**2021-2022 University Senate**

**Minutes for the 15 Oct 2021 Meeting**

*University Senate Officers: Presiding Officer Catherine Fowler, Presiding Officer Elect Jennifer Flory, Secretary Alex Blazer*

**Present (40)** Justin Adeyemi, Kevin Blanch, Alex Blazer, Robert Blumenthal, Linda Bradley, Hauke Busch, Rodica Cazacu, Benjamin Clark, Cathy Cox, Nicholas Creel, John Donaldson, Jennifer Flory, Jessie Folk, Brad Fowler, Catherine Fowler, Lee Fruitticher, Greg Glotzbecker, Sabrina Hom, John Jackson, Alesa Liles, Leng Ling, Catrena Lisse, Karl Manrodt, Nadirah Mayweather, Lyndall Muschell, Amy Pinney, Molly Robbins, James Robertson, Gennady Rudkevich, Lamonica Sanford, James Schiffman, Liz Speelman, Costas Spirou, Mariana Stoyanova, Katie Stumpf, Rob Sumowski, Jennifer Townes, Sandra Trujillo, James Trae Welborn, Diana Young

**Regrets (3)** Damian Francis, Gail Godwin, Julian Knox

**Absent (7)** Ashley Banks, Laura Childs, Paulette Cross, Flor Culpa-Bondal, Hank Edmondson, Frank Richardson, Ashley Taylor

**Guests (15)**

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| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Role on University Senate or Position at the University** |
| A Kay Anderson | Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management and University Registrar |
| Cindy Bowen | Director of Operations, Information Technology |
| Shawn Brooks | Vice President for Student Life |
| Jordan Cofer | Associate Provost of Transformative Learning Experiences |
| Amber Collins | Chief Business Officer Designee of the 2021-2022 RPIPC |
| Shea Council | Administrative Assistant of the 2021-2022 University Senate |
| Lauren Easom | Director of the Career Center |
| Chris Ferland | Associate Vice President of Institutional Research and Effectiveness |
| Lee Gillis | Professor and Chair, Psychology |
| Stefanie Jett | Parliamentarian of the 2021-2022 University Senate |
| Susan Kerr | Chief Information Officer and Member of the 2021-2022 RPIPC |
| Holley Roberts | Interim Associate Provost of Academic Affairs and Director of The Graduate School |
| Cara Smith | Director of Institutional Effectiveness |
| Christina Smith | Volunteer of the 2021-2022 FAPC |
| Monica Starley | Special Assistant to the President |

**Call to Order**: Catherine Fowler, Presiding Officer of the 2021-2022 University Senate, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**Consent Agenda**: A consent agenda was available as an item of business listed on the meeting agenda and read as follows.

1. **Agenda/Minutes**
   1. University Senate Meeting Agenda (10/15/2021)
   2. University Senate Meeting Minutes (09/17/2021)
   3. University Senate Meeting Minutes (10/06/2021)

A **motion** *to adopt the consent agenda* was approved by electronic vote with one proposed extraction (c. University Senate Meeting Minutes [10/06/2021]), no further discussion, no dissenting voice, and only voting members of the university senate eligible to vote.

**Old Business**

1. **Motion 2122.ECUS.001.R A Call for Increased Local Control of Campus Health and Safety Measures, Including Measures Necessary to Address COVID-19** On behalf of the committee, Jennifer Flory, ECUS Vice Chair, presented the motion “WHEREAS the prevalence of COVID-19 in our community is at a level to cause deep concern; and  
   WHEREAS the Georgia College University Senate notes that operational constraints imposed by the University System of Georgia and Board of Regents prevent our institution from implementing an appropriate response to maintain the health and safety of our campus; therefore  
   BE IT RESOLVED, the Georgia College University Senate requests that the Chancellor, University System of Georgia, and Board of Regents immediately release public health control of our campus to local administrators and shared governance so that the institution may adopt appropriate and necessary mitigation measures, including but not limited to rules related to masking, asymptomatic and symptomatic testing, and temporary course mode changes, to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on our campus.”
   1. **Supporting Documents** Supporting documentation was available in the online motion database: <https://senate.gcsu.edu/motions/call-increased-local-control-campus-health-and-safety-measures-including-measures-necessary>
      1. *Referenced Material*: In order to better align Georgia College to its core values of reason, respect, and responsibility; and to create a safer learning environment; and to avoid discrimination against those who are immunocompromised or highly vulnerable to COVID infection: University Senate recommends that Georgia College change its mitigation measures by adopting the current Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, and as appropriate, industry best practices, with regards to masking, asymptomatic and symptomatic testing, and temporary course mode changes. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.html>
   2. **Contextual Information** Numerous colleges in the USG (such as GeorgiaTech and UGA), the USG Faculty Council, UCWGA, and the AAUP all support universities being allowed to institute public health protocols, such as masking, to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
      1. The original motion debate is located in the 17 Sep 2021 meeting minutes of University Senate.
   3. **Discussion** When Jennifer Flory called for questions and comments, one was forthcoming.
      1. Question (Voice): What are President Cox’s thoughts about the motion?
      2. Answer (President): Proceed as you would like. The system has a position; the system seems to be looking for consistency across the system.
   4. **Senate Action**
      1. A **Motion** *to the previous question* was made, seconded, and ***Approved*** by electronic vote with University Senators eligible to vote.
      2. Motion 2122.ECUS.001.R was ***Approved*** by electronic vote with University Senators eligible to vote (24 Yay, 8 Nay, 5 Abstain).

