

2023-2024 UNIVERSITY SENATE
MINUTES FOR THE 15 MAR 2024 MEETING
University Senate Officers: Presiding Officer Rob Sumowski,
Presiding Officer Elect Catherine Fowler, Secretary Alex Blazer

ATTENDANCE

Members	P denotes Present	A denotes Absent	R denotes Regrets
Andrew Allen-R	Sayo Fakayode-A	Matthew Milnes-P	John Swinton-P
Alex Blazer-P	Nancy Finney-P	Deseree Murden-P	Natalie Toomey-P
Rodica Cazacu-R	Jennifer Flory-P	Lyndall Muschell-P	Winston Tripp-P
Mikkel Christensen-P	Brad Fowler-R	Joyce Norris-Taylor-P	Sandra Trujillo-R
Corey Claxton-P	Catherine Fowler-R	Amy Pinney-P	Erin Viscarra-P
Cathy Cox-P	Chris Greer-A	Frank Richardson-A	Henry Wang-R
Nicholas Creel-P	Connor Hilly-P	Peter Rosado-R	Talecia Warren-P
Holly Croft-P	John Jackson-A	Ezra Ryall-A	James Welborn-P
Matt Davis-P	Stephanie Jett-R	Lamonica Sanford-P	Benjamin Whittle-P
Donovan Domingue-P	Mehrnaz Khalaj Hedayati-A	Alison Shepherd-R	Aric Wilhau-A
Helen DuPree-P	Lee Kirven-P	Marshall Smith-R	EFS-TBD
Josefina Endere-P	Adam Lamparello-P	Costas Spirou-P	
Kerry James Evans-P	Nadirah Mayweather-P	Rob Sumowski-P	
Guests	Role on University Senate or Position at the University		
Jim Berger	Director, Center for Teaching and Learning		
Holley Roberts	Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Director of The Graduate School		

CALL TO ORDER Rob Sumowski, Presiding Officer of the 2023-2024 University Senate, called the meeting to order at 3:31 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**
 - a. University Senate Meeting Agenda (15 Mar 2024)
 - b. University Senate Meeting Minutes (23 Feb 2024)

A **MOTION** to adopt the consent agenda was approved by voice vote with no proposed extractions, no further discussion, no dissenting voice, and only voting members of the university senate eligible to vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **MOTION 23.24.ECUS.001B PROPOSED REVISIONS TO UNIVERSITY SENATE BYLAWS (OFFICER VACANCIES)** On behalf of the committee, Rob Sumowski, ECUS Chair, presented the motion “To approve the proposed revisions to the University Senate Bylaws as outlined in the supporting documents.”

- a. **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS** Supporting documentation was available in the online motion database: <https://senate.gcsu.edu/motions/proposed-revisions-university-senate-bylaws-officer-vacancies-03072024>
 - i. *Bylaws (2024-03-01).docx*
 - ii. *University Senate Bylaws Revision (2024-03-01).docx*
- b. **CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION** The revision creates a best practice process for filling a Senate officer vacancy (Presiding Officer Elect or Secretary) during the regular Senate term. The procedure is modeled on the one used at the Senate organization meeting.
- c. **DISCUSSION** When Rob Sumowski called for questions and comments none were forthcoming.
- d. **SENATE ACTION**
 - i. *The bylaws motion will be read a second time and voted upon at the 26 Apr 2024 meeting of University Senate.*

PRESIDENT’S REPORT — **PRESIDENT CATHY COX**

1. CAMPUS UPDATES

- a. **VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION** Mr. Lee Fruitticher shared last week his intentions to retire on June 1, 2024. We are working to identify an interim and plan to kick off a search early in the fall semester.
- b. **GENERAL COUNSEL** Our recent General Counsel search did not yield a candidate for us, but I would like to thank Professor Jehan El-Jourbagy for chairing this search along with committee members, Rhonda Fowler, Dr. Josie Doss, Dr. Indiren Pillay, Kadian Leslie and Susan Kerr. I am discussing next steps with my Executive Cabinet.
- c. **TITLE IX COORDINATOR** The search committee for this position, led by Dr. Dan Nadler, has narrowed the field of applicants to the candidates who will be invited for campus interviews, hopefully before the end of March.
- d. **MODIFIED SUMMER SCHEDULE REMINDER** The campus-wide modified summer schedule will begin on Monday, May 6, and will conclude on Friday, August 9, 2024.

2. STATE BUDGET UPDATE

- a. The Board of Regents met yesterday afternoon to vote on allocations of the funds that were included in the Amended FY24 budget for the USG. That included the restoration of the \$66 million that was cut from the budget in last year’s legislative session, and a new bucket of \$80 million for extra MRR funds for the USG institutions.
- b. We were pleased that in the final negotiations of the Amended budget, the House and Senate each put in \$5.5 million for our renovation of Herty Hall – a total of \$11 million. So this money is now “in the bank,” as a matter of speaking, and has been allocated for our project. We still need the other 1/3 – a final \$5.5 million, which the Governor originally proposed in the FY25 budget. That has been included by the House in its version of the FY25 budget which is now awaiting action in the Senate.
- c. When \$66 million was cut from the USG’s budget in last year’s legislative session, GCSU’s portion of the cut was approximately \$750,000. In yesterday’s meeting, we got back \$624,450 of that. However, this is “one-time” money to be

expended in this fiscal year; it is our hope that the General Assembly will also restore this to the budget permanently in the FY25 budget.

