

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

MEETING DATE & TIME: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026, 3:30-4:45 P. M.

MEETING LOCATION: PARKS HALL 301

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS		“P” denotes Present, “A” denotes Absent, “R” denotes Regrets
P	Alex Blazer (CoAS, ECUS Secretary)	
R	Cathy Cox (University President)	
R	Nicolas Creel (CoBT, ECUS Chair Emerita)	
R	Holly Croft (Library, ECUS Member)	
P	Stephanie Jett (CoAS, ECUS Chair)	
P	Joyce Norris-Taylor (CoHS, ECUS Vice-Chair)	
P	Holley Roberts (Provost)	
P	Rob Sumowski (CoE, ECUS Chair Emerita)	
P	Andrew Allen (APC Chair)	
P	Hedy Fraunhofer (BIPC Chair)	
P	Jennifer Flory (FAPC Chair)	
P	Talecia Warren (RPIPC Chair)	
P	Amy Pinney (SAPC Chair)	

Legend

Highlighted text denotes follow-up.

Bold text denotes action or recommendation.

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm by Stephanie Jett (Chair).

II. Approval of Agenda: A Motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded. **The agenda was approved as circulated.**

III. Approval of Minutes: A draft of the 9 Jan 2026 minutes of the Executive Committee had been circulated to the meeting attendees via email. A Motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. **The minutes were approved.**

IV. Reports

University President — President Cathy Cox

1. **Regrets, No Report** As President Cox had extended *Regrets* and was unable to attend this meeting, there was no President’s Report.

University Provost — Provost Holley Roberts

1. **Mission Statement** The new Mission Statement has been approved by the Board of Regents at their meeting on February 10, 2026 and it will go into effect on March 1, 2026.

2. **Graduate Education Task Force** established and charged on February 13, 2026.
3. **Public Syllabi** Policy update.
4. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**
 - a. **Graduate Education Task Force**
 - i. Comment: Our mission is a public liberal arts college; and, for me, that involves ethics. I understand the pressures for GCSU to survive as an institution and brand, but I'm concerned about creating a graduate program regarding AI training that neglects ethical questions of environmental impact. What better school than ours to balance AI and ethics.
 - ii. Comment (Provost): You're getting at exactly what we want to do. The Masters of Applied AI degree includes the ethics of AI use. We want to ensure that our graduate programs fits our institutional mission, and we are intentionally developing curriculum.

Academic Policy Committee (APC) — Chair Andrew Allen

1. **Academic Feedback Policy** APC discussed a revision of the Academic Feedback Policy. A request was made in the committee to query wording before a final decision was made on adopting a new policy.
2. **Distance Education Policy: Regular and Substantive Feedback** The committee reviewed two draft policy revisions regarding RSI. The committee requested policy examples from peer institutions before a final decision on the policy.
3. **Course Withdrawal Policy** APC informally approved the committee chair to begin discussions with the University Registrar on a formal course withdrawal policy.
4. **BA/BA Language Requirement** Following an inquiry from a non-committee faculty member, the committee held a brief discussion on the university's foreign language requirement for BA degrees.
5. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**
 - a. **Course Withdrawal Policy**
 - i. Comment: The limit of five withdrawals policy, which was created by the Academic Governance Committee, addressed the issue of students adding extra classes and withdrawing them; this policy was created before the add/drop period was created to reduce the need for withdrawals.
 - ii. Question: How many students are affected by the 5 W rule? Does this affect their GPAs and thus the Hope Scholarship?
 - iii. Question: If we removed the W, would the WF also be discontinued?
 - iv. Answer: No.

Belonging and Inclusion Policy Committee (BIPC) — Chair Hedy Fraunhofer

1. **Disability Services** During the February 13 meeting, BIPC hosted David Anderson and Rebecca Miles of the Student Disability Resource Center, as well as Riley Kate Miller, SGA Attorney General, as guests.
 - a. **Faculty and Staff Training** Mr. Anderson and Ms. Miles recommended training of GCSU faculty and staff with the help of "Vector" modules (Vector is the

provider) already purchased by the University. In the ECUS-SCC meeting, Provost Roberts suggested that the SDRC be in charge of rolling out this initiative to academic departments and staff offices in consultation with Interim Dean of Students Jennifer Graham's office. BIPC recommends that units choose a certain, limited number of modules most relevant to the department's or office's work to watch and discuss in department or unit meetings. If this initiative is successful, more modules could be chosen at a later point.