**New Business**

1. **Motion 2122.FAPC.002.R Motion to Request Local Campus Authority to Require Masks in the Classroom** On behalf of the committee, Sabrina Hom, FAPC Chair, presented the motion “WHEREAS the prevalence of COVID-19 in our community is at a level to cause deep concern; and

WHEREAS the Georgia College University Senate notes that operational constraints imposed by the University System of Georgia and Board of Regents prevent our institution from requiring masks in the classroom; therefore  
BE IT RESOLVED, the Georgia College University Senate requests that the Chancellor, University System of Georgia, and Board of Regents grant Georgia College the authority to require masks in the classroom in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on our campus.”

* 1. **Contextual Information** The motion is similar to Motion 2122.ECUS.001.R; however, it is specifically focused on masking. FAPC believes that a targeted request might be more successful. The motion aligns with AAUP position on classroom safety.
  2. **Discussion** When Sabrina Hom called for questions and comments, many were forthcoming.
     1. Question (Voice): There were two cases on campus last week. At what point will we not have to wear masks? When will we go back to normal?
     2. Comment (Voice): Baldwin County’s test positivity rate is 10%; according to the WHO, pandemic will be considered under control at 5%.
     3. Comment (Text): “Return to normalcy” occurs when CDC guidelines warrant it, but we aren’t there yet.
     4. Comment (Text): I agree that we need a mask mandate. The 10% positivity rate is still high; we can’t forget that we are still mid-pandemic.
     5. Comment (Voice): The numbers fluctuate over time, we want local control to allow GC to unilaterally institute a mask mandate when cases rise and discontinue the mandate when cases fall.
     6. Comment (Voice): We already passed a request for autonomy.
     7. Comment (Voice): We should request local autonomy because there is no policy based on local pandemic conditions.
     8. Comment (Voice): Lack of masking is a concern in the classroom.
  3. **Senate Action**
     1. A **Motion** *to the previous question* was made, seconded, and ***Approved*** by electronic vote with University Senators eligible to vote.
     2. Motion 2122.FAPC.002.R was ***Approved*** by electronic vote with University Senators eligible to vote (27 Yay, 7 Nay, 4 Abstain).

1. **Motion 2122.FAPC.003.P To Revise the Qualifications for Faculty Appointments in the Faculty Handbook** On behalf of the committee, Sabrina Hom, FAPC Chair, presented the motion “To recommend as University Policy that the current text "Faculty Appointments, Qualifications for" in the Faculty Handbook be replaced by the proposed text "Faculty Appointments, Qualifications for" as outlined in the supporting document, and to endorse the guidelines and procedural recommendations made therein.”
   1. **Contextual Information** The policy revision states that faculty must have a degree from an accredited institution in order to be hired. This policy revision aligns with SACS, and we already have to follow this policy for SACS accreditation. This policy revision specifies alternate qualifications for faculty with degrees from international institutions.
   2. **Discussion** When Sabrina Hom called for questions and comments, none were forthcoming.
   3. **Senate Action**
      1. A **Motion** *to the previous question* was made, seconded, and ***Approved*** by electronic vote with University Senators eligible to vote.
      2. Motion 2122.FAPC.003.P was ***Approved*** by electronic vote with Elected Faculty Senators eligible to vote (30 Yay, 0 Nay, 1 Abstain).

**President’s Report — President Cathy Cox**

In lieu of a formal report, President Cox introduced herself and shared impressions from the Presidents Retreat and Board of Regents meeting.

