

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

MEETING DATE & TIME: FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025, 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	Stephanie Jett (CoAS, ECUS Vice-Chair)	
P	Joyce Norris-Taylor (CoHS, ECUS Member)	
P	Holley Roberts (Provost)	
P	Lamonica Sanford (Library, ECUS Member)	
P	Rob Sumowski (CoE, ECUS Chair Emerita)	
P	Andrew Allen (APC Chair)	
P	Corey Claxton (DEIPC Chair)	
P	Jennifer Flory (FAPC Chair)	
P	Brad Fowler (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 3:30 pm by Nicholas Creel (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 7 Mar 2025 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 Holley Roberts

1. **HB127** is currently on the floor for voting on the last day of the legislative session.
2. **Fall 2025 Freshman Enrollment** The Office of Admissions is on track to receiving over 8,500 freshmen fall 2025 applications, this is a 4% increase from last year. Prior to fall

2023 GCSU's highest application record was 5,700+. We are still aiming for a class of 1750. Housing deposits are lagging slightly, but the admissions team is working very hard to encourage students to complete their housing deposit and Pounce registration.

3. **Herty Renovation** Susan Allen and Holley Roberts will be sending a joint email soon to faculty and staff with specific information on the upcoming renovation and directions for those most impacted.
4. **USG Updates**
 - a. AI policy/procedure/guidance recommendations will most likely be voted on by the Regents at their next meeting. Academic Affairs, the new AI Committee and Student Life will work together to make sure the university is in compliance with the final version of the policy/procedure/guidance.
 - b. The USG is developing a Nursing transfer pathway for qualified denied nursing students so they can easily view and consider other USG nursing programs that are not at capacity.
5. **Tenure and Promotion** applicants should receive decisions within the next two weeks.

Academic Policy Committee (APC) — Chair Andrew Allen

1. **Meeting** APC had a meeting scheduled for 4 Apr 2025 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.
 - a. **No Report** APC had no business to conduct, so its meeting was cancelled.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy Committee (DEIPC) — Chair Corey Claxton

1. **Meeting** DEIPC had a meeting scheduled for 4 Apr 2025 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.
 - a. **No Report** DEIPC had no business to conduct, so its meeting was cancelled.

Executive Committee of University Senate (ECUS) — Chair Nicholas Creel

1. **Modified Operations Policy** work continues. I've been in contact with Staff Council and multiple committees to help draft a final policy for the end of term Senate meeting.
2. **Parking Updates** Information has been slow to come out on this, but I've been working to help clarify points on this and encourage wide dissemination of the new policies before they roll out
3. **USG and Federal Policy Updates** Nothing new has developed formally. A state level bill is being considered that could require further restriction of anything related to diversity, equity, and inclusion with the threat of total funding rescission for non-compliance. Should it pass, we believe it might be legally challenged which would at least delay implementation.
4. **2025-2026 Governance Calendar** was approved at the recent ECUS meeting.
5. **University Senate Budget and Foundation Updates**
 - a. State Budget Account Balance: \$3,835.20
 - b. Foundation Account Balance: \$93.75

Faculty Affairs Policy Committee (FAPC) — Chair Jennifer Flory

1. **Modified Operations Policy** (Nicholas Creel and Cara Smith) Our edits made sense for Cara and Nicholas. Some procedures may come out, succinct policy per HR.
2. **USG Academic Affairs Desire for Norming of Tenure Scores** Chairs have already been instructed to have fewer 4s and 5s. Float draft ideas – track changes to faculty evaluations policy? Jen will track changes to policy and email to FAPC and Academic Affairs and Nicholas and ECUS.
3. **Professional Leave Policy**
 - a. Reference: [Old Application Form](#)
 - b. Reference: [Current Application Form](#)
 - c. Email sent to Provost Roberts on 3/28: I am emailing to let you know that FAPC intends to put together an ad hoc committee of faculty with representation from as many colleges as possible to review the professional leave policy, define terminology, and build a rubric to assess Professional Leave applications. Would it be possible for Academic Affairs to review this once we have a draft and consider using it for assessing applications at the university level? We would like to ask if there is a certain number that will be allowed or an expectation of balance across departments and/or colleges. The committee is trying to make the expectations more clear for faculty who might consider applying. Thank you for your consideration.
 - d. Jen will try to set up an Ad Hoc committee before fall semester. Amy has copy of A&S rubric from Dean's Advisory Council. Unclear whether each college and/or department has an allotment. Is there a cap?
 - e. Volunteers: Jen, Amy S., Jehan, Suzanna, Library, STEM, Health Sciences, Dr. Mandy Jarriel, Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs
4. **Teaching Effectiveness**
 - a. Reference: [SRIS Policy](#)
 - b. Reference: [Annual Evaluation Policy](#)
 - c. An ad hoc committee was charged to create a list of alternative methods for evaluating teaching effectiveness (for faculty and evaluators) and place on CTL Faculty course in GaView – working on list, will complete by end of semester – Suzanna and Jen will finalize.
5. **Faculty Compensation Study** Still in process...areas below to be indexed.
 - a. Part-Time Faculty
 - b. Program Coordinators, Directors of Centers, etc. (anyone on an MOU) (including historical data for positions that have lost funding)
 - c. Overload Policies (by college and department)
 - d. Summer Semester Teaching Policy (by college and department)
6. **Parking** Accessibility issues.
7. **Academic Freedom** What are we doing about “banned topics” for courses and majors? minors?
8. **Recommendations for 2025-2026 FAPC** include revisions to faculty evaluation policy, recognition and reward of PTR, and keys to locked classrooms.
9. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**
 - a. **Academic Freedom**
 - i. Question: Has the Women's Center been eliminated?

