

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

MEETING DATE & TIME: FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2023, 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	Nicolas Creel (CoBT, ECUS Member)	
P	Jennifer Flory (CoAS, ECUS Chair)	
R	Catherine Fowler (CoHS, ECUS Chair Emerita)	
R	Lamonica Sanford (Library, ECUS Member)	
P	Costas Spirou (Provost)	
P	Rob Sumowski (CoE, ECUS Vice-Chair)	
P	Sarah Myers (APC Chair)	
P	Linda Bradley (DEIPC Chair)	
P	Sabrina Hom (FAPC Chair)	
R	Damian Francis (RPIPC Chair)	
P	Greg Glotzbecker (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 **3:30** pm by Jennifer Flory (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 3 Mar 2023 minutes of the Executive Committee with Standing Committee Chairs 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 Costas Spirou

1. **Colleges and Library**
 - a. **College of Education**

- i. **Dean Celebration** A celebration will be held to honor Dr. Joseph Peters' time as Dean of the College of Education on Wednesday, May 3rd from 3:30pm – 4:30pm.
 - ii. **Dean Search** The search for the Dean of the College of Education is nearing completion.
 - b. **College of Health Sciences**
 - i. **Dean Celebration** A celebration will be held to honor Dr. Sheri Noviello's time as Dean of the College of Health Sciences on Thursday, May 4th from 3:30pm – 4:30pm.
 - ii. **Dean Search** The search for the Dean of the College of Health Sciences is nearing completion.
- 2. **Schools and Honors College**
 - a. **Honors College**
 - i. **Truman Scholarship** Congratulations to political science major Colin Hall, the first Georgia College & State University student to receive the prestigious Truman Scholarship. Colin is the only student in Georgia to earn this scholarship recognizing his dedication to public service.
- 3. **Offices and Programs**
 - a. **Auxiliary Services**
 - i. **Barnes & Noble Bobcat Bundle** The previously discussed change to the Barnes and Nobles textbook process (Bobcat Bundle) seems to contradict the USG's Equitable Access Policy and will be revisited.
 - b. **Office of Admissions**
 - i. **Applications** The Office of Admissions has received a record number of first-time student applications for fall 2023. As of April 14, 2023, we have pounced 1,465 students (954 last year) and housing deposits are at 1,532 (1,055 last year).
 - ii. **Junior Day** The Office of Admissions is preparing for Junior Day which is scheduled to take place April 22. 216 students registered for this event with a week remaining. In 2022, we had a total of 202 students registered.
 - c. **Office of Student Success & Career Development**
 - i. The last installment of the *Student Success and Retention Series* is hosted by the Office of Student Success and Career Development. The session will take place next Monday, April 17, 2023, at 12:30 pm in the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room. Dr. Indiren Pillay, Chair of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, is the facilitator for the event and his session will provide insight into the department's approach to engaging and retaining first year students. Registration for the session is provided [here](#), and questions about this initiative may be directed to Lauren Easom, lauren.easom@gcsu.edu, or Dr. Erin Weston, erin.weston@gcsu.edu.
 - d. **Office of Sustainability** Upcoming sustainability events in April:
 - i. **Monday, April 17th 7:00 pm Library Education Room- Sustainability Film Series, Plastic Earth (2023).** A fascinating new film about the spread of plastic waste across Earth and what we can do to contain it.