1. **BOR Tenure Policy Changes** The BoR are giving all institutions the flexibility to shape the student success policy. The Regents and Vice Chancellor Denley made clear that the policy is not one size fits all; GC can tailor the policy to our institution. GC already has many programs focusing on student success. Hopefully, by the end of the year, due process will be added to the post-tenure review policy, and we will be more comfortable with the policy.
2. **Listening Tour** I look forward to the listening tour later this semester. I want to know what we’re doing well, and where we’re missing the mark, so we can develop a strategic plan going forward.

**Provost’s Report — Provost Costas Spirou**

1. **Revisions to Post-Tenure and Annual Review** At the October 2021 BOR (October 12-13) meeting, the Regents approved the Board Policy Revisions Post-Tenure and Annual Review (BOR Policy 8.3). The next step will be to work on the implementation. A USG Provost meeting is scheduled for October 27-28 at Columbus State University.
2. **Fall 2021 SRIS Critical Dates** 
   1. Departments: Mark courses to be surveyed in Banner by October 6th.
   2. Faculty: Objective Selection Form opens on October 15th.
   3. Students: SRIS begins on November 16th.
   4. Faculty: Complete Objective Selection Form (OSF) by December 6th.
   5. Students: Complete course survey(s) by December 6th.
   6. Deans, Chairs, and Faculty: Survey results available by December 16th.
3. **Faculty Searches** A number of faculty searches are taking place across the institution.
4. **Administrator Searches** The College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean candidates recently visited campus and the College of Business Associate Dean search is underway.
5. **College of Business Strategic Plan** The CoB is in the process of creating their 2021-2026 strategic plan. The strategic planning task force is hosting focus groups with various stakeholders to get input.
6. **Budget Hearings** The Academic Affairs Budget division meeting was on October 1. The university budget hearing will be held on October 27.
7. **Accreditation Visits** ABET virtual visit is scheduled to start on October 17. We just completed visits earlier this month from CAEP (COE) and NASM (COAS).
8. **SACSCOC** As part of our preparation for the SACSCOC 10-year reaffirmation, Georgia College must identify a new Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The topic of the QEP is chosen collaboratively by university stakeholders including faculty, staff, students, and external constituents. We plan to work through the topic selection process this fall and spring and expect to have a topic chosen by May 2022. To learn more about a quality enhancement plan, the requirements, and the process, and to see examples and additional resources, please plan to attend one of these virtual informational sessions this semester. They are open to ALL faculty and staff, and everyone is strongly encouraged to attend at least one.
   1. Campus-wide Informational Sessions/Open Forums (virtual):
      1. Friday, October 1, 10:00 am
      2. Thursday, October 14, 2:00 pm
      3. Wednesday, November 3, 11:00 am
      4. Monday, November 15, 3:00 pm
   2. College/Departmental Meetings:
      1. College of Arts and Sciences:  Friday, October 8, 2:30
      2. College of Education:  Friday, October 15, 2:00
      3. College of Business:  Friday, October 15, 2:30
      4. College of Health Sciences:
         1. School of Nursing, TBA
         2. School of Health/Human Performance, Friday, October 15, 3:00
   3. Administrative and Student Support Department Meetings
      1. Staff Council, October 19. 3:00
      2. SGA Student Forums
         1. TBA, to be held Fall 2021 semester
   4. Community Stakeholder Sessions
      1. TBA, to be held Fall 2021 or Spring 2022 semesters
   5. Please direct any questions to Cara Smith at (478) 445-3530 or [cara.smith@gcsu.edu](mailto:cara.smith@gcsu.edu). Minutes from each meeting will be recorded and posted to the [QEP website](https://irout.gcsu.edu/qep/index.html). Video recordings will be made of each of the open forums and posted to the website.
9. **Honors College Student Opportunities (October 2021)**
   1. October 1st, 3:00pm, Humber-White 206 “Navigating Challenging Conversations 101” (Melissa Gerrior and Jennifer Birch)
   2. October 4th, 12:00pm, Humber-White 206 “Using Your Honors Credentials to Advance Your Career” (Dr. Sandria Stephenson)
   3. October 7th, 5:30pm, Humber-White 206 “Book Discussion: The Ten Best Days of My Life” (Dr. Jennifer Flaherty)
   4. October 8th, 3:00pm, “Zoom Honors Academic Advising Session” (Michelle Johnson)
   5. October 14th, 6:00pm, “Zoom Legends of Honors: I Fell Asleep in a Meeting and They Made Me an Administrator: Leadership Lessons along the Way”
   6. October 19th, 12:30pm, Humber-White 206 “Campanology Under COVID-19” (Dr. Remi Chu)
   7. October 28th, 5:30pm, Humber-White 206 “Book Discussion: Jose Saramago's Blindness” (Dr. Alex Blazer)
10. **National Cybersecurity Awareness Month** The USG joins thousands of organizations across the country to emphasize the importance of cyber-safety at work and home. Throughout October, the system office and its institutions will conduct training campaigns and special programs to emphasize ways USG employees can help identify and prevent threats to our organizations.
11. **Help a Reporter Out** University Communications recently began a subscription to a service “Help a Reporter Out” (HARO), where GC can link opportunities in the media with our faculty members based on their expertise. Relatedly, University Communications worked closely with the University Library to create a [Faculty Expertise Database](https://www.gcsu.edu/expertise-search).
