COMMITTEE NAME: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF UNIVERSITY SENATE (ECUS) WITH STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS (SCC)
MEETING DATE & TIME: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 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)
P	Brad Fowler (CoBT, ECUS Vice-Chair)
P	Stephanie Jett (CoAS, ECUS Chair Emerita)
P	Sara Jordan (Library, ECUS Member)
P	Joyce Norris-Taylor (CoHS, ECUS Chair)
P	Holley Roberts (Provost)
R	Rob Sumowski (CoE, ECUS Member)
P	Arnab Sengupta (APC Chair)
P	Hedy Fraunhofer (BIPC Chair)
P	Christine Mutiti (FAPC Chair)
P	Natalie Toomey (RPIPC Chair)
P	John Moore (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 3:31 pm by Joyce Norris-Taylor (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 4 Sep 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. **Gray DI** The Academic Leadership Team participated in a two-day workshop hosted by Gray DI to review the university's program portfolio.

2. **Post-Tenure Review Report** Academic Affairs recently provided data on the number of faculty who were reviewed through the Post Tenure process.
3. **Remote Learning** The USG is concerned about the number of online courses for undergraduates that are occurring within the system. GCSU has provided a report of our online offerings.
4. **AI Policy Implementation** Academic Leadership and Student Life met recently to discuss the academic dishonesty review process in light of the new AI policy. An additional concern that was noted is the use of technology assistance such as meta glasses and other wearable electronic devices that could impact the learning environment for both students and faculty. ECUS discussed where this concern should be routed for review to determine if additional policy language is needed.
5. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**
    a. **Gray DI**
        i. Question: The federal government recently changed its perspective on which graduate programs are worth funding; education and social work are being defunded. Is the USG going to use the workforce market data to inform their decisions on academic programs?
        ii. Answer (Provost): We need to show market need when proposing degrees.
        iii. Question: What are the criteria used for the market data?
        iv. Answer (Provost): Positions available, salary, people looking for jobs. There are a multitude of factors in the market data; salary is just one.
    b. **Baldwin County Property Tax**
        i. Question: Students are worrying about rent. Are parents raising questions about the new tax rate?
        ii. Answer (Provost): This will affect faculty recruitment when faculty come from states with lower state taxes and property taxes.

Academic Policy Committee (APC) — Chair Arnab Sengupta

1. **Withdrawal Policy** Today we were joined by Registrar Kay Anderson regarding starting a discussion on GCSU policy on extending the Withdrawal date. Kay provided us with a detailed background on USG BOR policy on Withdrawal date which currently allows for Withdrawal up to the 11th week of the semester. APC intends to discuss the possibility of updating policy language to align with this option as well as reassessing the need to have the WF grade. APC members will reach out to constituents to obtains feedback, present this discussion point during the next Senate meeting for broader discussion, and finally deliberate on amending policy language.
2. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**
    a. **Withdrawal Policy**
        i. Comment (Provost): There are ripple effects of the DFW. The Department of Math improved the DFW rate and due to the students not having to repeat courses it saved the equivalent of one full time faculty load.
        ii. Comment: There is a class of students who attend here while planning to transfer to UGA. They used to come here for one year, now they come for one semester, so the question is: "What is the percentage of students

leaving GCSU for non-UGA reasons and how do we address those reasons?"

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

1. **Positive Working and Learning Environment Policy** BIPC continues its work on a policy encouraging a Positive Working and Learning Environment/Anti-Bullying Policy.

Executive Committee of University Senate (ECUS) — Chair Joyce Norris-Taylor

1. **Policy on Policies** ECUS has approved the Policy on University Policies.
2. **Smart Devices** ECUS is currently reviewing information regarding a possible policy regarding smart devices such as Meta glasses and head phones. We are researching policies at other institutions. We need to consider both academic settings and campus-wide settings such as the Wellness and Recreation Center. Follow Up: Joyce-Norris Taylor will research policy at other universities.
3. **Academic Dishonesty Policy** The Academic Dishonesty Policy and Bobcat Code remain out of alignment, as faculty do not have to report plagiarism to Student Life according to the Academic Dishonesty Policy but faculty do have to report plagiarism according to the Bobcat Code. Follow Up: Joyce Norris-Taylor will invite Jennifer Graham and Desaree Hernandez to the next ECUS-SCC meeting to advise on steering.
4. **SENATE ACCOUNT UPDATES**
    a. Foundation account balance: $1099.98
    b. State budget account balance: $3,977.00
    c. Donation account balance: $64.17