- ii. Comment: My understanding is that it was restructured into the Hub last summer.
- iii. Comment: The curriculum has not been affected.
- iv. Comment (Provost): Women's and Gender Studies Symposium involves curricular topics that students have chosen.

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

1. **Modified Operations Policy** The committee was asked by ECUS to review the new modified operations policy and provide feedback. We focused mainly on the parts of the policy that pertained to staff. We felt that the word “availability” in the Attendance Reporting bullet point in the section 3.1 may be too vague. The policy may need to be adjusted to define the various states of available and unavailable. Section 3.2 covers who are considered essential employees. We felt that some employees may be essential or non-essential based on the nature of the event. There may need to be language on the policy that suggests that department heads will identify which employees are essential at the beginning of the modified operations.
2. **Internal Candidate Hiring Policy** The chair of the committee discussed with the interim provost a potential policy for hiring processes when there is a strong internal candidate being considered. After further discussion with the committee, with input from a Human Resources perspective, we believe that there is not a path forward for such a policy and have decided to move on.
3. **New Parking Permits** We discussed the new parking permit structure with committee member Charles Cruey. There have been many questions about the new parking permit policy that is about to go into effect. Charles was able to help the members of the committee to better understand what the changes were likely to be once the final decision have been made.

Student Affairs Policy Committee (SAPC) — Chair Amy Pinney

1. **Bobcat Code of Conduct** Our discussion, led by Axel Hawkins and Ezra Ryall, took about an hour. SAPC members unanimously decided to support all the SGA recommendations except proposed changes to rules 200 and 205. SAPC requested additional information and further discussion on those.

Subcommittee on Nominations (SCoN) — Chair Stephanie Jett

1. **2025-2026 Slate of Nominees** Standing committee and university-wide committee assignments were discussed.
 - a. Brad Fowler was moved from FAPC back to RPIPC by request.
 - b. Lamonica Sanford was moved from FAPC to SAPC by compliance necessity.
 - c. The AI Policy Review Committee was established with representatives from all colleges and units, including the Graduate School. Invitations from ECUS will be extended to Jim Berger (CTL) and Ward Risvold (CoBT); and we are awaiting the Presidential Appointee on April 7.

- d. I will create a motion for the current slate to be voted on for our last US meeting on April 28.
2. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**
 - a. The committee discussed potential POE nominees Andrew Allen and Joyce Norris-Taylor in terms of continuity and ends of terms of service. Andrew Allen declined a potential nomination for the good Senate leadership continuity.
3. **ECUS-SCC Actions**
 - a. A **Motion** to nominate approve the 2025-2026 Slate of Nominees with Joyce Norris-Taylor as Presiding Officer Elect and Alex Blazer as Secretary was made and seconded. **The motion was approved.**
 - b. A **Motion** to extend the meeting by 10 minutes was made and seconded. **The motion was approved.**

VII. New Business

1. **Annual Report Template and Due Date**
 - a. **ECUS-SCC Action** A **Motion** to approve the annual report template and due date of Friday, May 16 was made and seconded. **The motion was approved.**
2. **Steering of Items to Committees**
 - a. No items were steered
3. **University Senate Agenda and Minutes Review**
 - a. **Tentative Agenda 25 Apr 2025**
 - i. Reports: Administrative reports and committee reports will also be agenda items.
 - i. Supplemental Items of Business: None.
 - b. **Tentative Agenda 25 Apr 2025 Organizational**
 - i. Motion: 2025-2026 Slate of Nominees
 - ii. Supplemental Items of Business: Standing Committee Organization Meetings
 - c. **University Senate Minutes Review** A **Motion** that the DRAFT minutes of the 7 Mar 2025 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. There was no open discussion.

IX. Next Meeting

1. **Calendar**
 - a. University Senate Meeting – Friday, 25 Apr 2025, 2:00 p.m., Arts & Sciences 272
 - b. University Senate Meeting (Organizational) – Friday, 25 Apr 2025, 3:30 p.m., Arts & Sciences 272
 - c. Governance Retreat – Monday, 11 Aug 2025, 9:00 a.m., TBA

2. **Tentative Agenda** Some of the deliberation today may have generated tentative agenda items for ECUS and ECUS-SCC meetings. Nicholas Creel 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 4:57 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: NICHOLAS CREEL (CHAIR), STEPHANIE JETT (VICE-CHAIR), ALEX
BLAZER (SECRETARY)

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2024-2025

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	9/6	10/4	11/1	1/10	2/14	3/7	4/4	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 Chair</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	7	0	0	
Stephanie Jett <i>EFS, CoAS ECUS Vice-Chair</i>	P	P	P	P	P	R	P	6	1	0	
Joyce Norris-Taylor <i>EFS, CoHS ECUS Member</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	7	0	0	
Holley Roberts <i>Provost</i>	P	P	R	P	P	R	P	5	2	0	
Lamonica Sanford <i>EFS, Library ECUS Member</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	7	0	0	
Rob Sumowski <i>EFS, CoE ECUS Chair Emerita</i>	P	R	R	P	P	P	P	5	2	0	
Andrew Allen <i>APC Chair</i>	P	P	P	R	P	P	P	6	1	0	
Corey Claxton <i>DEIPC Chair</i>	R	P	P	P	R	P	P	6	2	0	
Jennifer Flory <i>FAPC Chair</i>	P	P	R	P	P	P	P	6	1	0	
Brad Fowler <i>RPIPC Chair</i>	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	6	1	0	
Amy Pinney <i>SAPC Chair</i>	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	6	1	0	