12. **Honors College Convocation** The Honors College Convocation was held on October 2, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. in Magnolia Ballroom. First-year Honors students will be inducted into Eta Sigma Alpha (the Honors student association).
13. **Undergraduate Research** The second issue of [*Undergraduate Research*](http://undergraduateresearch.org) journal is now available. The paper submission deadline for Vol. 2(1), Winter 2022 is December 1st, 2021.
14. **The University Retention Committee** started its work with representatives across the institution. The Committee is chaired by Joel Robinson, Sr. AVP for Enrollment Management; Brian Newsome, Dean of the Honors College; and Chris Ferland, AVP for Institutional Research and Effectiveness.
15. **Spring Textbook Adoptions** are due 11/22/2021. Instructors can input course materials in the new Adoptions and Insights Portal (AIP).
16. **The Provost’s Visiting Scholars Program** is intended to enrich the learning experiences of faculty and students within the context of an academic department/school. The initiative will allow academic departments/schools to invite domestic scholars for a week-long visit (Sunday to Friday). Applications are due October 15th, 2021 for the Spring 2022 academic term.
17. **The Faculty Research Grant Review Committee** worked with the CTL and completed its work with Round I grants, and the following faculty received support for their projects (total of $35,510):
    1. **Faculty Research Grants**
       1. Name: Dr. Hasitha Mahabaduge  
          Department: Chemistry, Physics, & Astronomy  
          Title: Design and Fabrication of a Smart, Passive Greenhouse  
          Amount: $5,000
       2. Name: Dr. Richard Adams  
          Department: Biological and Environmental Sciences  
          Title: Harnessing artificial intelligence, evolutionary biology, and robust undergraduate training to solve an apparent paradox of evolutionary inference  
          Amount: $5,000
       3. Name: Dr. Jennifer Piazza-Pick  
          Department: Music  
          Title: Whistling Hens: Creating an Equitable, Sustainable Future for Women Composers  
          Amount: $5,000
       4. Name: Dr. Tsu-Ming Chiang  
          Department: Psychological Science  
          Title: Helping Parents Provide Emotional Coaching to Children in Pandemic Times  
          Amount: $3,270
       5. Name: Dr. James Daria  
          Department: Government and Sociology  
          Title: The Garinagu in Georgia: Garifuna Migration, Displacement, and Diaspora from Central America to the US Southeast  
          Amount: $4,975
       6. Name: Dr. Gregory Glotzbecker  
          Department: Biological and Environmental Sciences  
          Title: Curation of the Georgia College Fish Collection  
          Amount: $3,344
       7. Name: Dr. Chika Unigwe  
          Department: English  
          Title: Leaving Meshach  
          Amount: $5,000
    2. **Inclusive Excellence Grants**
       1. Name: Mr. Matt Forrest  
          Department: Art  
          Title: Enhancing literacy through art practice within Baldwin County  
          Amount: $3,921
18. **Call for Proposals: 2022 USG Teaching & Learning Conference**. The event has been re-formatted to allow you to first engage in on-demand and asynchronous material, then elaborate on what you learned via guided group discussions, and finally, an option to connect in person with your colleagues and peers at one of four regional events. For more information about the 2022 USG Teaching & Learning Conference please see [link](file:///D:\Dropbox\Beast\University%20Senate\2021-10-15%20US\2022%20USG%20Teaching%20&%20Learning%20Conference).
19. **Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship Program** In an effort to advance the academic mission of Georgia College, the Office of the Provost will support the launch of a Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship program. The GC Teaching Postdoctoral Fellowship is an innovative ten-month faculty program focusing on contributing to Georgia College’s mission of teaching excellence, while affording the recipients an opportunity to develop and hone their own teaching practice in a dynamic and engaging liberal arts environment. The Postdoctoral Fellows will hold a ten-month academic appointment at the rank of Lecturer, and actively participate in both the life of the department and the broader university.
20. **The October 2021 Graduate School Newsletter** is now available [here](https://www.smore.com/k021r).
21. **Curriculum Updates** At the October 2021 BOR meeting, the USG approved the termination of the following degrees:
    1. Bachelor of Art with a major in French
    2. Bachelor of Art with a major in Spanish
    3. Master of Art with a major in History
    4. Master of Education with a major in Kinesiology
22. **GC’s 25th Anniversary of the Liberal Arts Mission** The Office of the Provost is organizing a number of events during the 2001-2022 academic year to celebrate GC’s 25th Year Anniversary of the Liberal Arts mission designation. Specifically:
    1. Office of the Provost- October 15, 2021
       1. Georgia College Retiree Association Presentation (The Value of a Liberal Arts Education)
    2. Office of Transformative Learning Experiences- October 29, 2021
       1. GC Journeys Symposium
    3. John H. Lounsbury College of Education-November 9, 2021
       1. The Value of Liberal Arts in Preparing Teachers & Leaders as Architects of Change
    4. College of Health Sciences - January 27, 2022
       1. 25 Years of Liberal Arts in the Health Sciences
    5. John E. Sallstrom Honors College – February 16, 2022
       1. Honors and the Liberal Arts
    6. J. Whitney Bunting College of Business- March 10, 2022
       1. Business Education and the Public Liberal Arts: COPLAC Faculty Perspectives