Faculty Affairs Policy Committee (FAPC) — Chair Christine Mutiti

1. **Summer Service Expectations for 10-Month Contract Faculty**
    a. The committee discussed the absence of a University System of Georgia (USG) policy regarding summer service expectations for 10-month faculty appointments. Members were also unaware of any existing Georgia College & State University (GCSU) or Human Resources policy addressing this issue.
    b. The possibility of developing a policy was raised, and the committee discussed what such a policy might entail. A key point of consensus was that 10-month faculty should not face any negative consequences or repercussions if they decline requests to participate in service activities during the summer months, which fall outside their contract period.
    c. As an initial step, the committee suggested developing a simple policy statement that explicitly protects faculty members who choose not to engage in service during the summer and clarifies that such decisions will not adversely affect evaluations or other employment-related considerations.
2. **Professional Leave** The committee revisited the professional leave topic and confirmed that the relevant policy documents have been updated. The committee also discussed a concern that had been raised regarding the inclusion of a criterion related to "prior professional leaves taken" in the College of Arts & Sciences (COAS) professional leave

rubric. Although the matter falls outside the scope of the Faculty Affairs and Policy Committee (FAPC), it was confirmed that this criterion has already been removed from the COAS rubric. Given that the issue has been addressed, the committee determined that no further action by FAPC is necessary at this time.

3. **Updates from Associate Provost**
    a. To enhance communication and transparency between Academic Affairs and the faculty, the Associate Provost will hold regular meetings with the Chair FAPC. During the most recent meeting, the Associate Provost provided the FAPC Chair, Christine Mutiti, with an update on the revised post-tenure review process and forms.
    b. The updated forms now include Likert-scale evaluation measures, and the resulting scores will be entered annually into the USG reporting system each summer. Two post-tenure review forms have been developed: one for faculty who receive a positive review and a second form for cases requiring a performance improvement plan.
    c. The committee noted this update as part of its ongoing efforts to remain informed about policy and procedural changes affecting faculty evaluation and review processes.
4. **Principal Lecturer Rank at GCSU**
    a. A request was made to explore the possibility of introducing an additional level of promotion for full-time lecturers. Under this proposed structure, lecturers would have the opportunity to progress from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer and, ultimately, to Principal Lecturer.
    b. It was decided that the proposal should first be presented to ECUS to determine whether there is support for the concept before proceeding with the development of specific expectations and criteria associated with the additional rank.
5. **Policy on Lecturers** A discussion was held about whether Senior (or possibly Principal) Lecturers might have different expectations and opportunities on campus. Currently, Lecturers are not expected to engage in Service or Scholarship, although there appears to be some discrepancy regarding Service. With promotion and increased investment in the institution, what might changes in responsibilities and opportunities look like? For example, could promotion provide access to opportunities such as professional leave or course release? There was also a previous GCSU memo indicating that non-tenure-track faculty could not hold academic leadership positions on campus. Could this policy be reconsidered based on promotion or length of service?
6. **ECUS SCC Discussion**
    a. **Summer Service Expectations for 10-Month Contract Faculty**
        i. Comment (Provost): The Provost's Office will research USG policies related to summer service. We need to continue services over the summer. A possible solution might involve professional development compensation.
        ii. Comment: Perhaps the policy could recommend not asking untenured faculty members to serve during the summer.
        iii. Comment: For some departments, summer service is becoming the expectation.

iv. Comment: Given faculty evaluation weights of teaching, service, and research, the reality for faculty with heavy teaching and service obligations is that they conduct research over the summer.
v. Comment (Provost): The academic contract is based on percentage of time in a forty-hour work week.

b. **Principal Lecturer Rank at GCSU**
i. Comment (Provost): The former Provost examined the possibility of adding the Principal Lecturer rank. There was a concern about funding salary increases. There would need to be a discussion of criteria and funding. Let my office perform due diligence before the committee spends more time on the issue.
ii. Question: Could we reward promotion in rank with professional leave?
iii. Question: Lecturers are being hired with terminal degrees. Do we still require terminal degrees for hiring lecturers?
iv. Answer (Provost): Permanent Lecturers do need terminal degrees, Limited Term Lecturers are not required to have a terminal degree but they must meet SACS accreditation criteria.

7. **ECUS-SCC Action** A **Motion** *to extend the meeting 15 minutes* was made and seconded. **The motion was approved**.

Resources, Planning and Institutional Policy Committee (RPIPC) — Chair Natalie Toomey

1. **Testing Center & Proctor Availability**
   a. Enrollment Management reports adequate testing space and proctoring capacity, including finals week. Expansion planning is underway due to growing accommodation needs. Concerns may be localized within Nursing.
   b. Indicated that this has also been an issue in the department World Languages & Culture
2. **Room Reservations Policy**
   a. Internal Audit identified a finals-week scheduling gap in 25Live. Final exams are not automatically scheduled, producing a blackout period during which rooms may appear available but are not. Review of the Facility Use Policy may be warranted.
   b. The Facility Use Policy indicates there is a 25Live Governance and Implementation Committee responsible for annual review of this, but I cannot find record of this beyond a mention in ECUS Minutes from March 6, 2020.

