

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

MEETING DATE & TIME: FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 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)	
R	Cathy Cox (University President)	
R	Nicolas Creel (CoBT, ECUS Member)	
P	Jennifer Flory (CoAS, Chair Emerita)	
P	Lamonica Sanford (Library, ECUS Member)	
P	Costas Spirou (Provost)	
P	Rob Sumowski (CoE, ECUS Chair)	
R	Andrew Allen (APC Chair)	
R	James “Trae” Welborn (DEIPC Chair)	
P	Stephanie Jett (FAPC Chair)	
P	Brad Fowler (RPIPC Chair)	
R	Joyce Norris-Taylor (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 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 1 Mar 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. **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 Arts and Sciences**
 - i. Michael L. Thurmond, author of *James Oglethorpe, Father of Georgia: A Founder’s Journey from Slave Trader to Abolitionist* (University of

Georgia Press, 2024) will visit and engage in discussion with faculty, staff, and students about the rich pre-history of abolitionism. The event is scheduled at the Arts & Sciences Auditorium on April 23 from 4:00-5:00pm.

2. **Schools and Honors College**

a. **Honors College**

i. **Truman Scholar** Congratulations to Axel Hawkins for being selected as a 2024 Truman Scholar. Out of 709 nominations, Axel was chosen as one of 60 finalists. This is the 2nd year in a row that a student from Georgia College & State University was selected. On behalf of the entire GCSU campus and community, we congratulate Axel on this amazing accomplishment!

b. **The School of Continuing and Professional Studies**

i. **WRGC 88.3** The School of Continuing and Professional Studies in pursuing numerous grants to enhance the radio programming at WRGC 88.3.

3. **Offices and Programs**

a. **MURACE**

i. **GCSU Research Day 2024** proved very successful with more than 500 presenters and almost 120 poster sessions. Please save the day for Research Day 2025 scheduled for April 16, 2025.

b. **Office of Admissions**

i. **Applications** GCSU received a record number of applications for Fall 2024. Specifically, we surpassed the 8,000 mark which is the highest number in the history of the university. On Monday, April 1st (morning) we had 8,186 applications compared to 7,832 (2023); 5,544 (2022); 5,444 (2021); 5,125 (2020). Our previous record was 7,850 (end of day April 1, 2023). The final number (end of day April 1) is 8,284. We accepted 10% fewer students (566) compared to last year (April 1st).

ii. **The Fall 2024 Class** is looking very strong. We stopped receiving applications on April 1st.

iii. **Junior Day** is scheduled for Saturday, April 6th.

c. **Office of the Provost & Academic Affairs**

i. **Department Chairs** The Office of the Provost is working with the Council of Chairs to launch programming related to service as Department Chair. The initiative aims to support our colleagues in their role as chairs.

ii. **USG** We are waiting for guidance from the USG regarding (1) test optional vs. test required, and (2) budget.

4. **Centers and Institutes**

a. **Center for Teaching and Learning**

i. **Liberal Arts Skills for the Professions and Individual Well-Being** aims to support faculty and students better understand the connections between the liberal arts and their personal and professional lives. The Center for Teaching and Learning has assembled an Advisory Council that will work across colleges to schedule and promote activities during the 2024-2025 academic year.

5. **Conferences and Meetings**
 - a. **USG Regents Cup Debate Series** is scheduled for April 11th at Middle Georgia State University. GCSU is one of six teams participating at the competition.
6. **Faculty**
 - a. **Administrator and Faculty Searches**
 - i. **The Associate Provost for Student Engagement and Academic Excellence** search is currently underway, and the committee is planning to invite finalists to campus in April.
7. **Calendar**
 - a. **Commencement**
 - i. College of Health Sciences, Friday, May 3, 2:00 p.m.
 - ii. John H. Lounsbury College of Education, Friday, May 3, 7:00 p.m.
 - iii. J. Whitney Bunting College of Business & Technology, Saturday, May 4, 9:00 a.m.
 - iv. College of Arts & Sciences, Saturday, May 4, 2:00 p.m.
 - b. **Convocation** Please reserve the afternoon of August 23, 2024, to welcome the Class of 2028 during Convocation. The program will begin with a College Open House (2:30-3:15pm); Convocation (4:00-5:00pm); and Faculty and New Student Picnic (5:00-7:00pm). *GC Reads* will be held on August 16, 2024 (1:00-4:00pm). The First Year Convocation Organizing Committee (Lauren Easom and Winston Tripp, co-chairs) will be meeting in the next few months as we focus on welcoming and supporting the onboarding of our new students.

Academic Policy Committee (APC) — Chair Andrew Allen

1. **Meeting** APC had a meeting schedule for 5 Apr 2024 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. APC had no business to conduct, so its meeting was cancelled.

