

Georgia College & State University Academic Policy Committee

Annual Report 2025-2026

Committee Name: The Academic Policy Committee

Academic Year: 2025-2026

Committee Charge:

- **V.Section2.C.1.a. *Membership.*** The Academic Policy Committee shall have no fewer than eleven (11) and no more than thirteen (13) members distributed as follows: no fewer than nine (9) and no more than eleven (11) members selected from the Corps of Instruction faculty, at least seven (7) of whom are elected faculty senators, one (1) member who is the Chief Academic Officer or an individual appointed by the Chief Academic Officer to serve as a designee in compliance with V.Section2.C, and one (1) member appointed by the University President in compliance with II.Section1.A.5.
- **V.Section2.C.1.b. *Scope.*** The Academic Policy Committee shall review and recommend for or against policy relating to undergraduate and graduate education matters that have broad impact or implication to the university as a whole, which includes, but is not limited to, policies relating to grading, scholastic probation and honors, academic appeals, academic standing, standards for admission, general university degree requirements, educational processes, academic calendar, academic assessment, and academic ceremonies. This committee also provides advice, as appropriate, on academic procedural matters at the institution which includes, but is not limited to, academic assessment and those matters relating to the educational process.

Committee Calendar:

August 11, 2025 (Governance Retreat)

September 5, 2025

October 3, 2025

October 31, 2025

January 9, 2026 (cancelled due to lack of discussion items)

February 13, 2026

March 6, 2026

April 3, 2026 (cancelled due to lack of discussion items)

Executive Summary:

Topics of discussion:

- GC1Y & GC2Y Questions
- Academic Feedback
- Regular and Substantive Feedback
- Course Withdrawal

Committee Membership and Record of Attendance:

Key: P=Present, R=Regrets, A=Absent, E=Committee business transacted via electronically, C=Meeting canceled due to lack of discussion items

Member Name	Position	Senate Member	September 5	October 3	October 31	January 9	February 13	March 6	April 3
Andrew J. Allen	Chair	Yes	P	P	P	C	P	R	C
Nathan Bedsole	Vice-Chair	No	P	P	P	C	P	P	C
Mikkel Christensen		Yes	P	R	P	C	P	A	C
Angela Criscoe		Yes	P	P	P	C	P	R	C
Helen Dupree		Yes	P	R	P	C	P	R	C
Dana Gorzelany-Mostak		No	P	P	P	C	P	P	C
Hasitha Mahabaduge		Yes	P	P	P	C	P	R	C

Olha Osobov		Yes	P	R	R	C	R	P	C
Arban Sengupta		Yes	P	P	P	C	P	P	C
John Marshall Smith		Yes	P	A	P	C	P	P	C
John Swinton		Yes	P	P	P	C	P	P	C
Simplice tchamna-Kouna		No	P	A	A	C	A	P	C
Eryn Viscarra	Secretary	Yes	P	P	P	C	P	P	C

Motions brought to the Senate floor:

Motion Number: 2526.APC.001.P

Source Committee: Academic Policy Committee

Motion Status: Awaiting Action by University President

Motion Type: Policy Recommendation

Motion Text: “At the beginning of each course, faculty must clearly define for students the basis on which grades will be determined through written notification in the syllabus. In addition, they must provide timely academic feedback as the course progresses. This could include the following:

1. Prior to midpoint of the total grading period, all assigned and “turned in” graded class assignments and examinations should be graded and available to the student.
2. The instructor and student should make every effort to be available during instructor’s office hours for discussion of the student’s academic standing prior to the midpoint of the total grading period (particularly for classes that use subjective grading).”

Reason for the Policy: Align with USG; provide for timely, useful feedback

The Academic Policy Committee moved to advance the motion to the University Senate on March 6, 2026.

Motion Number: 2526.APC.002.P

Source Committee: Academic Policy Committee

Motion Status: Motion Withdrawn at Request of University Provost

Motion Type: Policy Recommendation

Motion Text: “A student may drop courses from their schedule with no penalty through the last day to drop without penalty as published in the Academic Calendar for each term or part of term. Students with an advisor hold must obtain approval from their academic advisor to drop a class; no additional approvals are required during this period. Courses dropped during this period do not receive a W grade, do not count in the student’s attempted hours and do not appear on the academic transcript. Students will not be charged tuition and fees for courses dropped during this period as long as they remain enrolled in other courses for that term or part of term.