- ii. **Thursday, April 20th 5:30 pm A&S Auditorium- Sustainability Symposium & Geospatial Public Health Forum.** Panel Discussion and Breakout Sessions to direct our environmental justice knowledge into sustainable action in the Middle Georgia area. Let’s use this event to organize and direct future involvement of Georgia College to support our community in the pursuit of a safe and sustainable world.
- 4. **Conferences and Meetings**
 - a. **Board of Regents Meeting** at the University of North Georgia (April 18 & 19):
 - i. **Test Optional/Test Required** “That the Board approve the request of Chancellor Sonny Perdue to continue to waive SAT/ACT scores for admissions into the majority of USG schools through academic year 2024-2025, effective April 19, 2023.”
 - ii. **Post-Tenure Review**
 - 1. Item #1: “If the department chair and the dean do not agree on their assessment of sufficient progress in performance, the provost will make the final assessment.”
 - 2. Item #2: “However, if the remedial action is separation from employment, the faculty member has the right to request a final faculty hearing for the purpose of confirming that due process was followed in reaching the decision of separation of employment. The outcome of the faculty hearing will not be binding, but only advisory to the President who will make the final decision. The procedures of this final faculty hearing will be governed by the procedures found in Post-Tenure Review in the Academic & Student Affairs Handbook.”
 - iii. **Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression** “That the Board approve the request of Board Chair Harold Reynolds and Vice Chair Erin Hames to approve the proposed “Statement of Principles,” effective April 19, 2023.”
 - 1. Principle 1: The BOR affirms the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom.
 - 2. Principle 2: USG values the need for diversity of intellectual thought and expression, which should be reflected in a student body and faculty that respect the individuality and beliefs of all.
 - 3. Principle 3: The BOR values our faculty and the important role they play in teaching, conducting research, and providing service. Faculty have the right to be unburdened by ideological tests, affirmations, and oaths. The key basis for hiring, promotion, and tenure should be achievement and a commitment to student success.
 - iv. **Music Practice Facility** The upcoming BOR Meeting includes a request from GCSU for the regents to approve the construction of a music practice facility.
- 5. **Curriculum**

- a. **College of Education** The Office of the Provost submitted a proposal from the College of Education for a Nexus Degree with a Major in Education (with a stackable Baccalaureate Degree with a Major in Special Education).
 - b. **USG General Education** refresh will focus on (1) retention and (2) transferability.
6. **Faculty**
- a. **Governor’s Teaching Fellows Summer Symposium** Two Georgia College & State University educators have been selected to attend the Governor’s Teaching Fellows (GTF) Summer Symposium—a selective program that helps teachers increase their knowledge of new technologies and innovative instruction for the classroom. The two fellows are Dr. Suzanna Roman-Oliver, assistant professor of Secondary Education and Dr. Omolola Akinola Ologunorisa, lecturer in Geography. They join about a dozen other educators statewide for an intensive five days of learning at the University of Georgia (UGA) from May 15th to 19th, 2023.
7. **Calendar**
8. **Research Day 2024** is scheduled for March 27.
9. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**
- a. **Board of Regents Meeting**
 - i. Comment: The number one concern the Regents convey regarding admissions tests is selectivity. However, more than 1000 institutions across the country are test optional. We can be selective without requiring admissions tests through the use of AP scores and letters of recommendation.

Academic Policy Committee (APC) — Chair Sarah Myers

- 1. **No Meeting, No Report** As APC had no business, it did convene for its April meeting.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy Committee (DEIPC) — Chair Linda Bradley

- 1. **Replacement Representative** The committee welcome Jared Bryant as a representative for Emanuel Beasley today.
- 2. **Recommended Syllabus Statement** The committee gave a quick overview of the new Recommended DEI Syllabus Statement for GCSU as a result of the University Senate Meeting on 3/24/2023.
- 3. **2022-2023 Annual Report** DEIPC discussed its work over the 2022-2023 academic year and prepared information related to its annual report.
- 4. **2023-2024 Issues** The committee brainstormed and explored topics for the 2023-2024 academic year. The following key policy issue themes were explored:
 - a. Coordination with HR and Chairs regarding recruitment and hiring from an OIE perspective.
 - b. Coordination with SAPC in Building infrastructure and policy to support graduate student community (perhaps Graduate SGA – Senate) virtual and in-person campus and experiences for building community experiences.

- c. Training for inclusive guidance on professional dress for faculty and students (mindful of freedom of expression as well as field specific). In terms of policy – reviewing what is present.
- d. Policies related to bias and body shaming.
- e. Partnership with RPIPC regarding accessibility policies – handrails and painting (black handrails are extremely hot and dangerous)
- f. Banner System doesn't allow nonbinary or additional gender options. It is limited to male/female only. Addressing infrastructure and policy to support preferred names and gender.