- d. We received \$2.3 million in new MRR money for much-needed repair and maintenance projects, including \$800,000 that will be used for exterior repairs to Herty Hall, another \$800,000 to replace the roof of the Arts & Sciences building, \$350,000 to replace windows in Porter Hall, \$160,000 for roofing and exterior repairs to the Health Sciences Building, and \$190,000 to rebuild the central plant cooling tower.
 - e. The General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn on March 28, so we should have a final resolution on these pending issues at that time.
3. **ENROLLMENT HURDLES** Dr. Spirou will update you on our enrollment prospects for Fall 2024, but as we look to the next year and beyond, we are expecting the Chancellor to make a permanent recommendation to the Board of Regents at their April meeting on whether we will have to require SAT/ACT scores in admissions going forward.
 4. **PROMOTION AND TENURE** The Provost has shared with me the files for 21 Promotion and Tenure candidates. Twelve of you are going up for tenure, and as in years past, I would like to meet with each of you as this is such an important stage in the career of a faculty member and in the life of the university. My office will be reaching out to schedule these meetings as soon as possible. I am looking forward to these conversations!
 5. **COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS** We have selected a strong array of speakers for our spring Commencement ceremonies, including two alumni
 - a. **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION** Dr. Kathleen Truitt, Education Specialist '10, Superintendent of Lee County, Georgia, Schools
 - b. **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES** Ms. Anresa Davis, Nurse, GCSU '75, College of Health Sciences Leadership Board and GCSU Foundation Board
 - c. **COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES** and **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY** Dr. Lisa D. Cook, the first African-American woman appointed as a Governor of the Federal Reserve Board; she is a Milledgeville native, daughter of the late Peyton Cook and Mary Cook (first Black tenured faculty member here). Dr. Cook was formerly a faculty member at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. She earned her BA in Philosophy at Spelman, and as a Marshall Scholar, she earned a second BA in philosophy, politics, and economics from Oxford University. She earned a PhD in economics from the University of California, Berkeley.
 - 6.



- a. *GCSU Research Day*
Wednesday, March 27, 2024
Magnolia Ballroom
- b. *Integrated Science Complex Naming Ceremony (Dr. Ken Saladin)*

- Friday, April 12, 2024
3:00 p.m. – Integrated Science Complex
- c. *Spring Family Day*
Saturday, April 13, 2024
West Campus
- d. *Celebration of Excellence*
Friday, April 19, 2024
9:00 a.m. – Russell Auditorium
- e. *Book Talk: Author Michael Thurmond, Dekalb Co. CEO & former Ga. Labor Commissioner*
James Oglethorpe, Father of Georgia: A Founder’s Journey from Slave Trader to Abolitionist
Tuesday, April 23, 2024
4:00 p.m. – A&S Auditorium
- f. *Midnight Breakfast*
Monday, April 29, 2024
9:45 p.m. - The MAX
- g. *Spring Graduate & Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies:*
Centennial Center
- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| College of Health Sciences | Friday, May 3, 2024 at 2:00 PM |
| College of Education | Friday, May 3, 2024 at 7:00 PM |
| College of Business & Technology | Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 9:00 AM |
| College of Arts & Sciences | Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 2:00 PM |

PROVOST’S REPORT — PROVOST COSTAS SPIROU

1. COLLEGES AND LIBRARY

a. COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

i. Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences

1. **Georgia Academy of Sciences Meeting** At the 101st Georgia Academy of Sciences meeting, 35 BIOL & ENSC students were involved as author/coauthor with 11 different faculty mentors. Once again, our students were recognized for their work. For Earth Sciences, students Tori Morgan & Shannon Northen won research awards. For Biomedical Sciences, Elizabeth Seidita won a research award. For Biological Sciences, Sally Sir won a research award. Other department research students presented 45 research posters or oral student presentations at numerous regional conferences this semester. Our students swept the awards at the Georgia Chapter of The Wildlife Society Meeting with Amber Stubbs winning Best Undergraduate Poster Presentation Award, Ashley McMahon winning Best Graduate Poster Presentation Award, and Elizabeth Noble and Ashley McMahon winning the student travel award. Congratulations to our students!
2. **Professor Sam Mutiti** was featured in a documentary: *Zambia: Clean Up Toxic Lead Waste at Mine Site | Human Rights Watch* (hrw.org) and Assistant Professor Kris White was invited to Guam to participate in a biodiversity survey and to present at the associated Mini symposium.

- ii. **Department of Communication** faculty members have recently published in the *Journal of Ethnography* and the *Journal of Radio and Audio Media* and there have been mentoring students for conferences presentations in Las Vegas and Orlando. In Fall 2024, the department will introduce an Audio Production Certificate in collaboration with the Music Department, enriching its offerings with practical skills training.
- iii. **Department of English** The department recently hosted Billy Collins, former U.S. Poet Laureate under President Obama. Collins visited campus and met with students and faculty before giving a reading from his works.
- iv. **Department of Government and Sociology** The Mock Trial Team performed well under Professor Lamparello's guidance at the recent regional competition by defeating the College of Charleston, Duke University, and the University of Alabama.
- v. **Department of History and Geography** The is working strategically to expand GIS internship opportunities for students while integrating community-based engaged activities. Recent internships include work for Baldwin County Government, the Lockerly Arboretum Tree Conservation Mapping program, and the Oconee River Greenway Foundation.
- vi. **Department of Music** The department celebrates notable achievements of faculty Andrew Allen, Dana Gorzelany-Mostak, and Tina Holmes-Davis who have been honored for Excellence in Teaching, Scholarship and Creative Endeavors, and University Service respectively, on behalf of the College of Arts and Sciences. The department also welcomed Evren Kutlay as the COAS Spring 2024 Visiting Newell Scholar, focusing on Ottoman-European and Ottoman-American musical interactions. In April, Kutlay will present lecture-recitals and lectures (April 4 & April 12).
- vii. **Department of Psychology** undergraduate research achievements will be showcased at the 70th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, which will be held in Orlando, Florida, from March 13th to 16th, 2024. The conference will feature the work of 60 students who actively participate in various undergraduate research projects, seven research poster sessions featuring 23 titles, two paper sessions, and two panel discussions. Students are guided and supported by 12 faculty who serve as mentors or presenters.
- viii. **Department of Theatre and Dance**
 - 1. **Student Mary Morgan Collier** was awarded the prestigious regional KCACTF award for dramaturgy, demonstrating the department's success in fostering exceptional talent; she now advances to compete with seven other students nationally at the Kennedy Center.
 - 2. **Amelia Pelton** The Department of Theatre and Dance bids farewell to Amelia Pelton, Director of Dance, who will retire after 29 years of distinguished service. Her retirement reception is being held on April 14th from 12-2 pm in Magnolia Ballroom, recognizing her contributions to the department.
- ix. **Department of World Language and Cultures** The department welcomed to campus the Provost's spring Visiting Scholar, Dr. Laurenz Volkmann who is Professor of Teaching English as a Foreign Language and Chair of the Institute of English and American Studies at the