    7. J. Whitney Bunting College of Business- March 22, 2022
       1. Georgia College Executives Forum: Business Education for the Public Good
    8. J. Whitney Bunting College of Business- March 23, 2022
       1. Milledgeville-Baldwin County Chamber of Commerce Eggs & Issues: The Liberal Arts Means Business.
    9. University Library – April 4-May 4, 2022
       1. An Exhibit Honoring the 25th Anniversary of GC’s Liberal Arts Mission
    10. College of Arts and Sciences- April 6, 2022
        1. Celebrating the College of Arts and Sciences: The Heart of the Liberal Arts at Georgia College
    11. Office of the Provost – April 6, 2022
        1. Provost Summer 2021 Research Fellow Panel
23. **The Georgia College Collegiate Middle Level Association Chapter** held a summit on October 8th. The theme was “Creating a Culture of Connectedness,” and Georgia Supreme Court Justice Verda Colvin was the keynote speaker.
24. **The College of Education Maker Space** was unveiled in Kilpatrick Hall. The equipment includes tools such as 3D printing, 3D scanning, laser engraving, sublimination printing, circuit cutter and heat press, sewing and embroidery machines, virtual reality headsets, drones, robotics, a computer assisted music keyboard, and a camera/video with lights and a green screen. Contact Diedra Monroe, (478) 445-5479, to schedule a visit.
25. **Farm to Table Event** The College of Business with the Office of Sustainability is organizing a Farm to Table Event including a farmers’ market and ticketed dinner in late October.
26. **Bachelor of Science in Finance** The College of Business is currently developing a new BS in Finance degree. Our goal is to begin the program in Fall 2022, pending review and approval by the BOR.
27. **Open Education Resource (OER) Webinar** with David Harris, Editor in Chief at OpenStaxwill be held onOctober 19 at 2:00 p.m. As a part of Georgia College’s participation in the AAC&U Institute on Open Education Resources, David Harris, Editor in Chief at OpenStax, will lead a webinar on October 19 at 2:00 p.m. The webinar will be instructive for faculty, librarians, and other stakeholders who are interested in learning more about supporting student success through the provision of affordable textbook alternatives. For more information, contact Shaundra Walker, Library Director, and AAC&U OER Institute Team Lead for Georgia College, at [shaundra.walker@gcsu.edu](mailto:shaundra.walker@gcsu.edu) or (478) 445-0987. Register in advance at [https://gcsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcqceGhqTojHd0Uh4ZLBZaMqRvWiw1aQEaB](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgcsu.zoom.us%2Fmeeting%2Fregister%2FtJcqceGhqTojHd0Uh4ZLBZaMqRvWiw1aQEaB&data=04%7C01%7Ccostas.spirou%40gcsu.edu%7Ce7f88ef1f73d46b667a108d98e5e6441%7Cbfd29cfa8e7142e69abc953a6d6f07d6%7C0%7C0%7C637697358320169681%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Bp%2FS2ihZtwLVNA1RU%2BIHMzUKUalMwizp5x2jAi4w30I%3D&reserved=0)
28. **Fall 2022 freshmen early action admission deadline** is October 15. We anticipate the first round of freshmen admits will post in mid-November.
29. **Fallfest** The Office of Admissions is expecting nearly 200 students (plus guests) on Saturday for Fallfest.
30. **Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding** GC Financial Aid Office has currently administered approximately $5 million in Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding (HEERF III) to eligible students. These funds are to assist students who have been affected by the Coronavirus. Students still have the opportunity to apply for funds by visiting GC Financial Aid website.
31. **Registration for Spring 2022** will begin on Monday, October 25. Please encourage students to register at their first available opportunity.
32. **Fall Commencement** will be held on Saturday, December 11, with the processional beginning promptly at 12:45 p.m. As part of our return to normal, this will be a traditional ceremony. Faculty are invited to attend the ceremony and the outdoor reception afterward. The registrar will send additional information about the ceremony to faculty early next month.
33. **Enrollment** The 1,507 first year class is the largest in the history of the university (1,481 in 2018). Graduate School enrollment for Fall 2021 is 1,177, which is a 7% decrease from fall 2020, and less than 1% decrease from fall 2019.
34. **The Graduate School Fall** Marketingof The Graduate School is in full swing with billboards on I-20, I-75 and 441 in Milledgeville. Other marketing activities include the following: social media advertising with Facebook and Instagram, targeted display based on keyword searches across all search engines, etc.
35. **Graduate Writing Group** Collaborations are underway with the Library and Writing Center to develop and provide a Graduate Writing Group. The purpose of the group would be to provide community, accountability, support, and focused work time (in-person/virtual) for graduate students working on academic writing projects. The group is anticipated to form in Spring 2022.
36. **Graduate Student Organization** The Graduate Coordinators are working on the development of the first Graduate Student Organization. The plan is to launch the RSO at the beginning of spring semester 2022.
37. ***Mobility International USA*** Georgia College and the International Education Center (plus the Disability Resource Center) were featured in a recent online publication of *Mobility International USA* (MIUSA), a non-profit advancing disability rights globally. For more information please see <https://www.miusa.org/resource/tipsheet/pakistan>.
38. **University Learning Center** Drop in tutoring visits at the University Learning Center are up 20% from last year, fall semester, during the same time frame.