Executive Committee of University Senate (ECUS) — Chair Jennifer Flory

1. **Senate Recognitions**

- a. Senate pins are still on order.
- b. Senate recognition certificates for non-senators (appointees, designees, volunteers) and elected faculty senators whose term is not ending are complete. Some certificates were passed out to DEIPC this afternoon. Any remaining certificates will be passed out at the April 28, 2:00 pm, University Senate meeting, or sent/delivered to non-senators.
- c. Senate recognition certificates for elected faculty senators whose term is ending, presidential appointees, selected staff senators, selected student senators, administrative assistant, and parliamentarian are in process and will be ready for distribution at the April 28, 2:00 pm, University Senate meeting.
- d. I will pass the pins along to Rob along with the gavel at the April meeting.
- e. Rob Sumowski will distribute pins to new senators at the April 28, 3:30 pm, University Senate meeting.

2. **Governance Calendar 2023-2024** finalized and approved by ECUS.

3. **Parliamentarian 2023-2024** is Kim Muschaweck

4. **University Senate Handbook 2023-2024** I will update the handbook in the summer/fall. Possible updates include, but are not limited to, formatting.

5. **University Senate Budget and Foundation Updates**

- a. 1048105 University Senate (state account) has \$4,767.00.
 - i. \$575 for Senate pins (200) order in process
 - ii. \$379 for Recognition Paper (250) order in process
 - iii. Ca. \$1500 for purchase of 100 copies of [*Learning with Others: Collaboration as a Pathway to College Student Success*](#) by Clifton Conrad and Todd Lundberg
- b. F15320 University Senate (foundation) has \$263.79.

6. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**

- a. **Annual Report** The committee set the Annual Report deadline as the final grade deadline, Wednesday, May 10. **Alex Blazer will distribute the template to committee chairs.**

Faculty Affairs Policy Committee (FAPC) — Chair Sabrina Hom

1. **Minutes** The committee approved all past minutes.
2. **Amorous Relationship Policy** The committee received an update from the task force working on procedural implementation.
3. **Post-Tenure Review Pause Policy** The committee voted to approve the policy, with some small revisions to clarify that faculty do not need to disclose the cause for their leave and to adjust the deadline for the extension request. The committee is concerned that faculty may not realize the impact of their leave immediately, or that they may not be aware of the policy. A committee member pointed out that, if faculty were required to submit all requests within one year, it would be prudent for all faculty taking FMLA to make a request “just in case,” which could cause unnecessary paperwork.
4. **SRIS** The committee suggests that CTL take the lead on making recommendations to the Senate and university.
5. **Largest Ever Incoming Class** Faculty have concerns that the larger class sizes and increased number of part-time faculty will harm our brand. While we see the necessity of doing this for the short term, we would like to see a commitment from the administration to bring class sizes and the number of part-time faculty back to the historic levels in a reasonable timeframe. I will suggest that future committees request and track info on the numbers of part-timers to this end.
6. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**
 - a. **SRIS**
 - i. Comment: My chair comments on student survey response rates in my faculty evaluation.
 - ii. Comment: The response rate is statistically valid at 65% or higher. SRIS is only one piece of instructional information.
 - b. **Largest Ever Incoming Class**
 - i. Comment (Provost): We have approved six positions to help with the core.
 - ii. Question: Has the college talked about setting a cap on the first-year class? What if it was 1800?
 - iii. Response (Provost): We are limited by housing. We are hiring more faculty to try to take advantage of higher enrollment.
 - iv. Question: Is it possible to have a first-year housing waiver for in-town students?
 - v. Response (Provost): The decision to have students on campus involves more than cost; it includes co-curricular experiences. Research shows connected residential students are more successful in college.

Resources, Planning and Institutional Policy Committee (RPIPC) — Chair Damian Francis

1. **No Meeting, No Report** As RPIPC had no business, it did convene for its April meeting.