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

1. **Meeting** DEIPC had a meeting schedule for 5 Apr 2024 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. APC had no business to conduct, so its meeting was cancelled.

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

1. **Presiding Officer Activities**
 - a. **Standing Committees** I have been in touch with Standing Committee Chairs via phone and email as needed.
 - b. **Academic Leadership Team** On April 11, 2024, I will attend the Academic Leadership Team Meeting at the invitation of Provost Spirou.
 - c. **System-Wide or Tier/Sector Meeting Attendance** The USGFC Spring Meeting will be held at Savannah State University on April 18-19, 2024. I will represent the Senate at this meeting.
2. **2024-2025 Governance Calendar** was approved by ECUS.

3. **2024-2025 Parliamentarian** Kim Muschaweck has agreed to continue in the role of Parliamentarian 2024-2025 school year.
4. **University Senate Recognition Certificates** will be disseminated to committee chairs for distribution to committee members prior to the April 26, 2024 2 pm Senate meeting.
5. **Bylaws Revision Motion** A proposed By-Laws revision creating a process for replacing officers who resign or are unable to complete their terms was passed by ECUS on March 1, became an ECUS motion, was initially presented at the March 15 Senate meeting, and will be eligible for a Senate vote at the final 2023-2024 Senate meeting at 2 pm on April 26, 2024. Motion Number [2324.ECUS.001B](#): Proposed Revisions to University Senate Bylaws (Officer Vacancies).
6. **University Senate Budget and Foundation Updates** FY 2023 (unchanged as of February 28, 2024):
 - a. 1048105 University Senate (state account) balance: \$3,682.77 as per Fina Endere
 - b. F15320 University Senate (Foundation) account balance: \$583.01 as per Ashley Banks

Faculty Affairs Policy Committee (FAPC) — Chair Stephanie Jett

1. **Amorous Relationship Policy** Updates on the RPIPC/FAPC joint efforts to establish the Amorous Relationship policy implementation procedures.
 - a. FAPC reviewed the existing policy as recorded in the Policy Manual:
<https://gcsu.smartcatalogiq.com/policy-manual/policy-manual/office-of-human-resources/amorous-relationships/>
 - i. It reflects the “prohibits” wording of the USG policy and outlines ways to report violations (either self-report or by General Complaint Form)
 - ii. We will discuss with HR to see if the current policy reflects a reporting procedure that is aligned with the policy as written:
 1. “Employee Disclosure: All Georgia College employees have a responsibility to promptly report circumstances in which they are called upon to evaluate or supervise a USG employee or student with whom they are currently involved in an amorous relationship or with whom they have been involved in an amorous relationship.”
 2. “Reporting Violations: Employees or students who believe in good faith that a violation of this policy has occurred should promptly report the violation to the Office of Human Resources”
 3. “Any individual in authority who is or has been involved in an amorous relationship with a person whom they may be called upon to evaluate must promptly report this fact to the appropriate chain of command. The Office of Human Resources must be notified in advance of any personnel actions that would be impacted by this policy.”
 - b. Likely passing this effort forward to FAPC for AY 2024-2025

2. Emeritus Faculty Policy

- a. Summary of concern: The procedure outlined in the “Implementation of the Policy” section superseded the procedure outlined previously in the policy stating that requests for emeritus status going through the department from which the faculty member retired.
 - i. Said “grandfather clause” is not included in the Emeritus Policy as reflected in the published Policy Manual:
<https://gcsu.smartcatalogiq.com/policy-manual/policy-manual/academic-affairs/employmentpolicies-procedures-benefits/faculty-appointments-qualifications-for/emeritus-title/>
- b. FAPC determined any time limit established for application for the status would be arbitrary.
 - i. Argument being that if the person has remained active in their field and could be of benefit to the institution, why would we not want them to be here, regardless of how long it’s been since they retired?
 - ii. Concern from Provost’s office expressed regarding what criteria are being used to evaluate the applications by the department
 1. The current policy is fairly explicit in **the requirements for application** for the status:
 - a. “The “Recommendation for Award of Emeritus/Emerita Status” form
 - b. A one-page description summarizing the faculty member’s accomplishments at Georgia College, written by the candidate’s chair/director
 - c. A current vita (CV)
 2. It also establishes a **faculty-led committee to review the applications**
 - a. “The departmental chair will appoint a **committee** of three departmental tenured professors, who, upon **reviewing the various committee evaluations of the candidate composed on the occasion of his or her promotional and tenure opportunities, and taking into account any comments submitted by other departmental faculty to the committee at that time**, will submit the appropriate form to the departmental chair either recommending, or not recommending the candidate’s application for Emeritus or Emerita status.”
 - b. “The memorandum may or may not include a supporting narrative for the committee’s position. This is not an action that can be appealed by the candidate. If only two tenured professors are available in the department, the departmental chair may appoint a tenured professor from a related field”

