high temperatures. Some departments did not have tents for faculty to shield them from the sun and heat.
2. Remedy: These events could easily be moved inside to protect those who are heat intolerant.
3. FAPC Feedback: A&S would like to figure something out to get tents for departments who do not have them.
4. From the faculty member: "I am hopeful that your committee might take up this issue to ensure that, in the future, the university is cognizant of the varied health conditions of faculty/staff and

how these events may negatively affect the health and well-being of faculty and staff. I hope that the university will take steps to make accommodations accordingly. This is important to ensure the overall health and well-being of our faculty and staff required to attend these events. This is particularly important for events where attendance is mandatory, but it is also important at other events where attendance is expected to fulfill service obligations.”

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

1. **Solar Opportunities** Frank Baugh joined us to provide information on possible solar initiatives from the perspective of facilities management. Frank reviewed previous efforts to initiate solar projects for Georgia College. These included a solar farm project in partnership with Georgia Power for west campus and a partnership with Cherry Street Industries to put solar panels on the top of Georgia College buildings. Neither of these initiatives were adopted due to various reasons, such as topographical, warranty, and structural issues. Frank feels that any solar installation would not make a significant impact on the financial bottom line for campus electrical service but could be beneficial for educational purposes. The committee also feels that if a solar initiative could be executed through grant funding might also have a positive impact on the Georgia College brand. The committee plans to invite Nicholas Creel to the February meeting to discuss his knowledge of solar grant opportunities.
2. **Parking and Transportation Master Plan** Brian English and Charles Cruey presented the results of the Parking & Transportation Master Plan that was conducted in the Fall of 2024. P&T currently does not generate enough revenue and requires a major investment in busses and shuttles. They developed a plan to buy new vehicles over the next four years. As part of this plan, P&T are changing the pricing structures for faculty, staff, and students. They plan to initiate an elective parking fee for parking passes for students and raise the price of parking passes for faculty and staff. These higher rate passes will allow premium access to certain lots and alleviate the lack of parking spots in the later hours of the morning and afternoon. The Irwin Street lot will be reconditioned and shuttle service to the lot will be prioritized. All faculty, staff, and students have the option to parking in the Irwin Street lot for \$50 per year.
3. **Fall Break/Thanksgiving Break** The meeting included an informational item about concerns over Fall Break and Thanksgiving Break. Some faculty have issues with the ambiguity of having classes during the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving Break. This item is being brought to ECUS to see if there is interest in being further discussion.

Student Affairs Policy Committee (SAPC) — Chair Amy Pinney

1. **SGA Update** President Hawkins provided the committee with an update on her priorities for the semester.
2. **Student Housing** A faculty member reached out to me with some housing concerns brought to them by t[some students. I shared the concerns with the committee. We discussed the issues at length. The committee has invited Larry Christenson and Lori Burns to our February 7th meeting. They have confirmed

3. **Plagiarism** The committee made the decision that the questions raised are not in the committee's purview and that the discussion belongs with APC and FAPC.

VI. Unfinished Business

1. **Ad Hoc AI Policy Committee** The question was raised whether the committee should be composed of Senators or volunteers. It was suggested that the committee should be composed of members who can serve on the committee the full two years.

VII. New Business

1. **Academic Calendar Issue** In response to a procedural question raised by faculty, Provost Roberts, Vice President Nadler, and Dean Goette, who chairs the Academic Calendar Committee, described the typical process in which the Registrar and Provost convene the committee each spring and noted that the committee did not meet until September this year. The committee includes representation from around campus, including the University Senate Presiding Officer. In September, the chair drafted five calendar options and requested feedback from the committee, which gave its preference that included a full week of Thanksgiving Holiday (because students are pressuring faculty to cancel Monday and Tuesday classes). The draft was reviewed by the Provost's Office, Student Life, and Facilities; and it was discovered that the recommended draft did not work with housing contracts; therefore, another draft was adopted by Executive Cabinet. No one was against the Thanksgiving week recommendation; it just didn't work. The Provost's Office and Student Life can do things to change campus culture, including reiterating to students and parents that the calendar is the calendar and Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving are class days. It was observed that changing the summer schedule from Monday-Thursday to Monday-Friday might enable the fall semester to start earlier in the future, thus allowing a full week for the Thanksgiving Holiday.
2. **At-Large Elected Faculty Senator Election Procedure** The at-large EFS election procedure was presented. A **Motion** to approve the procedure was made and seconded. **The motion was approved.**
3. **Steering of Items to Committees**
 - a. No items were steered to committees.
4. **University Senate Agenda and Minutes Review**
 - a. **Tentative Agenda 24 January 2025**
 - 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 15 Nov 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, January 24, 3:30 p.m., Arts & Sciences 272
 - b. ECUS Meeting – Friday, February 7, 2:45 p.m., Parks Hall 301
 - c. ECUS+SCC Meeting – Friday, February 7, 3:30 p.m., Parks Hall 301
 - d. University Senate Meeting – Friday, February 28, 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 4:17 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 | P | | | | 4 | 0 | 0 | |
| Cathy Cox <i>University President</i> | R | R | R | R | | | | 0 | 4 | 0 | |
| Nicholas Creel <i>EFS, CoBT ECUS Chair</i> | P | P | P | P | | | | 4 | 0 | 0 | |
| Stephanie Jett <i>EFS, CoAS ECUS Vice-Chair</i> | P | P | P | P | | | | 4 | 0 | 0 | |
| Joyce Norris-Taylor <i>EFS, CoHS ECUS Member</i> | P | P | P | P | | | | 4 | 0 | 0 | |
| Holley Roberts <i>Provost</i> | P | P | R | P | | | | 3 | 1 | 0 | |
| Lamonica Sanford <i>EFS, Library ECUS Member</i> | P | P | P | P | | | | 4 | 0 | 0 | |
| Rob Sumowski <i>EFS, CoE ECUS Chair Emerita</i> | P | R | R | P | | | | 2 | 2 | 0 | |
| Andrew Allen <i>APC Chair</i> | P | P | P | R | | | | 3 | 1 | 0 | |
| Corey Claxton <i>DEIPC Chair</i> | R | P | P | P | | | | 3 | 1 | 0 | |
| Jennifer Flory <i>FAPC Chair</i> | P | P | R | P | | | | 3 | 1 | 0 | |
| Brad Fowler <i>RPIPC Chair</i> | P | R | P | P | | | | 3 | 1 | 0 | |
| Amy Pinney <i>SAPC Chair</i> | P | R | P | P | | | | 3 | 1 | 0 | |