Student Affairs Policy Committee (SAPC) — Chair Greg Glotzbecker

1. **Maintenance of Campus Crosswalks** The committee decided to table that discussion until the fall.
2. **SGA Representation** The committee held a brief discussion about ideas to improve student involvement with SAPC, for instance, appointing a SAPC representative from student government because there is too much for the SGA President to handle alone.
3. **Graduate Students**
 - a. Guest speaker Parris Story, Assistant Director of The Graduate School reports
 - i. Overall, the goal is to make The Graduate School more inclusive of all students.
 - ii. The Graduate School currently has many activities and events for grad students:
 1. Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award
 2. Conference Travel Awards
 3. Graduate Research Showcase
 4. Breakfast for Dinner Event
 5. Graduate Student Writing Group
 - iii. The Graduate School currently communicates through multiple avenues: FrontPage, email, social media, and graduate coordinators (who share with chairs, who share with departments).
 - iv. Challenges in The Graduate School include
 1. Most (70%) of graduate students at GCSU are online students, who are not physically on campus.
 - b. Parris Story was very transparent: they need more people and money. It's just her and one graduate assistant running the whole show. There is a need for more student workers and more resources to expand the support for graduate students.
4. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**
 - a. **Graduate Students**
 - i. Comment: The Marketing and Communication Departments have student internship programs in which student interns help offices and programs for a semester for internship credit.

Subcommittee on Nominations (SCoN) — Chair Rob Sumowski

1. **Slate of Nominees 2023-2024**
 - a. Nominations for Presiding Officer-Elect include Andrew Allen (1st year EFS), Cat Fowler (agreed to serve), Gregory Glotzbecker (considered before ultimately deciding to withdraw his name for this year, may have future interest), Sabrina Hom (3 nominations, on professional leave). Nominations for Secretary include Alex Blazer (3 nominations)
 - b. We will take nominations for Presiding Officer Elect and Secretary from the floor at the April 28 3:30 pm Senate organization meeting and do a secret ballot election to decide if necessary.
 - c. Slate of nominees was emailed to ECUS/SCC during the ECUS meeting for review and discussion.

- d. Presidential appointees were requested this week.
 - e. Standing committee representation from chief division officer or designees has been requested from the following administrators:
 - i. Chief Academic Officer (APC, FAPC)
 - ii. Chief Diversity Officer, Director of Human Resources, and Director of Admissions (DEIPC)
 - iii. Chief Business Officer, Chief Information Officer (RPIPC)
 - iv. Chief Student Affairs Officer (SAPC)
 - f. Staff Council was requested to provide the following items.
 - i. The eligibility requirements from Staff Council governance document(s) as well as a written description of the selection procedure (for selected staff senators) developed by Staff Council.
 - ii. Names of the four (4) selected staff senators for 2023-24.
 - iii. The name of the staff member appointed by a process determined by Staff Council to serve on the 2023-24 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy Committee.
 - iv. Names of the three (3) selected staff senators to serve on the 2023-24 Resources, Planning, and Institutional Policy Committee.
 - v. The name of one (1) selected staff senators to serve on the 2023-24 Student Affairs Policy Committee.
 - vi. The name of the staff member appointed by a process determined by Staff Council to serve on the 2023-24 Student Affairs Policy Committee.
 - g. SGA (President Kaitley Congdon) was requested to provide the following items:
 - i. The eligibility requirements as stated in the relevant Student Government Association governance document(s).
 - ii. A written description of the selection procedure developed by the Student Government Association.
 - iii. The names of the two (2) student senators selected in compliance with the procedures detailed above.
 - iv. The name of the student appointed by a process determined by the Student Government Association to serve on the 2023-24 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy Committee.
 - v. The name of the student appointed by a process determined by the Student Government Association to serve on the 2023-24 Resources, Planning, and Institutional Policy Committee.
 - vi. The name of the two (2) selected student senators to serve on the 2023-24 Student Affairs Policy Committee.
 - h. University Senate Representation on University-wide Committees
 - i. Information gathering and assignments is in process. This will be completed by the 2 pm Senate meeting on April 28.
 - ii. Alex will help double-check half of the committees' information.
2. **Parliamentarian 2023-2024** Natalie King is willing. Mike Martino declined. Kim Muschaweck agreed to serve.

3. **Governance Retreat**

- a. Our Governance Retreat is scheduled for Monday, August 14, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Milledgeville.
- b. I will work with the 2023-2024 ECUS on planning the retreat.