- c. Due to the fact that the policy in question was never recorded with the “Implementation of the Policy” and “Grandfather Clause” sections in the official policy manual online, FAPC would like to consider moving forward with the language change regarding the time frame for application section, leaving the remainder of the policy unchanged from the published manual.
 - d. Academic Affairs is looking into who made the update to the policy manual as of February 19, 2024 as there is no reflection of what was changed and by whom.
- 3. **Student Opinion Surveys** FAPC also discussed, as an extension of our work with SRIS and IFRs, the [existing policy on using more than SRIS to measure teaching effectiveness](#).
 - a. We would like to work with CTL to create a link in the policy manual linked above to a list of viable, effective methods of evaluation of teaching effectiveness that is housed on the CTL website (as to avoid needing to revise policy in order to modify the list) so that faculty and supervisors can work together to find the best fit for them.
 - b. Will be a job for FAPC during AY 2024-2025.
- 4. **Professional Leave** Lastly, we briefly discussed sabbaticals and professional leave as an informational item. Concern brought to us by several faculty members regarding the number of applicants versus the number of applications granted this year in comparison to the past several years.
 - a. Information from Provost provided to help address those concerns for your colleagues
 - i. They increased total number of awards from 2015-2016 academic year with 8 professional leaves (6 from COAS, 1 from COBT, and 1 from COHS) to 12 professional leaves in 2023 (10 from COAS, 1 from COBT, and 1 from COHS).
 - ii. “The funds are simply not available [at this time] to increase the required cost of additional awards.”
 - iii. There is no guarantee of being awarded a sabbatical after tenure as it’s a competitive process
 - iv. CoAS, especially, should work on a ranking system of applications so that they put forward only the strongest applications with special consideration given for those who have not been awarded professional leave previously.
- 5. **ECUS SCC Discussion**
 - a. **Student Opinion Surveys**
 - i. Comment: Stephanie Jett talked with Jim Berger about the second, alternative method of teaching effectiveness. FAPC recommends that CTL create a list of best teaching practices and pedagogies.
 - ii. Comment: GIFT and Peer Observations are also available.
 - b. **Professional Leave**
 - i. Comment: Could CoAS rank professional leave applications?

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

1. **Meeting** RPIPC had a meeting schedule for 5 Apr 2024 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. APC had no business to conduct, so its meeting was cancelled.
2. **Summer Utilities** RPIPC has been in communication with Frank Baugh in Facilities in regards to conducting a full campus energy audit. We are going to recommend that next year's RPIPC take up this item.

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

1. **Officer Election** We have elected Amy Pinney as vice chair.
2. **Student Safety** SAPC followed up on student safety concerns brought to us in October 2023. Chief Hardin has worked with SGA and Dr. Nadler to address student concerns. Chief Hardin provided a summary of services offered to students noting limited student participation in classes offered to date. SAPC student representatives reported positive student responses to initiatives provided and will report to SGA regarding services offered.

Subcommittee on Nominations (SCon) — Vacant, Reported by Rob Sumowski

1. **Slate of Nominations 2024-2025**
 - a. 2024 University Senate Standing Committee Preference was sent to Corps of Instruction 2024-2025 Non-Senators (Volunteers).
 - b. 2024 US Standing Committee Preference, University Committee Preference, Officer Nomination Survey was sent to 2024-2025 Elected Faculty Senators.
 - c. 2024 University Senate POE Nomination Survey was sent to 2023-2024 Senators whose term is ending and who are not continuing on Senate next year.
 - d. Alex has requested the appointees, designees, and selected representation from the following bodies and administrators:
 - i. President Cox
 - ii. Chief Academic Officer (APC, FAPC)
 - iii. Chief Diversity Officer, Director of Human Resources, and Director of Admissions (DEIPC)
 - iv. Chief Business Officer, Chief Information Officer (RPIPC)
 - v. Chief Student Affairs Officer (SAPC)
 - vi. Staff Council
 - vii. SGA
 - e. We will continue populate the standing committees and revise the slate of nominees for the April 26 Senate meeting.
 - f. University Senate Representation on University-wide Committees has been completed and will be included with the slate of nominees.
 - g. University Senate Officer nominations are listed below.
 - i. 2023-2024 POE: Andrew Allen, Nicholas Creel, Nicholas Creel, Nicholas Creel, Nicholas Creel, Catherine Fowler, Stephanie Jett
 - ii. 2024-2025 POE: Andrew Allen, Nicholas Creel, Nicholas Creel, Catherine Fowler, Stephanie Jett, Stephanie Jett