- b. **Course Accommodations** SGA Attorney Riley Kate Miller shared some concerns from students related to disability accommodations in academic courses. David Anderson and Rebecca Miles helped clarify faculty obligations regarding student learning accommodations. Specifically, in response to faculty concerns related to the recording of classes, Ms. Miles advised that all students are required to sign a statement that they will not share the recordings collected through their accommodations. For students without these specific accommodations, the USG does not allow the recording of classes.
 - c. **ADA Accessibility** Concerning ADA/physical accessibility of campus buildings, Mr. Anderson referenced the interactive campus map available at <https://libweb.gcsu.edu/campusbird/> that indicates this information.
2. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**
- a. **Faculty and Staff Training**
 - i. Comment: CTL can also offer training and a certificate.
 - b. **Course Accommodations**
 - i. Comment (BIPC Chair): After conducting a policy review across campus, belonging and inclusion policy appears limited to students and does not cover faculty and staff. If this is the case, then this committee no longer appears to be necessary.

Executive Committee of University Senate (ECUS) — Chair Stephanie Jett

1. **Academic Dishonesty and Bobcat Code Alignment** ECUS requests APC to review the Academic Dishonesty Policy and the Bobcat Code to ensure the two documents are in alignment.
2. **Classical Learning Test** can be used alongside the ACT and SAT for undergraduate admission. Legislation to include the CLT for the Hope Scholarship is moving forward in the legislature.
3. **University Senate Budget and Foundation Updates**
 - a. State Account: \$3,977. 00
 - b. Foundation Account: \$721. 67
 - c. Donation Account: \$64. 17
4. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**
 - a. **Academic Dishonesty and Bobcat Code Alignment**
 - i. Question: If instructors find that students have plagiarized, then they have to report those students, correct?
 - ii. Answer: Yes, the Bobcat Codes requires instructors to report plagiarism, but the Academic Dishonesty Policy does not.

- iii. Comment: Since the Bobcat Code covers all student behavior and the Academic Dishonesty Policy covers only student academic behavior, perhaps the Bobcat Code could delete the academic processes and replace them with a link to the Academic Dishonesty Policy.

Faculty Affairs Policy Committee (FAPC) — Chair Jennifer Flory

1. Working Group Updates

- a. **Professional Leave Crew Report** presented by Sabrina Hom. The Professional Leave Crew is reviewing Georgia College's professional leave policy with attention to alignment with USG policy, peer institution practices, and faculty feedback. Key discussion points included comparative data collection, policy alignment regarding return-to-work requirements, acceptable rationales for leave (including teaching enhancement and Scholarship of Teaching and Learning), and consideration of seniority in ranking leave applications. The group also identified the absence of formal evaluation criteria for leave proposals as an area for further review.
 - b. **Post-Tenure Review (PTR): Rewards and Recognition Crew** Report presented by Aric Wilhau. The PTR working group developed a preliminary list of potential rewards and recognition mechanisms associated with post-tenure review outcomes, including merit pay increases, waived parking fees, public recognition, and leadership opportunities. Feedback from Associate Provost Mandy Jarriel will be sought before sharing recommendations with the full committee.
 - c. **Faculty Workload Crew** Report presented by Jennifer Flory. Faculty workload data has been collected from all colleges (except the library). The working group plans to continue analysis as further information becomes available.
2. **Additional Discussion and Emerging Issues** The committee discussed access to a change log for the Policy and Procedures Manual to better track policy revisions. Lecturer promotion guidelines were also reviewed, confirming six years in rank as the standard eligibility requirement, with promotion possible after three years under exceptional circumstances per BOR policy.
3. **Action Items and Next Steps**
- a. Continue faculty workload data collection across all units.
 - b. Gather additional faculty feedback regarding seniority in professional leave decisions.
 - c. Consult with Academic Affairs on PTR rewards and access to a PPPM change log.
 - d. Tentative March agenda item: review of senior lecturer promotion exceptions.
4. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**
- a. **Working Group Updates: Professional Leave Crew Report**
 - i. Question: USG policy states the professional leave can only be used for scholarly activity and professional development. Can GCSU policy provide more examples?
 - ii. Question: Is professional development within the department included?
 - iii. Answer: Curriculum development does not count as professional development unless it carries a scholarship component.