4. **University System of Georgia Faculty Council** USGFC will hold their April face-to-face meeting at Kennesaw State University April 28-29. The schedule and availability of the Chancellor to attend has not yet been confirmed. This conflicts with our pretty significant April 28 Senate transition activities. I have a call into USGFC Chairman Rich Forman for his perspective and any suggestions on scheduling our involvement for whatever activities we will be able to attend given the conflict.

5. **ECUS-SCC Action**

- a. **Slate of Nominees 2023-2024** A **Motion** to approve the slate of nominees and university senate representatives on university committees was made and seconded. **The slate of nominees was approved.** Jennifer Flory or Rob Sumowski will ask Andrew Allen about his interest in serving as Presiding Officer Elect. If Andrew Allen is interested, ECUS-SCC will vote for POE via email.

VI. Unfinished Business

1. There was no unfinished business.

VII. New Business

1. There was no new business.
2. **Steering of Items to Committees**
 - a. No items were steered to committees.
3. **University Senate Agenda and Minutes Review**
 - a. **Tentative Agenda April 28, 2023 (2:00 meeting of the 2022-2023 University Senate)**
 - i. Motions
 1. FAPC: Post-Tenure Review Pause Policy
 - ii. Reports: Administrative reports and committee reports will also be agenda items.
 - i. Supplemental Items of Business: None.
 - b. **Tentative Agenda April 28, 2023 (3:30 organizational meeting of the 2023-2024 University Senate)**
 - i. Motions
 1. SCoN: Slate of Nominees 2023-2024
 - c. **University Senate Minutes Review** A **Motion** that the DRAFT minutes of the 24 Mar 2023 meeting of the 2022-2023 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, April 28, 2:00 p.m., Arts & Sciences 272
 - b. University Senate Organizational Meeting including Standing Committee Organizational Meetings– Friday, April 28, 3:30 p.m., Arts & Sciences 272
 - c. Governance Retreat – Monday, August 14, 9:00 a.m., First United Methodist Church
2. **Tentative Agenda** Some of the deliberation today may have generated tentative agenda items for ECUS and ECUS-SCC meetings. Jennifer Flory 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 4:38 p.m.**

XI. Supporting Documents

1. There are two supporting documents.
 - a. *Supporting_SCoN_Slate_of_Nominees_2023-2024-1.pdf* Slate of Nominees document mentioned in the Presiding Officer Elect report.
 - b. *Supporting_SCoN_Slate_of_Nominees_2023-2024-2.pdf* Slate of Nominees document mentioned in the Presiding Officer Elect report.

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: JENNIFER FLORY (CHAIR), ROB SUMOWSKI (VICE-CHAIR), ALEX BLAZER (SECRETARY)

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2022-2023

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	9/2	10/7	11/4	1/6	2/10	3/3	4/14	P	R	A	
Alex Blazer <i>EFS, CoAS ECUS Secretary</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	7	0	0	
Cathy Cox <i>University President</i>	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	0	7	0	
Nicholas Creel <i>EFS, CoBT ECUS Member</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	7	0	0	
Jennifer Flory <i>EFS, CoAS ECUS Chair</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	7	0	0	
Catherine Fowler <i>EFS, CoHS, ECUS Chair Emerita</i>	P	R	P	P	P	P	R	5	2	0	
Lamonica Sanford <i>EFS, Library ECUS Member</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	6	1	0	
Costas Spirou <i>Provost</i>	P	P	P	P	R	P	P	6	1	0	
Rob Sumowski <i>EFS, CoE ECUS Vice-Chair</i>	P	R	P	P	R	R	P	4	3	0	
Sarah Myers <i>APC Chair</i>	P	R	P	P	R	P	P	5	2	0	
Linda Bradley <i>DEIPC Chair</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	7	0	0	
Sabrina Hom <i>FAPC Chair</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	7	0	0	
Damian Francis <i>RPIPC Chair</i>	P	R	P	P	P	R	R	4	3	0	
Greg Glotbecker <i>SAPC Chair</i>	P	P	R	P	P	R	P	5	2	0	