- iii. 2024-2025 Secretary: Alex Blazer, Alex Blazer, Alex Blazer, John Swinton
 - iv. 2024-2025 Parliamentarian: Kim Muschaweck, Kim Muschaweck
- 2. **USGFC Representation Proposal** As part of the University Senate Representatives on University Committees, Jennifer Flory proposed that the officer requirement be eliminated and the terms be extended to three years in order to achieve continuity and better representation at the system-level in which USGFC representatives serve multiple-year terms in order to serve in leadership roles. In order to ensure continuity with the current representative system, Presiding Officer Rob Sumowski was nominated as the voting representative for 2023-2026 and Past Presiding Officer Jennifer Flory was nominated as the nonvoting representative for 2024-2027.
- 3. **Governance Retreat 2024** is scheduled for Monday, August 12.
- 4. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**
 - a. **Slate of Nominees** ECUS-SCC discussed recommending Nicholas Creel to 2023-2024 University Senate (at the April final meeting) to fill the 2023-2024 Presiding Officer Elect position; and the committee discussed recommending to the 2024-2025 University Senate (at the April organizational meeting) Stephanie Jett as the 2024-2025 Presiding Officer Elect and Alex Blazer at the 2024-2025 Secretary.
 - b. **USGFC Representation Proposal** A question was raised about EFS, such as Rob Sumowski and Jennifer Flory, serving on USGFC after their Senate terms are complete. In order to accept a position that runs longer than their term, EFS must be willing to continue past their term and continue to report to University Senate regarding their responsibilities on USGFC. Rob and Jennifer both affirmed their willingness to serve.
- 5. **ECUS-SCC Action A Motion** *to recommend to the 2023-2024 University Senate Nicholas Creel as 2023-2024 Presiding Officer Elect and, to the 2024-2025 University Senate, Stephanie Jett as 2024-2025 Presiding Officer Elect, Alex Blazer at 2024-2025 Secretary, the Slate of Sominees, and the University Senate Representatives on University Committees was made and seconded. **The motion was approved via email on Tuesday, April 9.***

VI. Unfinished Business

- 1. There was no unfinished business.

VII. New Business

- 1. There was no new business.
- 2. **University Senate Agenda and Minutes Review**
 - a. **Tentative Agenda April 26, 2024**
 - i. Motions
 - 1. SCoN: Revised Slate of Nominees
 - ii. Reports: Administrative reports and committee reports will also be agenda items.

- i. Supplemental Items of Business: None.
- b. **Tentative Agenda April 26, 2024 (2024-2025 Organizational Meeting)**
 - i. Motions
 - 1. SCoN: Slate of Nominees
 - ii. Reports: Administrative reports and committee reports will also be agenda items.
 - iii. Supplemental Items of Business: None.
- c. **University Senate Minutes Review A Motion** *that the DRAFT minutes of the 15 Mar 2024 meeting of the 2024-2025 University Senate be circulated for university senator review* was made and seconded. **The motion to circulate the minutes was approved.**

VIII. Open Discussion

- 1. **Standing Committee Annual Report** ECUS-SCC discussed the Annual Report deadline
 - a. **ECUS-SCC Action A Motion** *to approve the Annual Report due date as May 8* was made and second. **The motion was approved.**

IX. Next Meeting

- 1. **Calendar**
 - a. University Senate Meeting – Friday, April 26, 2:00 p.m., Arts & Sciences 272
 - b. University Senate Meeting (Organizational) – Friday, April 26, 3:30 p.m., Arts & Sciences 272
 - c. Governance Retreat – Monday, 12 Aug 2024, Location TBD
- 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 4:44 p.m.**

XI. Supporting Documents

- 1. There are two supporting documents.
 - a. *Supporting_SAPC.docx* supports the SAPC Student Safety item.
 - b. *Supporting_SCoN_USGFC_Representative_Proposal.docx* supports the SCoN proposal for a change in USGFC Representation.

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	P	7	0	0	
Cathy Cox <i>University President</i>	R	R	R	R	R	P	R	1	6	0	
Nicholas Creel <i>EFS, CoBT ECUS Member</i>	P	P	P	P	P	R	R	6	1	0	
Jennifer Flory <i>EFS, CoAS Chair Emerita</i>	P	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	NA	5	0	0	
Lamonica Sanford <i>EFS, Library ECUS Member</i>	P	P	P	P	P	R	P	6	1	0	
Costas Spirou <i>Provost</i>	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	6	1	0	
Rob Sumowski <i>EFS, CoE ECUS Chair</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	7	0	0	
Andrew Allen <i>APC Chair</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	6	1	0	
James Trae Welborn <i>DEIPC Chair</i>	P	R	R	P	P	P	R	4	3	0	
Stephanie Jett <i>FAPC Chair</i>	P	P	P	P	P	R	P	6	1	0	
Brad Fowler <i>RPIPC Chair</i>	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	5	1	0	
Greg Glotzbecker <i>SAPC Chair</i>	R	R	R	R	R	NA	NA	0	5	0	
Joyce Norris-Taylor <i>SAPC Chair</i>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	R	R	0	2	0	