Friedrich-Schiller University in Jena, Germany. He provided two public lectures to the campus.

- b. **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**
 - i. Following approval for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing to Doctor of Nursing Practice by the University System of Georgia, the College of Health Sciences expects 25-30 students to begin the program in the summer.
 - c. **UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**
 - i. **Historical Letter Press Lab** The University Library will host an open house for our Historical Letter Press Lab on April 10, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Attendees will have an opportunity to experience the press and there will be takeaway items.
 - ii. **Unsilenced Voices: An Oral History Project of Central State Hospital** A new exhibit, Unsilenced Voices: An Oral History Project of Central State Hospital, is now available on the 2nd floor of the University Library, near Special Collections.
2. **SCHOOLS AND HONORS COLLEGE**
- a. **THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**
 - i. **Graduate Admissions Information Session** In collaboration with the Career Center, The Graduate School will host a Graduate Admissions Information Session in the Career Center on Tuesday, March 26, 2024.
 - ii. **Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week** is March 25 – 29, 2024.
 - iii. **Graduate Research Travel Grants Committee** anticipate making award decisions that support graduate research at GCSU.
 - iv. **Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award Committee** recognized six graduate students with awards for the 2023-2024 academic year. The student recipients are biology, health and human performance, music therapy, and nursing majors.
 - v. **Research Day 2024** includes 44 graduate students.
 - vi. **Spring Reception** The Graduate School's 6th Annual Spring Reception is Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the Old Governor's Mansion in the Museum Education Building.
 - b. **HONORS COLLEGE**
 - i. **Critical Language Scholarship Program** The Honors College is pleased to announce that Ama Kpoyizoun (Sophomore, Nursing) and Matthew Malena (Freshman, Management) were both selected to participate in the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS Spark) program, making them the first GCSU students selected to participate in any CLS program. CLS Spark is a virtual initiative for U.S. undergraduate students to learn languages essential to America's engagement with the world. Designed to leverage best practices in online language learning developed by the CLS Program during the pandemic, CLS Spark provides American students the opportunity to study critical languages virtually when they may not have access to studying these languages on their campuses. Participants will spend the summer learning either Arabic, Chinese or Russian through online classes and activities facilitated by native speakers at a host institution abroad. Ama and Matthew were both admitted into the CLS Spark Programs in Chinese.

c. **SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**

- i. **Academic Outreach** Registration is now open for Kids' U and Specialty camps for kids' 3rd grade and up. Kids' U is offering an early bird registration until May 15. Academic Outreach is also offering *Science Camp: The Science of Food and Creature Camp, Creatures of the Deep*. [Please check out the new summer camp catalog online.](#)
- ii. **Afterschool Achievement** To support the *Imagine 2030 Strategic Plan*, Afterschool Achievement is seeking to partner with the College of Business and Technology, the College of Education, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the College of Health Sciences to support GCSU service-learning students and to provide supplemental programs to youth during afterschool times 3:30-6:30 pm. If you are interested in partnering, please contact Sequena Stanton, Director of Afterschool Achievement at 478-445-5613.
- iii. **The GCSU Alumni Lifelong Learning Series** is a collaboration between the Office of Alumni Relations and the School of Continuing & Professional Studies. The goal is to share the talent and knowledge of our alumni and encourage lifelong learning in an ever-changing world. [Register](#) for our next FREE GCSU ALLS virtual lunch and learn event, Navigating the Challenges and Opportunities that Come with Career Changes with Adam Hammond, Class of 2008. The event is scheduled for April 17th at 12 p.m. via Zoom.
- iv. **Historic Museums** is encouraging the university community to join several events scheduled for Flannery's 99th birthday celebration at Andalusia. Specifically,
 1. Thursday, March 21 6:00 p.m. Performance by Colin Cutler at Andalusia Storytelling court
 2. Saturday, March 23 Flannery O'Connor's 99th Birthday celebration! Birthday Cake & Singing Free Tours Andalusia
 3. Opening of new exhibition in the Andalusia Interpretive Center: Flannery O'Connor's miniature collection
 4. Monday, March 25 Virtual Event Time – TBD Louis Cline and members of O'Connor family
- v. **Summer Precollegiate Workforce Readiness Grant** The School of Continuing & Professional Studies was awarded a grant for \$21,500 from the University System of Georgia for the development and implementation of a summer precollegiate workforce readiness program for youth experiencing foster care in Georgia. The program is led by Angela Criscoe, Executive Director, School of Continuing and Professional Studies, and will be developed and implemented through the expertise of Program Coordinator in Communities in Schools, Courtney Bentley, Director of CTAE and Assistant Principal, Natalie Stowe, and GCSU Employee Relations Specialist, Kayla Brownlow. Seventeen other institutions are participating in this initiative and [registration](#) for these programs are open.