- iv. Question: What is the difference between USG policy and GCSU policy?
- v. Answer (FAPC Chair): USG policy states that the faculty member must return to employment for one year after one semester of leave and two years for two semesters of leave while GCSU policy states a one year minimum.
- vi. Comment: Seniority is defined differently on the college level than the university level.
- b. **PPPM Updates**
 - i. Question: Does the PPPM have a change log?
 - ii. Answer (Provost): Recent practice is that Rhonda Griffin makes a note when the PPPM is changed.

Resources, Planning and Institutional Policy Committee (RPIPC) — Chair Talecia Warren

- 1. **Meeting** RIPC had a meeting scheduled for 13 Feb 2026 from 2:00 p. m. to 3:15 p. m.
 - a. **No Report** RPIPC had no business to conduct, so its meeting was cancelled.

Student Affairs Policy Committee (SAPC) — Chair Amy Pinney

- 1. **The Serenity Den** Our meeting was held at The Serenity Den, which I highly recommend. If you have not been, go.
- 2. **Wellness Day** Cara Smith discussed Wellness Day, 3/3/2026. It sounds like it's going to be awesome.
- 3. **Early Alert System** Then we heard from Amy Whatley about the Care Team and Early Alert System.
- 4. **QPR Training** We discussed QPR training and you can find more information here: <https://www.gcsu.edu/wellbeing/trainings>.
- 5. **Uwill Counseling Services** We then got some info on Uwill counseling services. Students can receive free teletherapy through our partner, Uwill. Go to <https://www.gcsu.edu/counseling> for the latest info on Uwill.
- 6. **SGA Update** We ended with an SGA update on the SGA Town Hall, which Serena will talk about.

Subcommittee on Nominations (SCoN) — Chair Joyce Norris-Taylor

- 1. **At-Large Senator** elections are ongoing with polls closing at 17:00 today. We have one nominee on the ballot, Robert Sumowski.

VI. Unfinished Business

- 1. There was no unfinished business.

VII. New Business

- 1. **Commission for Public Higher Education** The CPHE has requested comments regarding its draft evidentiary guidance. Does ECUS-SCC want to send comments to

Cara Smith? Should the Presiding Officer generate comments? Follow Up: Stephanie Jett will provide comments on the CPHE draft evidentiary guidance on behalf of the committee and University Senate.

2. **University System of Georgia Faculty Council (USGFC) Update** – Rob Sumowski, GCSU Representative

- a. **USG Salary Study** The USG is behind schedule on a salary study and in the process of hiring a consultant, with an expected study completion date of December 2026. There is no funding from the state legislature, but university presidents have the authority to reassign funds to implement study results.
- b. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**
 - i. Comment (Provost Roberts): GCSU has permission to close out our current study commenced in 2018.
 - ii. Comment: Some deans and chairs are purposely avoiding scoring 5s on the Likert Scale in Annual Faculty Performance Evaluations, which will affect good faculty from receiving the merit raises they deserve if merit raises are ever distributed.
- a. **ECUS-SCC Action** *A Motion to extend the meeting 15 minutes was made and seconded. The motion to extend the meeting was approved.*

3. **Steering of Items to Committees**

- a. Academic Dishonesty Policy and Bobcat Code Alignment was steered to APC.

