

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

MEETING DATE & TIME: FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024, 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)	
P	Cathy Cox (University President)	
R	Nicolas Creel (CoBT, ECUS Member)	
P	Jennifer Flory (CoAS, Chair Emerita)	
R	Lamonica Sanford (Library, ECUS Member)	
P	Costas Spirou (Provost)	
P	Rob Sumowski (CoE, ECUS Chair)	
P	Andrew Allen (APC Chair)	
P	James “Trae” Welborn (DEIPC Chair)	
R	Stephanie Jett (FAPC Chair)	
P	Brad Fowler (RPIPC Chair)	
R	Joyce Norris-Taylor (SAPC Chair)	
GUESTS		
	Troy Keller, Georgia Executive Leadership Institute	
	Peter Rosado (FAPC Vice-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 Rob Sumowski (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 Feb 2024 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. **SACS** President Cox congratulated faculty on the impressive results from the recent SACS visit. SACS offered no recommendations, commended the institution on our QEP, and suggested that we present on the QEP to other colleges and universities.

University Provost — Provost Costas Spirou

1. **SACS** Provost Spirou thanked faculty for their participation in the highly successful SACS visit.
2. **Convocation** Provost Spirou sought feedback on proposed changes to Convocation. Currently, students have a number of activities on the day of Convocation, including college visits and GC Reads; therefore, they would appreciate lighter event loads. The proposed change would be to hold Convocation on the Friday following Week of Welcome during the afternoon common meeting time. In this option, students would spend time in their colleges from 2:30 to 4:00, attend Convocation from 4:00-5:00, and go to a campus barbecue. Some issues like Title IX training still needs to be worked out with this option. GC Reads would remain on Friday during Week of Welcome, as would Alcohol U. Convocation day would be more celebratory. It was noted that Convocation used to be held on front campus rather than the Centennial Center until the rain and heat event of 2013. The consensus from ECUS-SCC is that this updated approach is a good one.

Academic Policy Committee (APC) — Chair Andrew Allen

1. **Recommended Syllabus Statement** At the request of DEIPC, the Academic Policy Committee reviewed the proposed suggested syllabus statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. 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.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy Committee (DEIPC) — Chair James “Trae” Welborn

1. **Recommended Syllabus Statement** The committee voted to send forth motion containing Optional Syllabus Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to University Senate for review and vote at March 15 meeting. Following feedback from APC and SACP, and awaiting student feedback from SGA, committee has voted (via email exchange) to postpone putting forth motion to US 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.
 - a. **Georgia College & State University Optional Syllabus Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**
 - b. *The following optional syllabus statement is designed to serve as a template for faculty seeking to specifically convey their course policies concerning issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion 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.*
 - c. *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.

2. **Equity Policy Review**

- a. 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.
- b. 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. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**

a. **Recommended Syllabus Statement**

- i. Comment (President Cox): USG Academic Freedom policies mandate the removal of ideological texts from job description and training courses. HR has spent hundreds of hours removing language from our own training courses; however, external vendors like Linda, still have such language. I urge the committee to not set up another text.
- ii. Comment (Chair Welborn): The committee will help review policies and provide feedback; we will not create tests. We strive to avoid raising red flags while creating consistency in policy review process.

Executive Committee of University Senate (ECUS) — Chair Rob Sumowski

1. **Presiding Officer Activities**

a. **Standing Committees**

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

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

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

2. **2024-2025 Governance Calendar** is forthcoming and is currently being reviewed by Academic Affairs.
3. **University Senate Budget and Foundation Updates** FY 2023 (unchanged as of December 30, 2023):
 - a. 1048105 University Senate (state account) balance: \$4,767.00 as per Fina Endere
 - b. F15320 University Senate (Foundation) account balance: \$583.01 as per Ashley Banks
4. **GCSU Policy on Research Misconduct** Supporting documents will be included as information items in the 15 Mar 2024 US meeting.
5. **Bylaws Revision Motion** The bylaws revision motion creates a process for replacing the Presiding Officer and/or Secretary during the academic year should a vacancy arise. The process is modeled on that used during the April Senate organizational meeting.

Subcommittee on Nominations (SCoN)

1. **No Chair, No Report** As the chair resigned effective 23 Feb 2024, there is no report.

Faculty Affairs Policy Committee (FAPC) — Vice Chair Peter Rosado for Chair Stephanie Jett

1. **Amorous Relationship Policy** We are in stasis when it comes to the Amorous Relationship Policy. We are working with HR and DEIPC on this.
2. **Emeritus Faculty Policy** We are looking into examples from other institutions regarding the Emeritus Faculty policy. We are also examining recent applicants, the process they had to apply, and their applications reviewed.
3. **Student Opinion Surveys** FAPC recently submitted motions regarding the SRIS and Faculty Evaluation procedures/documents. They were approved by US and are awaiting approval by the University President.

Resources, Planning and Institutional Policy Committee (RPIPC) — Chair Brad Fowler

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **Summer Utilities** Brad Fowler updated the committee through email on the summer utility items created in the February meeting. The updates are as follows:
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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 RPIP.

4. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**

a. **Summer Utilities**

- i. Question: What is the role of solar power in the university's power usage?
- ii. Answer: Grant money and other opportunities from third party companies could lead to significant savings.
- iii. Question: Are there separate electricity monitors for every building?
- iv. Answer (Chair): Frank Baugh reports that we have a centralized system that monitors and controls the grid; however, we also have very old buildings with different configurations that presents a number of challenges. Additionally, we have historic homes used as offices that have separate power, which is not centralized.
- v. Comment (Provost): We can obtain cost per building data.

Student Affairs Policy Committee (SAPC) — Chair Joyce Norris-Taylor

As the committee chair and vice-chair were not able to attend the meeting, the committee chair submitted the committee report electronically.

1. **Officer Election** We have elected Amy Pinney as vice chair.
2. **Recommended Syllabus Statement** We have reviewed the DEI syllabus statement sent from DEIPC. We are awaiting student feedback before responding to DEIPC. Faculty present found the proposed statement to be excellent and appreciated the allowance for instructor input.

VI. Unfinished Business

1. There was no unfinished business.

VII. New Business

1. **Subcommittee on Nominations** In light of the SCoN Chair vacancy, Rob Sumowski proposed a plan to divide SCoN duties for the remainder of the year (see supporting document). The Past Presiding Officer, Presiding Officer, and Secretary will share SCoN chair duties, including sending out committee preference surveys, officer nomination surveys, committee volunteer surveys.
 - a. **ECUS-SCC Action A Motion** to approve the SCoN plan was made and seconded. **The plan was approved.**
2. **2023-2024 Presiding Officer Elect Nomination** In light of the SCoN Chair vacancy and Senate officer vacancy bylaws revision motion, Rob Sumowski proposed seeking nominations for University Senate for a 2023-2024 Presiding Officer Elect replacement to be elected after the bylaws revision motions passes University Senate in its 2:00 April 26 meeting, assuming the President approves from the floor. This person will then be handed the gavel and become 2024-2025 Presiding Officer at the beginning of the 3:30 April 26 meeting.

- a. **ECUS-SCC Action A Motion** to approve the nomination plan was made and seconded. **The plan was approved.**
- 3. **Steering of Items to Committees**
 - a. No items were steered to committees.
- 4. **University Senate Agenda and Minutes Review**
 - a. **Tentative Agenda March 15, 2024**
 - i. Motions
 - 1. DEIPC: Recommended Syllabus Statement
 - 2. ECUS: Bylaws Revision
 - ii. Reports: Administrative reports and committee reports will also be agenda items.
 - i. Supplemental Items of Business: GCSU Policy on Research Misconduct
 - b. **University Senate Minutes Review A Motion** that the DRAFT minutes of the 23 Feb 2024 meeting of the 2023-2024 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, March 15, 3:30 p.m., Arts & Sciences 272
 - b. ECUS Meeting – Friday, April 1, 2:00 p.m., Parks Hall 301
 - c. ECUS+SCC Meeting – Friday, April 1, 3:30 p.m., Parks Hall 301
 - d. University Senate Meeting – Friday, April 26, 2:00 p.m., Arts & Sciences 272
 - e. University Senate Meeting – Friday, April 26, 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. **Rob Sumowski 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 4:32 p.m.**

XI. Supporting Documents

- 1. There are no supporting documents.
- 2. There is one supporting document.
 - a. *Supporting_SCoN_2024-02-29_FINAL.docx* ECUS/SCoN To-Do List mentioned in support of the ECUS report and the SCoN agenda item.

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: ROB SUMOWSKI (CHAIR), CATHERINE FOWLER (VICE-CHAIR), ALEX BLAZER (SECRETARY)

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2023-2024

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	9/1	10/6	11/3	1/5	2/9	3/1	4/5	P	R	A
Alex Blazer <i>EFS, CoAS ECUS Secretary</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P		6	0	0
Cathy Cox <i>University President</i>	R	R	R	R	R	P		1	5	0
Nicholas Creel <i>EFS, CoBT ECUS Member</i>	P	P	P	P	P	R		5	1	0
Jennifer Flory <i>EFS, CoAS Chair Emerita</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P		6	0	0
Catherine Fowler <i>EFS, CoHS, ECUS ECUS Vice-Chair</i>	P	P	P	P	P	NA		5	0	0
Lamonica Sanford <i>EFS, Library ECUS Member</i>	P	P	P	P	P	R		5	1	0
Costas Spirou <i>Provost</i>	P	R	P	P	P	P		5	1	0
Rob Sumowski <i>EFS, CoE ECUS Chair</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P		6	0	0
Andrew Allen <i>APC Chair</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P		6	0	0
James Trae Welborn <i>DEIPC Chair</i>	P	R	R	P	P	P		4	2	0
Stephanie Jett <i>FAPC Chair</i>	P	P	P	P	P	R		5	1	0
Brad Fowler <i>RPIPC Chair</i>	P	R	P	P	P	P		5	1	0
Greg Glotzbecker <i>SAPC Chair</i>	R	R	R	R	R	NA		0	5	0
Joyce Norris-Taylor <i>SAPC Chair</i>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	R		0	1	0