3. **OFFICES AND PROGRAMS**

a. **FINANCIAL AID**

- i. The GCSU Financial Aid Office has initiated the institutional scholarship selection process for the upcoming school year. The scholarship

application that students complete had a deadline of February 19, 2024. The Scholarship Committee members are currently reviewing student applicants who have been matched to the minimum scholarship requirements. Scholarship recipient selections must be completed by March 31, 2024, so that the GCSU Financial Aid team can notify the awardees for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025.

b. **THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS**

- i. **Leadership Certificate Program** The Office of Leadership has over 70 students enrolled in their Leadership certificate program—an all-time high.

c. **OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS**

- i. **Admitted Student Receptions (ASR)** will begin taking place at the end of March and continue through April. ASRs will take place in Savannah, Kennesaw, Lawrenceville, Macon, and Milledgeville. Students will have an opportunity to mix and mingle with staff from various departments, ask questions, and overall celebrate their admission to GCSU.
- ii. **Cat Crew Volunteers** for Fall 2024
1. 250 Volunteers Needed -- Wednesday, August 14 from 8 am to Noon.
 2. 400+ Volunteers Needed -- Thursday, August 15 from 7:30 am to Noon.
- iii. **Freshman Applications** As of March 11, 2024, Freshman Applications are up by 6% compared to last year at this time. We are down 4% and down 10% in admits.
- iv. **The GCSU Sophomore Explore Day** will take place on April 17th.
- v. **Junior Day** is taking place on April 6, 2024, and will provide an opportunity for high school students to learn about the admissions process, meet with various departments and faculty members, and explore GCSU's campus.
- vi. **Multicultural Student Leadership Conference** Over 150 high school sophomores have been nominated for our annual summer Multicultural Student Leadership Conference.
- vii. **ThunderBOLTs (Bobcat Orientation Leadership Team)** have been participating in various trainings to prepare for this summer's orientations. Returning ThunderBOLTs recently attend the annual Southern Region Orientation Workshop (SROW), which is put on through NODA. These students learned vital skills needed to support our incoming class, educate, and prepare their fellow ThunderBOLTs, and gained a deeper appreciation of the important role orientation plays in the overall success of incoming students.
- viii. **Transfer Applications** Fall 2024 Transfer Student Applications are up by 22% compared to last year at this time.

d. **OFFICE OF ASSESSMENT**

- i. **Core Assessment** The Office of Assessment is waiting to receive guidance from the USG regarding Spring 2024 core assessment. The information/guidance will be forwarded to various stakeholders across Academic Affairs involved in core assessment.

e. **OFFICE OF GRANTS & SPONSORED PROJECTS**

- i. **Grant Timeline** The Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects (OGSP) is dedicated to supporting and facilitating the research and sponsored projects endeavors of all our faculty and staff. As we all may know, there is not always optimal time to prepare a grant, and we want to encourage all submissions and provide our fullest support, no matter the timeline. However, it's essential to recognize that the more preparation time dedicated to the proposal, the more likely it will be funded. As a result, OGSP provides the ideal timeline for the various stages of proposal development. The information below embodies the optimal timeframe for proposal preparation and serves as guide to transform innovative ideas into compelling grant proposals. It outlines the critical milestones and deadlines involved in the proposal development process:
 1. **Pre-Submission Preparation (5-6 months before deadline)**
 - a. PI will identify potential funding opportunities.
 - i. In collaboration with OGSP, review grant guidelines and eligibility criteria as well as create a proposal development checklist.
 - ii. Develop project ideas and objectives.
 - iii. Assemble a project team and designate roles.
 2. **Proposal Development (3-4 months before deadline)**
 - a. PI and project team will draft the proposal narrative, including project description, methodology, and anticipated outcomes.
 - i. Collaborate with faculty mentors or departmental colleagues for input and feedback.
 - ii. Work with OGSP to develop a detailed budget, including personnel, supplies, equipment, and other costs.
 - iii. Secure letters of support or collaboration from external partners, if applicable.
 - iv. Work with OGSP to begin drafting required forms and administrative sections of the proposal.
 3. **Internal Review and Approval (1-2 months before deadline)**
 - a. PI and project team will submit the proposal draft to the OGSP for internal review.
 - i. Revise the proposal based on feedback from the review process.
 - ii. Work with OGSP to finalize the budget and ensure alignment with university policies and sponsor guidelines.
 - b. OGSP will route the proposal for necessary approvals from department chairs, deans, and other institutional officials.
 4. **Submission (3 week to 1 day before deadline)**
 - a. OGSP will complete all forms and documentation required by the sponsor.
 - i. Ensure that the proposal meets all federal, state, and university compliance requirements as well as the solicitation guidelines.

- ii. Submit the proposal electronically through the designated submission portal or sponsor website to meet the sponsor deadline.
- iii. Verify that all components of the proposal, including attachments and supplementary materials, are included and formatted correctly.
- iv. Confirm submission receipt and follow up with the sponsor if necessary.
- v. Maintain a copy of the submitted proposal.

