

COMMITTEE NAME: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF UNIVERSITY SENATE (ECUS)
MEETING DATE & TIME: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2019, 2:00-3:15 P.M.
MEETING LOCATION: PARKS HALL 301

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS		“P” denotes Present, “A” denotes Absent, “R” denotes Regrets
P	Alex Blazer (CoAS, ECUS Chair Emeritus and Secretary)	
P	Hauke Busch (CoAS, ECUS Vice-Chair)	
R	Steve Dorman (University President)	
P	Jeff Dowdy (Library, ECUS Member)	
R	Catherine Fowler (CoHS, ECUS Member)	
P	David Johnson (CoAS, ECUS Chair)	
P	Lyndall Muschell (CoE, ECUS Member)	
P	Costas Spirou (Provost)	
P	John Swinton (CoB, ECUS Member)	
GUESTS		
None		

Legend

Italicized text denotes information from a previous meeting.

*Denotes new discussion on old business.

Highlighted text denotes follow-up.

Bold denotes action or recommendation.

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:01 pm by David Johnson (Chair).

II. Approval of Agenda: The Chair noted an amendment to the agenda (moving the Presiding Officer’s Report to New Business) that was circulated by email before the meeting. A **Motion** to approve the amended agenda was made and seconded. **The agenda was approved as amended.**

III. Approval of Minutes: A draft of the 4 Oct 2019 minutes of the Executive Committee 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

Presiding Officer Report — David Johnson

1. **Academic Advising Center:** ECUS reached out to Dr. Michelle Johnson, head of the Academic Advising Center, to address University Senate and answer questions regarding the Advising Center.
2. **Disability Services:** David Anderson will speak at Senate in January to address legal issues and best practices with students.
3. **Associate Provost of Academic Affairs and Director of the Graduate School Search:** David Johnson will represent University Senate on the search committee.

4. **Campus Climate Survey**: The Presiding Officer volunteers with OIE to help students and staff complete the survey.
5. **Fair Use**: Laura Mender reports that a copyright and fair use training module can be added to GeorgiaVIEW if one is provided.
 - a. **ECUS Discussion**: It was suggested that the module should be created by Scholarly Communication Library Jennifer Townes and vetted by the Office of Legal Affairs. **ECUS will steer this item to APC at the ECUS-SCC meeting.**
6. **Bright House**: ECUS was informed that a meeting between the Bright House and university stakeholders was scheduled for Oct. 21, and that Dr. Brooks would later speak with University Senate regarding changes at the HUB and the Bright House.
7. **Foundation Account**: Our foundation account is still untouched.
8. **Operating Budget**: Our operating budget is a healthy \$2,290.77. This will be more than enough to cover travel expenses for the spring USGFC meeting and pay a deposit toward next year's governance retreat venue.

Presiding Officer Elect Report — Hauke Busch

1. **At Large Senator Election Materials**: The procedures were reviewed from last year and the dates in the timeline were revised. ECUS-SCC will review the materials.
2. **University System of Georgia Faculty Council Fall Meeting**: The Presiding Officer Elect, who serves a GCSU's voting representative on the Council, attended the fall meeting at the Coastal College of Georgia on 17-18 Oct 2019 and provided the following highlights.
 - a. **Budget Concerns**: The chancellor mentioned the governor had asked state agencies for reductions (4 percent this year and 6 percent next year) in expectation of declining state revenue. He also indicated the teaching budget is exempt from the reductions and that other campus entities are in the process of submitting budget reduction plans.
 - b. **Salary Increases**: The chancellor said that the governor has committed to salary increases for K-12 instructors and the governor understands the need to increase salaries for all state employees (including in the USG) to remain competitive. The chancellor also pointed out for the state to raise salaries even 1 percent requires approximately \$145million. Given the current budget projections, such increases might not be possible.
 - c. **Enrollment and Recruiting**: The chancellor spoke about enrollment trends (which will likely decline going forward because of demographics) and the challenges of engaging in system-level marketing initiatives.
 - d. **Healthcare/Benefits Changes**: The chancellor mentioned that providing healthcare is a growing concern for the USG. The system must balance the needs of its employees with the costs of coverage. In the last year, the system saw two times as many claims. If the number stays consistent, the system needs \$47 million in additional funding and it cannot be sure the state will cover any of the increases. Council members asked questions the lack of communication to

employees at our campuses and the possibility of adding more faculty to the TRSC or its subcommittees. While the chancellor felt it was not appropriate to add council members to the TRSC (given its mission), he supported the idea of expanding faculty presence on the subcommittees as well as improving communication between the system office and the faculty council about benefits information.