      Creation Date: April 2018
      Revision Date: January 6, 2020
      Last Reviewed Date: February 4, 2020
      Next Review Date: December 2021
      Responsible Department: Facility Reservations
      Cabinet Approval Date: January 27, 2020
      Effective Date: July 1, 2019

   c. Committee will invite Keith Bergeron from Event Services & Operations and Kay Anderson (Registrar) to a future meeting for further conversation/Q&A on

Rooms/Facility use as well as who should review/revise the Facility Use Policy…?
   d. The matter of whether a formal escalation and decision pathway exists when disputes arise over specialized instructional spaces will also be included (shared with us from FAPC)
3. **AV/Presentation Technology Resources** Informational report provided by CIO Brian Watson. He and his team are brainstorming a variety of ideas, including:
   a. "Bootcamps" at the start of each semester for new faculty and anyone else who would like to attend.
   b. Will advertise availability to schedule 1:1 meetings with faculty to offer training in a specific classroom upon request.
   c. Install a "shortcut" to help ticket submission on classroom/meeting room computers - phone may be best options but this could be for less urgent matters.
   d. Implementing "Roaming Profiles"
   e. Air Media Server - have a few and looking for "volunteer" spaces/faculty to try these out and share impressions, etc.
4. **Campus Cats** TRAP/Alter-Vaccinate/Release for stray cat population on campus.
   a. Will recommend to contact other programs (GaTech, UGA) to see what they do.
   b. Will be taken over by student Pre-Vet Club who should contact Legal for any additional guidelines or requirements.
5. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**
   a. **Campus Cats**
      i. Question: Lake Oconee Rescue will trap and release for free. Do they need permission?
      ii. Comment: If it's a partnership between Pre-Vet Club and Lake Oconee Rescue, Pre-Vet Club should share their plans with the Office of Legal Affairs.

Student Affairs Policy Committee (SAPC) — Chair John Moore

1. **Student Relocation** Scholarship students relocated to Revelry Flats.
   a. Resolved.
   b. Emily Jarvis briefed us on the situation (had to do with melt/enrollment levels) discussed 8-person suites in future academic years and potential bus route changes if Revelry is used in future academic years.
2. **Academic Advising Turnover**
   a. Resolved
   b. Academic Advisor turnover is an issue, but discussion progressed to educating students on how to use degree works (themselves) and ensuring required courses for graduation are offered regularly/predictably so as to not hurt four year graduation rates.
3. **Greene St Crosswalk** by Adams Hall and reflecting pool potential safety improvements. Brian Freese created a report called "West Greene Street Crosswalk and Lighting Information Sheet.
4. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**
   a. **Greene St Crosswalk**

i. Comment (Provost): Send materials to me and Susan Allen.

Subcommittee on Nominations (SCoN) — Chair Brad Fowler

1. **Election Oversight Materials** The Corps of Instruction list, apportionment spreadsheet, and letters to the college deans and library director are being prepared.

VI. Unfinished Business

1. There was no unfinished business.

VII. New Business

1. **Election Oversight Materials** Brad Fowler will share the finalized Corps of Instruction list, Apportionment spreadsheet, and letters to the college deans and library director for electronic vote.
    a. **ECUS-SCC Action** Election Oversight Materials were **approved by electronic vote** on Thursday, October 15. The Corps of Instruction list was approved without administrators. 8 voted for the non-administrators list. 1 voted against the non-administrators list. 2 voted for the administrators-included list. The apportionment spreadsheet was approved with 9 votes in favor.
2. **Steering of Items to Committees**
    a. No items were steered to committees.
3. **University Senate Agenda and Minutes Review**
    a. **Tentative Agenda 16 Oct 2026**
        i. Motions
            1. ECUS: Policy on Policies
        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 18 Sep 2026 meeting of the 2026-2027 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, October 16, 3:30 p.m., Arts & Sciences 272
    b. ECUS Meeting – Friday, October 30, 2:00 p.m., Parks Hall 301
    c. ECUS+SCC Meeting – Friday, October 30, 3:30 p.m., Parks Hall 301

d. University Senate Meeting – Friday, November 13, 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. Joyce Norris-Taylor 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 5:04 p.m.**

XI. Supporting Documents

1. There are no supporting documents.

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: 2026-2027

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	9/4	10/2	10/30	1/8	2/12	3/5	4/2	P	R	A
Alex Blazer *EFS, CoAS* *ECUS Secretary*	P	P						2	0	0
Cathy Cox *University President*	R	R						0	2	0
Brad Fowler *EFS, CoBT* *ECUS Vice-Chair*	P	P						2	0	0
Stephanie Jett *EFS, CoAS* *ECUS Chair Emerita*	P	P						2	0	0
Sara Jordan *EFS, Library* *ECUS Member*	P	P						2	0	0
Joyce Norris-Taylor *EFS, CoHS* *ECUS Chair*	P	P						2	0	0
Holley Roberts *Provost*	P	P						2	0	0
Rob Sumowski *EFS, CoE* *ECUS Member*	P	R						1	1	0
Arnab Sengupta *APC Chair*	P	P						2	0	0
Hedy Fraunhofer *BIPC Chair*	P	P						2	0	0
Christine Mutiti *FAPC Chair*	P	P						2	0	0
Natalie Toomey *RPIPC Chair*	P	P						2	0	0
John Moore *SAPC Chair*	P	P						2	0	0