5. **Post-Submission (after submission)**

- a. PI, project team, and OGSP will await notification of the proposal status from the sponsor.
- b. OGSP will respond promptly to any requests for additional information or clarifications.
- c. If awarded, OGSP will begin preparations for project implementation, including a PI award meeting for all new awards.
- d. PI and project team will begin hiring personnel, purchasing equipment, and establishing project protocols.
- e. If not awarded, PI and project team will seek feedback from the sponsor and/or internal reviewers to improve future proposals.
- f. If not awarded, PI and project team will consider resubmitting the proposal to sponsor or other funding opportunities, if appropriate.

f. **OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND EFFECTIVENESS**

- i. **GCSU Fact Book** This is the tenth year of the publication of the *GCSU Fact Book*. If you wish to receive a copy, please email Chris Ferland at chris.ferland@gcsu.edu.
- ii. **Reports** The Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness is working on various external requests and surveys such as IPEDs, National Science Foundation's 2023 Survey of Graduate Students in Science and Engineering (GSS), Princeton Review, and College Board Big Futures.
- iii. **Website** The Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness recently revamped the website to improve its use. Please visit it at <http://irut.gcsu.edu>.

g. **OFFICE OF THE PROVOST & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

- i. **1st Annual AA/SGA Retreat** The Office of the Provost is collaborating with SGA to organize the *1st Annual AA/SGA Retreat*. The event will include presentations and conversations between SGA and Academic Affairs leaders. It will provide the attendees with an opportunity to collaborate and learn about the university. The session is scheduled for March 29th.
- ii. **Degrees and Majors Authorized (DMA)** The University System Office is working on a [Degrees and Majors Authorized \(DMA\)](#) project. The DMA project includes enhancements to the underlying DMA database, corrections to the existing data in the database, improvements to the public interface used by campuses, and the creation of a public academic program search tool for Georgia Degrees Pay. The Office of the Provost at

GCSU will be working with the USG in June to make any needed adjustments.

- h. **OFFICE OF STUDENT SUCCESS & CAREER DEVELOPMENT**
 - i. **The Career and Graduate School Fair** will take place on March 28, 2024, from 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the Centennial Center.
- 4. **CENTERS AND INSTITUTES**
 - a. **CENTER FOR INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**
 - i. **Global Scaling Competition** Under the leadership of the co-directors of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Nicholas Creel and Caroline Collier, College of Business and Technology students participated in the Global Scaling Competition, hosted by the University of New Mexico's Anderson School of Management. The team, including Trey McCallum, Grant Jones, Joe Dubsy, and Grayson Stoudenmire, received the "Gold Medal" for the Americas and will compete in the global challenge next month. These four students came out on top thanks to their exceptional presentation skills, innovative ideas, and extraordinary ability to think on their feet during the Q&A portion of the event.
 - b. **CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING**
 - i. **GeorgiaVIEW Certificate** The Center for Teaching and Learning has had over 60 faculty complete the Georgia View certificate.
 - ii. **Liberal Arts Skills in the Professions and Individual Well-Being** The Center for Teaching and Learning is continuing to pursue the currently titled Liberal Arts Skills in the Professions and Individual Well-Being initiative that has as its purpose to help faculty and students better understand the connections between our liberal arts efforts and their personal and professional lives. As part of the process, we are working on developing workshops surrounding topics such as Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Teamwork, and Problem-Solving. The CTL has reached out to several faculty members for support and guidance and connected with experts from across the country. As more information becomes available, the CTL will share the schedule and upcoming activities.
 - c. **THE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER**
 - i. **Study Abroad** The International Education Center is working on Study Abroad programs for Summer 2024. Currently, 216 accepted students (Up 40% from this time last year), 20 nations. Students are also pursuing 8 internships; an all-time high.
 - ii. **Michael Ncube**, a GCSU State Department international student from 2019, has been named a Nelson Mandela Scholar by the Nelson Mandela Foundation in South Africa. The award includes a generous scholarship for graduate studies, plus leadership training. Michael has written the IEC that, "as the first Georgia College alumnus" to win the recognition, "it is indeed a proud moment to remember all the steps I took in Milledgeville that have led to this." He continued that he is "really grateful to Georgia College ... for building the foundations of the young leader that I have turned out to be." "Once a Bobcat, always a Bobcat," Michael wrote, and he hopes to later pursue a doctorate at Harvard or Oxford.
 - d. **RURAL STUDIES INSTITUTE**

- a. **EARLY COLLEGE** Georgia College & State University renewed the MOU with Early College. Baldwin will be adding a 6th grade class as a pilot program for the 2025-2026 academic year.
 - b. **SACSCOC** Congratulations to all members of the GCSU campus community for a highly successful 10-year reaffirmation with SACSCOC! The university passed all of the accreditation standards and the QEP without any recommendations and no requests for additional or follow-up reporting. As President Cox noted, that is the best possible outcome for the reaccreditation process and speaks directly to the hard work, dedication, and collaborative teamwork across the entire university. While these results are preliminary, they are very favorable and indicate our successful reaccreditation which will be formally announced at the SACSCOC Annual Meeting in December 2024, in Austin, Texas.
8. **CURRICULUM**
- a. **AI CERTIFICATE** The College of Business and Technology will launch an AI Certificate.
 - b. **BS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION** The College of Education is working with the School of Continuing and Professional Studies to develop an adult degree completion program (B.S in Special Education) that focuses on paraprofessional.
9. **FACULTY**
- a. **ADMINISTRATOR AND FACULTY SEARCHES**
 - i. **The College of Business and Technology** is currently searching for a lecturer in business law and a tenure-track assistant professor in management information systems. The college is in the late stages of completing searches for a tenure-track in business communications and a lecturer in data science.
 - ii. **The College of Education** is also searching for a limited term lecturer in Special Education and a limited term lecturer in Elementary Education.
 - b. **FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**
 - i. **Faculty Research Small Grant** Congratulations to the recipients of the Faculty Research Small Grant program (Round II=\$37,373). The program is funded by the Office of the Provost:
 1. Tsu-Ming Chiang, Psychological Science, *Understanding the Effects of COVID-19 on Young Children's Social-Emotional Development to Build Tools for Emotional Coaching*, \$2,786.10
 2. Dominic DeSantis, Biological and Environmental Sciences, *Effects of roadways on seasonal movement strategies and mate location success in an imperiled pit viper (Crotalus horridus)*, \$4,970.
 3. Susmita Sadhu, Mathematics, *Early warning signals of tipping in multispecies ecological models*, \$5,000.
 4. Ashley Taylor, Psychological Science, *Enhancing Social-Emotional Learning in Rural Classrooms: A Teacher-Centered Needs Analysis*, \$5,000.
 5. Amy Johnson, Government & Sociology, *Appalachian Anthropocene: Wayfinding with Women in Northwest Georgia*, \$4,915.
 6. Jamie Downing, Communication, *Mapping and Making Sense of Munich's Dispersed WWII Monuments*, \$2,222.