After the last day to drop a course with no fee penalty and with no W, but on or before the last day of class of each term or part of term, students may drop courses online via [MyGCSU/PAWS](#) or by submitting an [Add/Drop Card \(Course Change Card\)](#) to the Registrar’s Office. Approval of the academic advisor (if an advisor hold exists) is required. No other approvals are required. Students will receive a W grade for courses dropped during this time period. Courses dropped during this time will count in the student’s attempted hours, which will affect the student’s financial aid and HOPE eligibility. They will also appear on the academic transcript. No refunds will be issued for individual courses dropped during this period. Students may not drop courses during this period if they have previously been assigned a grade of F for excessive absences by their instructor or have been assigned an F for disciplinary reasons.”

Reason for the Policy: To reduce burden on undergraduate decision-making re: drop/add.

The Academic Policy Committee moved to advance the motion to the University Senate on March 6, 2026.

Motion Number: 2526.APC.003.P

Source Committee: Academic Policy Committee

Motion Status: Awaiting Action by University President

Motion Type: Policy Recommendation

Motion Text: “Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI)

The U.S. Department of Education mandates that all online courses and programs include regular and substantive interaction between students and their instructors.

Regular Interaction:

In learning environments of any kind, regular and substantive interactions must be:

- With an instructor as defined by the institution’s accreditor.
- Initiated by the instructor.
- Scheduled and predictable.
- Academic in nature and relevant to the course

Substantive Interaction:

Substantive interaction is defined as engaging students in teaching, learning, and assessment, and must include at least two of the following:

- Provide direct instruction
- Assessing or providing feedback on a student’s coursework
- Providing information or responding to questions about the content of a course or competency
- Facilitating a group discussion regarding the content of a course or competency”

Reason for the Policy: Align with USG; provide for excellence in online instruction

The Academic Policy Committee moved to advance the motion to the University Senate on March 6, 2026.

Other Significant Deliberation (Non-Motions):

GC1Y & GC2Y fourth hour usage

Ad hoc committees and other groups:

None

Committee Reflections:

What worked well: The committee was efficient in its use of time. Its deliberations were collegial and constructive. The committee was open to consider ideas and motions from all sources at the University.

What could use improvement: Upper administration should be encouraged in the future to utilize the expertise of Senate committees and involve it in the policy-making process without devolving the responsibilities of administrators (the formulation of procedure) to rank and file professors.

Committee Recommendations:

Are there any issues that should be considered by this committee the following year? After further reflection by the University Provost, perhaps the committee should revisit motion 2526.APC.002.P.

Are there any issues that this year's committee was unable to complete its work on? Motion 2526.APC.002.P (see above): More feedback from the University Provost is required.

Do any of this year's committee actions require follow-up? (i.e. a policy was drafted, but there was a recommendation for a review of the policy during the following year.) No

Recommendations on calendar (meeting times, outline items that you expect would be considered annually) None

Recommend items for consideration at the governance retreat: None

Appendix: Committee Operating Procedures

Robert's Rules of Order shall be utilized for all committee meetings. The Academic Policy Committee is composed of 13 members, so 7 members must be present at any meeting to establish a quorum to conduct committee business. Any agenda items must be presented to the committee no later than one week before the next scheduled meeting, barring emergencies. Meetings will begin on time and will proceed expeditiously, although the ability of all committee members to voice their opinions will be considered sacrosanct. On the extremely rare occasions that a meeting must exceed its scheduled time, the committee must choose to extend the meeting time by majority vote. New items will only be considered by the committee through the consensus of the committee. Whenever possible, the committee will encourage guests to attend meetings to clarify information related to committee discussions.

The standing operating procedures of the Academic Policy Committee permit for electronic discussion of items if achieving and maintaining a quorum becomes difficult. In addition, in special cases, the committee may consider and vote on items via email.