**Committee Reports**

1. **Academic Policy Committee (APC) — Nicholas Creel, Chair**
   1. **Increasing SRIS Completion Rates**
      1. Should we stop giving extra credit?
         1. Makes a bad instrument worse, considering a resolution for this.
      2. Replace with iPad drawing?
      3. Ask provost if we’ve got to keep it or if we can replace them.
         1. Perhaps we can at least augment them with statistical analysis of student success in later classes or graduation
      4. Department led option to craft our own questions?
      5. In general, the committee would like me to express dissatisfaction with SRIS.
      6. The issue was steered to FAPC.
      7. Talk to Dr. Berger, Director of CTL.
   2. **Faculty Qualifications**
      1. The Provost asked us to review the policy for allowing faculty to be hired who have terminal degrees from unaccredited schools with an eye to closing this exception.
         1. We would recommend that this be sent to FAPC.
   3. **COVID Related Concerns** 
      1. Pay for additional classes, committee wants to know if this is taken care of.
      2. What is the policy for students showing up sick without repercussion?
         1. One case of falsifying record to stay in class while under orders to quarantine.
         2. Faculty member must report student to Dean of Students.
         3. Policy is on the books to punish students.
   4. **Student Success in New Tenure Policy**
      1. Committee thinks this might be more an institutional level, not individual instructor.
2. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy Committee (DEIPC) — Linda Bradley, Chair** 
   1. **Diversity Strategic Plan** The DEIPC meeting engaged in a robust, positive discussion of *Advancing Diversity and Inclusion 2022-2025: Diversity Strategic Plan for Georgia College.* This new Diversity Action Plan was composed by Dr. Carolyn Denard, the Associate Vice President for Inclusive Excellence and Chief Diversity Officer along with the Diversity Steering Committee. Following individual reading and review, DEIPC provided feedback on the plan through responding to a series of guiding questions provided by Dr. Denard that addressed: feasibility, Georgia College needs, voices that might need to be more visible in the plan, and any other additions or changes. The committee asked clarifying questions and learned more from Dr. Denard about the specific goals, strategies, actions, reporting, and ongoing assessment of the plan. Dr. Denard is compiling feedback from the broader university community as well as DEIPC and will be incorporating the changes. We understand that action plans are evolving to meet the needs within the university, and to best guide our collective process of continuous improvement. DEIPC voted unanimously to approve the new Diversity Action Plan for Georgia College, 2022-2025: *Advancing Diversity and Inclusion.* We will be sharing a statement of support for this plan with ECUS and University Senate.
3. **Executive Committee of University Senate (ECUS) — Catherine Fowler, Chair**
   1. **BOR Tenure Policy Revisions**
      1. ECUS conducted much work on motions, emails, and documents regarding the BOR vote and changes to tenure and post tenure review.
      2. ECUS set up a virtual faculty meeting with Dr. Denley, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs.
      3. ECUS scheduled an emergency Senate meeting on October 6, 2021 to discuss the FAPC motion on the BOR tenure policy revisions. The motion passed and was submitted to USG by President Cathy Cox.
   2. **Provost Meetings** The Presiding Officer held meetings with the Provost.
4. **SubCommittee on Nominations (SCoN) — Jennifer Flory, Chair**
   1. **Election Oversight**
      1. The Corps of Instruction was received 9/15/21 and forwarded to ECUS/SCC on 9/17/21.
      2. The apportionment spreadsheet was filled in and packets were created for deans and library director and sent to each on 9/29/21.
      3. ECUS/SCC Meeting 10/1/21
         1. A Motion to approve apportionment of elected faculty senators based on the Corps of Instruction list with administrators included in departments was made and second. The motion was approved.
         2. A Motion to approve the election oversight materials (Corps of Instruction List, Apportionment, Letters to Deans and Library Director, and Supporting Documents) was made and second. The motion was approved.