7. Katie Simon, English, *Driving While Black: Mobility, Travel, and Violence in Flannery O'Connor's "A Good Man is Hard to Find,"* \$3,150.
 8. Kystal Canady and Joyce Norris-Taylor, Nursing, *Primary Prevention of Incivility in Nursing Students*, \$580.
 9. Matthew Forrest, Art, *Dyslexia resource support K-12*, \$4,750.
 10. Kevin Hunt, Health and Human Performance, *Virtual Service-Learning Study Abroad: Medical Electives Belize*, \$4,000.
- c. **STUDENT UNIVERSITY-RELATED EXCUSED ABSENCE FORM** If students are participating in a university sponsored event (i.e. class trip, athletics, RSO activity), the faculty mentor or instructor can fill out a [Student University-Related Excused Absence](#) form for the group. The form *requests* that each student's professors excuse them from class, with the understanding that the work will be made up. Absences should be kept to a minimum. Absences requested for RSO activities require additional approval by Student Life, who will ensure each student is in good academic standing before approving.
10. **CALENDAR**
- a. **CONVOCAATION** Please reserve the afternoon of August 23, 2024, to welcome the Class of 2028 during Convocation. The program will begin with a College Open House (2:30-3:15pm); Convocation (4:00-5:00pm); and Faculty and New Student Picnic (5:00-7:00pm). *GC Reads* will be held on August 16, 2024 (1:00-4:00pm). The First Year Convocation Organizing Committee will be meeting in the next few months as we focus on welcoming and supporting the onboarding of our new students.
 - b. **GCSU RESEARCH DAY 2024** will take place on March 27th. Please consider this event to serve as an alternative teaching day since there will be research activities happening throughout our campus. This year's Research Day looks to have more student participation than last year.
 - c. **SUMMER ORIENTATION** for first year students who will be joining the Bobcat nation opened on March 2nd. There are currently over 200 students already registered across the six summer orientations. Freshman orientation dates are June 4, 6, 11, 13 and July 23 and 25.
11. **QUESTIONS** Provost Spirou invited questions from the floor.
- a. **Question:** Is the purpose of CTL's Liberal Arts Skills in the Professions and Individual Well-Being messaging parties outside the university, or is it designed to teach faculty how to integrate liberal arts skills into their courses?
 - b. **Response** (a distillation – not a transcript – of the responses provided orally by Provost Spirou): Both, it is meant to support students by training faculty to be more intentional about their courses and contribute to their professional development. The intended outcome is that students are able to articulate how we're supporting our public liberal arts mission.
 - c. **Response** (President Cox): We need to articulate why we need resources when talking with Regents and parents about our small class sizes and our liberal arts skills such as research, communication, and problem solving. The program will help students articulate what they've learned from their liberal arts education.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE (APC)** — JOHN SWINTON, VICE-CHAIR, FOR ANDREW ALLEN, CHAIR

Officers: Chair Andrew Allen, Vice-Chair John Swinton, Secretary Robert Stewart

- a. **SYLLABUS STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION** At the request of DEIPC, the Academic Policy Committee reviewed the proposed suggested syllabus statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at our March 1st meeting. The Academic Policy Committee did not feel that it was in our purview to co-sponsor the proposed suggested syllabus statement, but we felt that its language was appropriate, so long as it was included on a separate webpage for suggested syllabus statements, rather than the page for required syllabus statements.
2. **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION POLICY COMMITTEE (DEIPC)** — JAMES WELBORN, CHAIR

Officers: Chair James Welborn, Vice-Chair Nadirah Mayweather, Secretary Natalie Toomey

- a. **RECOMMENDED SYLLABUS STATEMENT** Following feedback from APC and SAGC, and pending student feedback from SGA, committee voted (via email exchange) to postpone putting forth motion approved at March 01 committee meeting (see below) to University Sensate until April 26th to allow for further review, discussion, and revision at April 5th DEIPC meeting, especially as it relates to suggestions for procedural implementation.
 - i. **Georgia College & State University Optional Syllabus Statement on Inclusive Excellence**
 - ii. *The following optional syllabus statement is designed to serve as a template for faculty seeking to specifically convey their course policies concerning issues inclusive excellence to students. Faculty are encouraged to incorporate this statement into course syllabi and to revise and adapt the template to suit specific course needs, but incorporation of this syllabus statement is not required.*
 - iii. *Georgia College & State University recognizes that inclusion and belonging are essential to our core values of reason, respect, and responsibility. We strive to achieve inclusive excellence in the composition of our community, our educational programs, university policies, research and scholarship, campus life, employment practices, co-curricular activities, and community outreach. A welcoming and inclusive learning environment that fosters a sense of belonging by valuing diversity of intellectual thought, experiences, and identifications is essential. Further information and support are available through the Office of Inclusive Excellence located in 108 Parks Hall at 478-445-4233 or oiie@gcsu.edu.*
- b. **POLICY REVIEW**
 - i. Rhonda Fowler, GCSU Chief Auditor, joined the committee to provide insight and guidance into development of consistent policy review procedures for committee use moving forward. Discussion revolved around a document titled “Equity Lens for Policy Review” developed in the Minnesota State University system by a former colleague of Dr. Michael Snowden, Chief Diversity Officer, Office of Inclusive Excellence, who brought the document before the committee for guidance in developing consistent policy review procedures. Committee will have

the document's primary author Dr. Clyde Wilson Pickett, now of the University of Pittsburgh, join us for further discussion and guidance on this issue at the April meeting.