- e. **General Education Redesign:** Dr. Denley introduced the general education design principles and explained the plans going forward. He is in the process of putting together an implementation committee which will include faculty members, RAC chairs, and administrators. The committee will be formed within the next week or so with a goal of presenting something to the BOR at its January meeting. From there, the proposal will go to individual campuses to go through the curriculum review process. Dr. Denley indicated that the change would be significant and that all campuses will follow the new general education design. The target date for full implementation is tentatively Fall 2021.
- f. **Retiree Council, AAUP, and Various Council Committees:** The bylaws committee intends to work on a transition handbook for new members; the human resources committee intends to work on drafting a resolution about summer teaching contracts. The members of the other committees—academic affairs, strategic planning, and organizational—should be in touch to follow up on any issues raised in your meetings that might require future council attention.

V. Unfinished Business

- 1. **2020-2021 Governance Calendar:** The workgroup comprised of David Johnson (chair), Alex Blazer, Hauke Busch, and Catherine Fowler shared their latest draft and invited feedback.
 - a. **Discussion:** A concern was raised about the University Curriculum Committee time at 1:00 when faculty are teaching. The committee agreed to move UCC to the Professional Development/Other time at 2:00. A question was raised about ECUS deliberating on non-Senate meeting times. It was noted that the governance calendar should reflect all shared governance at the university, and not just University Senate. The 2020 State of the University time change was noted. Alex Blazer will update the 2019-2020 calendar to reflect the State of the University time change and upload the amended calendar to the Senate website. David Johnson will update the 2020-2021 draft calendar with the UCC changes and share the amended calendar with ECUS-SCC. In the ECUS Annual Report, David Johnson will recommend that next year's governance calendar workgroup request representatives from curriculum governance coordinate their needs and share them with the Provost.

VI. New Business

1. **Reviewing University-Wide Committees with Senate Representation:** David Johnson noted that, during this term, standing committees had 15 members and multiple volunteers were unable to be placed in standing committees. He asked the committee to think about the possibility of some Senators and volunteers serving on select university-wide committees rather than standing committees. A number of comments were made. Persons representing Senate on university-wide committees should have to report to Senate. Senate representatives serving on university-wide committees related to the charge of a standing committee should serve on the standing committee. Senate representatives serving on university-wide committees that require heavy reporting (like UCC and the Faculty Salary Study Task Force) should be members of Senate rather than volunteers. **David Johnson will ask the committee to consider this item at a later date.**

VII. Open Discussion

1. **Selected Staff Senator:** Staff Council has only sent two senators to University Senate, rather than the three that are required by our bylaws. ECUS agreed to let the issue rest until the spring, at which time we will renew a discussion with Staff Council regarding a third representative. **Hauke Busch will confer with Christopher Newsome in January.**
2. **Senate Website Backup:** ECUS is looking into getting online University Senate materials systematically backed up in the event of a technology calamity. **Alex Blazer will confer with Unix and Windows System Administrator Timothy Hastings about scheduled backups.**

VIII. Next Meeting

1. **Calendar**
 - a. University Senate Meeting – Friday, October 15, 3:30 p.m., A&S 2-72
 - b. ECUS Meeting – Friday, January 10, 2:00 p.m., Parks Hall 301
 - c. ECUS+SCC Meeting – Friday, January 10, 3:30 p.m., Park Hall 301
2. **Tentative Agenda:** Some of the deliberation today may have generated tentative agenda items for ECUS and ECUS-SCC meetings. **David Johnson will ensure that such items (if any) are added to the agenda of a future meeting of ECUS or ECUS-SCC.**

IX. Adjournment: 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 2:49 p.m.**

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

COMMITTEE NAME: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE (ECUS)
COMMITTEE OFFICERS: DAVID JOHNSON (CHAIR), HAUKE BUSCH (VICE-CHAIR),
 ALEX BLAZER (SECRETARY)
ACADEMIC YEAR: 2019-2020

**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	3/6	4/10	P	R	A
Alex Blazer <i>EFS, CoAS, ECUS Chair Emeritus, ECUS Secretary</i>	P	P	P					3	0	0
Hauke Busch <i>EFS, CoAS, ECUS Vice-Chair</i>	P	P	P					3	0	0
Steve Dorman <i>University President</i>	R	R	R					0	3	0
Jeff Dowdy <i>EFS, Library, ECUS Member</i>		P	P					2	0	0
Catherine Fowler <i>EFS, CoHS, ECUS Member</i>	P	P	R					2	1	0
David Johnson <i>EFS, CoAS, ECUS Chair</i>	P	P	P					3	0	0
Lyndall Muschell <i>EFS, CoE, ECUS Member</i>	P	P	P					3	0	0
Costas Spirou <i>Provost</i>	P	P	P					3	0	0
John Swinton <i>EFS, CoB, ECUS Member</i>	P	R	P					2	1	0