      4. We are awaiting responses from the Deans and Library Director regarding their election procedures. This is due to ECUS by December 1.
      5. Appendix C 2021-2022 Elected Faculty Senator (EFS) Elections Fact Sheet is included for your information.
5. **Faculty Affairs Policy Committee (FAPC) — Sabrina Hom, Chair**
   1. **Motions** FAPC discussed and passed three motions at our October meeting.
      1. 2122.FAPC.001.R: This motion asks the Board of Regents to allow ample and necessary time for discussion and revision of the proposed changes to tenure.
      2. 2122.FAPC.003.P: This motion would update the section on requirements for faculty appointments in the Faculty Handbook to better reflect SACS guidelines. The new language 1) specifies that faculty should hold degrees from **accredited** institutions and 2) specifies in more detail what “alternative qualifications” could be accepted for faculty without the relevant degree/coursework. The committee feels that these changes are reasonable, that they already reflect our hiring practices, and that formalizing these requirements was necessary to prepare for upcoming accreditation processes.
      3. 2122.FAPC.002.R: This motion asks the BOR to allow individual campuses to require masks as a COVID mitigation strategy. This echoes the AAUP’s recent focus on “at least masks,” and members felt that the BOR might be more amenable to a more limited request for autonomy (compared to the other related motion before senate.)
6. **Resources, Planning, and Institutional Policy Committee (RPIPC) — Brad Fowler, Vice Chair, for Damian Francis, Chair**
   1. **ADA Accessibility** The committee invited Frank Baugh, Assistant VP of facilities management, and Shea Groebner to discuss ADA accessibility of campus buildings. They reported 100% compliance to ADA campus wide. Historicity to be considered in addition to accessibility.
      1. RPIPC Action: RPIPC has asked Facilities Management to provide a campus resource for Campus accessibility.
   2. **25Live** The committee discussed the challenges with 25 Live. The committee decided to invite Lisa Castillo to our next meeting to contribute to the discussion on barriers and challenges to platform. Susan Kerr, CIO will also explore the technical capacity of the software.
   3. **Classroom Technology** The committee discussed technology and equipment need in the classroom. It was reported by our CIO the cost involved in equipping each classroom with state-of-the-art technology. It was noted that the technology is not always utilize in the spaces that they are provided. The recommendation was made that a technology needs survey through academic affairs be sent to Dean for Departments. This route was preferred opposed to faculty level survey to ensure responses at the departmental level. It was felt that the results of this survey will be a cost saving venture for the university.
7. **Student Affairs Policy Committee (SAPC) — Gail Godwin, Chair**
   1. **SGA** SGA President James Robertson is working with SGA on getting out information about all SGA can offer students. Additionally, there are concerns among students about safety at night in parking lots and GC transportation.
   2. **Mental Health Assessments**
      1. The committee discussed concerns regarding the positive suicide screening from the spring 2021 GC assessment. Dean of Students, Dr. Tom Miles, discussed all the initiatives that GC has in place.
      2. Committee member Diana Young discussed the RSO – Active Minds. She asked the question if students are interested in reactivating this organization.
      3. Committee member Flor Bondal discussed the Yellow Bulb Project being hosted by SON, NAMI, and GC Facilities Management.
      4. Women’s Center Program Coordinator, Melissa Gerrior, will visit the next SAPC meeting.
8. **Student Government Association (SGA) — James Robertson, President**
   1. **Nexus Degree** SGA discussed the Nexus degree with Dr. Tristan Denley, Vice Chancellor for academic Affairs.
   2. **Mental Health** SGA is working with SAPC on student mental health issues.
   3. **Diversity Day** SGA is in the early stages of planning Diversity Day, which will showcase student organizations.