- ii. Carol Ward (GCSU Human Resources) solicited the committee's assistance in reviewing various policy procedures on campus as her office conducts a comprehensive campus policy review in connection with recent BOR policies related to issues of academic freedom and freedom of expression. The committee agree to aid her office as needed out of session in order to meet the April 1 deadline for completion of said campus review.

3. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF UNIVERSITY SENATE (ECUS)** — **ROB SUMOWSKI, CHAIR**
Officers: Chair Rob Sumowski, Vice-Chair Catherine Fowler, Secretary Alex Blazer

a. **PRESIDING OFFICER ACTIVITIES**

i. **Standing Committees**

- ii. I have been in touch with Standing Committee Chairs via phone and email as needed.

iii. **System-Wide or Tier/Sector Meeting Attendance**

iv. SACSCOC

- v. On February 28, I met with the SACSCOC visiting team to discuss the QEP as part of the SACSCOC On-Site Reaffirmation Visit.USGFC

vi. USGFC

- vii. On February 16, 2024, I spoke with the USGFC president Michelle Brattain about USGFC's Spring retreat. The Spring meeting is currently in the planning process. I will update ECUS and the Senate once more information is available from USGFC.

- viii. On March 8, 2024, I attended a USGFC Check-In Teams meeting, where the representatives from our sister USG institutions discussed S.B. 390 (the library bill) and the USG's approach for addressing low-enrollment degree programs.

- ix. The USGFC Spring Meeting will be held at Savannah State University on April 18-19, 2024. I will have more information following that meeting.

- b. **BYLAWS REVISION** A proposed By-Laws revision creating a process for replacing officers who resign or are unable to complete their terms was passed by ECUS on March 1, became an ECUS motion for presentation at the March 15 Senate meeting, and will be eligible for a Senate vote at the final 2023-2024 Senate meeting at 2 pm on April 26, 2024. **Motion Number [2324.ECUS.001B](#)**: Proposed Revisions to University Senate Bylaws (Officer Vacancies). Vote to be taken during the 2 pm meeting on April 26, 2024.

- c. **2024-2025 GOVERNANCE CALENDAR** is in progress.

- d. **THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR** books were purchased as per ECUS' vote on February 9, 2024 for \$1,084.23.

- e. **UNIVERSITY SENATE BUDGET AND FOUNDATION UPDATES**, FY 2024 (as of February 28, 2024)

- i. 1048105 University Senate (state account) balance: \$3,682.77 as per Fina Endere

- ii. F15320 University Senate (Foundation) account balance: \$583.01 as per Ashley Banks

- f. **SUBCOMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS**

- i. On March 1, ECUS-SCC (SCoN) approved a plan for handling March SCoN duties, which include the dissemination of committee preference surveys and committee assignments for the 2024-2025 Senate. Committee preference surveys went out on March 12.
 - ii. On March 1, ECUS-SCC (SCoN) also approved a plan to request officer nominations for remaining term, of the 2023-2024 POE, 2024-2025 POE, and 2024-2025 Secretary. Officer nominations were requested on the committee preference surveys that went out on March 12.
 - b. **RESEARCH MISCONDUCT POLICY** As requested during the February 23, 2024 Senate meeting, the Research Misconduct policy with track changes was disseminated to the Senate via email and returned as an information item on the March 15, 2024 Senate agenda.
 - c. **THE COURSE FEE REVIEW COMMITTEE** Meeting Summary from March 5, 2024 has been attached to Senate agenda. Thanks to John Swinton.
- 4. **SUBCOMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS (SCON) — ROB SUMOWSKI, ECUS CHAIR**
Officers: Chair Vacant, Secretary Alex Blazer
 - a. **2023-2024 SLATE OF NOMINEES**
 - i. A preference survey for a replacement 2023-2024 University Senate POE was sent to 2023-2024 Senators whose term is ending and who are not continuing on Senate.
 - ii. Based on survey results, we will identify a presiding officer elect nominee.
 - b. **2024-2025 SLATE OF NOMINEES**
 - i. A preference survey for the 2024-2025 University Senate Standing Committee Preference sent to Corps of Instruction 2024-2025 Non-Senators (Volunteers)
 - ii. A preference survey for 2024-2025 US Standing Comm. Preference, Univ. Comm. Preference, Officer Nomination Survey sent to 2024-2025 Elected Faculty Senators
 - iii. Based on survey results, we will identify a presiding officer elect nominee, a secretary nominee, and a parliamentarian.
 - iv. We are working with Staff Council and SGA regarding staff and student senators and appointees.
 - v. We are working with President Cox regarding her presidential appointees for next year and other administrators for their committee designees.
 - vi. We will populate the standing committees and prepare the slate of nominees by April 5.
 - c. **2024 GOVERNANCE RETREAT** is scheduled for Monday, August 12.
- 5. **FACULTY AFFAIRS POLICY COMMITTEE (FAPC) — HOLLY CROFT, SECRETARY FOR STEPHANIE JETT, CHAIR**
Officers: Chair Stephanie Jett, Vice-Chair Peter Rosado, Secretary Holly Croft
 - a. **MEETING** FAPC had a meeting scheduled for 1 Mar 2024 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.
 - i. **No Report** FAPC had no business to conduct, so its meeting was cancelled.
- 6. **RESOURCES, PLANNING, AND INSTITUTIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE (RPIPC) — TALECIA WARREN, SECRETARY FOR BRAD FOWLER, CHAIR**
Officers: Chair Brad Fowler, Vice-Chair Rodica Cazacu, Secretary Talecia Warren