4. **University Senate Agenda and Minutes Review**

- a. **Tentative Agenda 27 Feb 2026**
 - i. Motions
 1. None
 - ii. Reports: Administrative reports and committee reports will also be agenda items.
 - i. Supplemental Items of Business: None.
- b. **University Senate Minutes Review** *A Motion that the DRAFT minutes of the 23 Jan 2026 meeting of the 2025-2026 University Senate be circulated for university senator review was made and seconded. The motion to circulate the minutes was approved.*

VIII. Open Discussion

1. There was no open discussion.

IX. Next Meeting

1. **Calendar**

- a. University Senate Meeting – Friday, February 27, 3:30 p. m. , Arts & Sciences 272
- b. ECUS Meeting – Friday, March 6, 2:30 p. m. , Parks Hall 301
- c. ECUS+SCC Meeting – Friday, March 6, 3:30 p. m. , Parks Hall 301
- d. University Senate Meeting – Friday, March 27, 3:30 p. m. , Arts & Sciences 272

2. **Tentative Agenda** Some of the deliberation today may have generated tentative agenda items for ECUS and ECUS-SCC meetings. Stephanie Jett will ensure that such items (if any) are added to the agenda of a future meeting of ECUS or ECUS-SCC.

X. Adjournment

1. As there was no further business to consider, a **Motion** to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. **The motion to adjourn was approved and the meeting adjourned at 5:01 p. m.**

XI. Supporting Documents

1. There is one supporting document.
 - a. *Supporting_ECUSReport_February2026Exhibit. pdf* Admissions Requirements for Programs Leading to an Associate or Baccalaureate Degree mentioned in the ECUS Report.
 - b. *Supporting_ECUSReport_HandbookAdmissionRequirementsUpdates_2026-02-09. pdf* Impacted Academic & Student Affairs Handbook Section Admissions Requirements mentioned in the ECUS Report.
 - c. *Supporting_ECUSReport_USGPolicyAnnouncement. pdf* Admissions Requirements for Programs Leading to an Associate or Baccalaureate Degree mentioned in the ECUS Report.
 - d. *Supporting_NewBusiness_CPHEDraftEvidentiaryGuidanceRequestforComments_2026-02-04. pdf* CPHE Request for Comments Regarding Draft Evidentiary Guidance mentioned in New Business.

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

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

COMMITTEE OFFICERS: STEPHANIE JETT (CHAIR), JOYCE NORRIS-TAYLOR (VICE-CHAIR), ALEX
BLAZER (SECRETARY)

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2025-2026

AGGREGATE MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR:
“P” denotes Present, “R” denotes Regrets, “A” denotes Absent

Acronyms		EFS = Elected Faculty Senator CoAS = College of Arts and Sciences; CoB = College of Business; CoE = College of Education; CoHS = College of Health Sciences								
Meeting Dates	9/5	10/3	10/31	1/9	2/13	3/6	4/3	P	R	A
Alex Blazer <i>EFS, CoAS ECUS Secretary</i>	P	P	P	P	P			5	0	0
Cathy Cox <i>University President</i>	R	R	R	R	R			0	5	0
Nicholas Creel <i>EFS, CoBT ECUS Chair Emerita</i>	R	R	P	P	R			2	3	0
Holly Croft <i>EFS, Library ECUS Member</i>	R	P	P	P	R			3	2	0
Stephanie Jett <i>EFS, CoAS ECUS Chair</i>	P	P	P	P	P			5	0	0
Joyce Norris-Taylor <i>EFS, CoHS ECUS Vice-Chair</i>	P	P	P	P	P			5	0	0
Holley Roberts <i>Provost</i>	P	P	R	P	P			4	1	0
Rob Sumowski <i>EFS, CoE ECUS Member</i>	P	R	R	P	P			3	2	0
Andrew Allen <i>APC Chair</i>	P	P	P	R	P			4	1	0
Hedy Fraunhofer <i>BIPC Chair</i>	P	P	P	P	P			5	0	0
Jennifer Flory <i>FAPC Chair</i>	P	P	P	P	P			5	0	0
Talecia Warren <i>RPIPC Chair</i>	P	P	P	P	P			5	0	0
Amy Pinney <i>SAPC Chair</i>	P	P	P	P	P			5	0	0