**Announcements/Information Items**

1. **COVID Infected Students Attending Class — Vice President for Student Life Shawn Brooks**
   1. **Student Accountability** Dr. Brooks noted that students intentionally putting others in harm’s way by not following COVID procedures should be reported to the Dean of Students. Students will be held accountable.
   2. **Discussion** When Dr. Brooks called for questions and comments, many were forthcoming.
      1. Question (Voice): Why are students doing this?
      2. Comment (Voice): They do not want to sit out of class for two weeks.
      3. Comment (Voice): If students are taking 4 or 5 classes, then they might have 4 or 5 different ways to keep up with classes. We need a uniform COVID make up policy.
      4. Comment (Voice) If students are tested outside of Student Health Services, what is our mechanism for knowing students have COVID? As a faculty member, I don’t know which students to support for COVID absences and which students not to support.
      5. Comment (Voice): Students self-report. If the student fills out the COVID form, then their instructors should receive information from the Advising Center.
      6. Comment (Voice): A minority of COVID infected students are attending class. It is appropriate to report them to the Judicial Board. Supporting quarantining students is beneficial to their studies. Half of the burden for keeping up with classes is on the student and half of it is on instructors. It is both difficult and frustrating to be at home for two weeks. When students reach out, I accommodate them to the best of my ability.
      7. Comment (Voice): I work to accommodate students, but I am concerned about students following protocols, and we’ve been cautioned against allowing non-COVID students on Zoom.
      8. Comment (Text): I’ve been flexible with students, so they don’t worry about my class. Prioritizing health and well-being and working with them has been my approach.
      9. Comment (Text) I’ve tried to reiterate often that any sickness should be treated seriously and that I will accommodate their absences as needed.
      10. Comment (Voice): I agree that we should work with students; however, we have to be careful about documentation because of the pressure to be fully face-to-face. If a student comes with symptoms, I tell them to get tested and copy the Dean of Students. However, students reporting infection is not required. The decision path report is optional for students.
      11. Comment (Text): According to Angie Childre, you can copy Student Health Services on the emails as well so they are aware.
      12. Comment (Voice): I have more absences in my classes this semester than last year. I have a gut feeling that many students will fail at the end of the semester. Will there by a master list of students who have COVID documentation?
      13. Comment (Vice President): HIPPA and FERPA guidelines limit what we can share. I encourage faculty to keep track of COVID students on an individual basis.
      14. Comment (Voice): COVID notifications are delayed and disorganized. For a month, I threw up my hands and told students to follow the honor system with COVID absences.
      15. Comment (Vice President): The Advising Center had a backlog in the past. If timeliness of notifications is still a concern, come see me.
      16. Comment (Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management and University Registrar A. Kay Anderson): Notifications are sent out every single day. Sometimes we don’t get informed by students until afterwards. Advising works closely with the Office of Student Life to make sure the notifications are sent.
2. **University Curriculum Committee (UCC)** **Update — Lyndall Muschell, Chair**
   1. **University Curriculum Committee**
      1. No Action Items or Information Items - No meeting was held on September 24, 2021.
   2. **Graduate Council** 
      1. No Action Items or Information Items
      2. Bylaws Review - Bylaws were reviewed and revisions were suggested by those present; these were distributed for review and electronic vote.
      3. Updates from Colleges:
         1. College of Arts & Sciences: NASM (National Association of Schools of Music) reaccreditation takes place this month.
         2. College of Business: No updates
         3. College of Education: The CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation) reaccreditation took place and preliminary findings are positive.
         4. College of Health Sciences: No updates
      4. Announcements/Discussion: Fall Graduate enrollment is 1,177. The Graduate School will be collaborating with Leadership Programs to offer virtual events to students. Graduate Admissions is offering monthly virtual open houses as well as one-on-one virtual appointments.
   3. **General Education Committee**
      1. No Action Items or Information Items - No meeting was held on September 17, 2021

**Adjourn**

1. **Attendance and the Sign-In Sheet** Alex Blazer marked the attendance of those who joined the online video conference.
2. **Motion to Adjourn** A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

**Supporting Documents**

1. There is one supporting document.
   1. *Supporting-ScoN-AppendixC2021-2022ElectedFacultySenators.docx*