- a. **MEETING CANCELLED** RPIPC had a meeting scheduled for 1 Mar 2024 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. RPIPC had no business to conduct, so its meeting was cancelled.
 - b. **AMOROUS RELATIONSHIP POLICY** We continue our work with FAPC to create Amorous Relationship Policy Procedures. The chairs of RPIPC and FAPC are working in conjunction with Carol Ward from HR to better understand the enforcement of the USG policy before finishing the procedures.
 - c. **SUMMER UTILITIES** Brad Fowler updated the committee through email on the summer utility items created in the February meeting. The updates are as follows:
 - i. Brad met with the Chair of the Sustainability Council about summer utility checklists for building managers to reduce energy usage in faculty offices and workspaces. The Sustainability Council agreed to take on the checklist project
 - ii. Brad reached out to Frank Baugh about conducting a campus utility audit. Frank would like to do a utility audit but does not have the staff to provide a project manager for the project. RPIPC is going to consult with the Sustainability Council on their ability to lead the audit or recommend a continuance of the item for next year's RPIPC
7. **STUDENT AFFAIRS POLICY COMMITTEE (SAPC)** — **JOYCE NORRIS-TAYLOR, CHAIR**
Officers: Chair Joyce Norris-Taylor, Vice-Chair Amy Pinney, Secretary Kell Carpenter
- a. **OFFICER ELECTION** SAPC met via email and elected Amy Pinney as vice chair.
 - b. **RECOMMENDED SYLLABUS STATEMENT** We reviewed the proposed syllabus statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion from DEIPC. We find it well written and approve it to be submitted to the University Senate for discussion.
8. **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SGA)** — **CONNOR HILLY, PRESIDENT**
Officers: President Connor Hilly, Vice President Axl Hawkins, Secretary Charlotte Middlebrooks, Treasurer Serena Semere
- a. **NEW ORGANIZATIONS**
 - i. Nearly 15 new organizations since the beginning of the school year!
 - 1. Philosophy Club
 - 2. Knitting Club
 - 3. LEGO Appreciation Club
 - b. **JUDICIAL BOARD**
 - i. Attorney General Spirou has been working with the conduct office to reinvigorate our board.
 - ii. Justices are being trained on board procedures and are helping conduct fact-finding interviews.
 - c. **OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**
 - i. In the process of creating/maintaining a OneDrive record of all bills/resolutions.
 - d. **CABINET**
 - i. Director of LGBTQ Affairs is working on setting up a pride event.
 - ii. Surgeon General is working to help nursing students with their cohorts and is looking to create a student-led program.
 - e. **EXECUTIVE BOARD**
 - i. Our executive board is working hard to ensure that the next group of student leaders are well prepared.
 - ii. Transition packets

- 1. Fell out of practice after COVID-19
- iii. Digitized record of all SGA documents (see “Office of the Secretary”)
- iv. We are also continuing to work with University Committees.
- f. **OFFICE OF THE TREASURER & ALUMNI BOARD**
 - i. Nearly \$10,000 given to students to travel to conferences or to represent the university at competitive events.
 - ii. Helped fund \$11,000 to cover uniforms, music, and other supplies for the cheer team.
 - iii. We gave another \$11,000 to organizations for traveling including our dance team (Sassy Cats) and our nationally successful flag team.
- g. **SENATE**
 - i. Our senators have passed resolutions and promoted policy that has created change across campus.
 - ii. Support for the Serenity Den, located on the first floor of Magnolia
 - iii. Lowered library printing costs from \$0.25 per page to \$0.15 per page
 - iv. Supported Campus Corner
 - v. Passed bills for the following organizations:
 - 1. International Club
 - 2. Geography Club
 - 3. Women’s Rugby
 - 4. Women in Technology
 - 5. Pre-Dental Club
 - 6. Pre-Med Club
 - 7. Asian Student Alliance
 - 8. Black Student Alliance
 - vi. Additionally, senators have:
 - 1. Supported and staffed International Fest.
 - 2. Organized and managed Homecoming/SGA Exec Elections
- h. **OTHER NEWS**
 - i. Students in Dr. Harleman’s Public Policy class have submitted an ordinance allowing for public art on brick buildings in Milledgeville.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

- 1. **UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE (UCC) UPDATE** — LYNDALL MUSCHELL, CHAIR
 - a. **NO REPORT**
- 2. **GCSU POLICY ON RESEARCH MISCONDUCT REVISION**
 - a. **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**
- 3. **COURSE FEE REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY**
 - a. **SUPPORTING DOCUMENT**

OPEN DISCUSSION Rob Sumowski invited open discussion from the floor. There was none.

ADJOURN

1. **ATTENDANCE AND THE SIGN-IN SHEET** Rob Sumowski requested that each individual present at the meeting sign the university senator attendance sheet or guest sign-in sheet on their way out if they hadn't already signed in.
2. **NEXT UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING** is scheduled for Friday, 26 Apr 2024 at 2:00 p.m. in Arts & Sciences 272. The 2024-2025 University Senate organizational meeting is scheduled for Friday, 26 Apr 2024 at 3:30 p.m. in Arts & Sciences 272.
3. **MOTION TO ADJOURN** As there was no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. There are four supporting documents.
 - a. *Supporting_Course_Fee_Review_Committee_2024-03-05.pdf* Meeting summary in support of the Announcement/Information Item.
 - b. *Supporting_GCSU_Research_Misconduct_Policy_Revised_2022-03-22.pdf* Policy document in support of the Announcement/Information Item.
 - c. *Supporting_GCSU_Research_Misconduct_Policy_Revised_2023-12-07.pdf* Policy document in support of the Announcement/Information Item.
 - d. *Supporting_GCSU_Research_Misconduct_Policy_ORI_Review.pdf* Review document in support of the Announcement/Information Item.