

COMMITTEE NAME: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF UNIVERSITY SENATE (ECUS)

MEETING DATE & TIME: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2021, 2:00-3:15 P.M.

MEETING LOCATION: WEBEX

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS		“P” denotes Present, “A” denotes Absent, “R” denotes Regrets
P	Alex Blazer (CoAS, ECUS Secretary)	
P	Hauke Busch (CoAS, ECUS Chair)	
R	Steve Dorman (University President)	
P	Catherine Fowler (CoHS, ECUS Vice-Chair)	
P	David Johnson (CoAS, ECUS Chair Emeritus)	
P	Karl Manrodt (CoB, ECUS Member)	
P	Lyndall Muschell (CoE, ECUS Member)	
P	Costas Spirou (Provost)	
P	Jennifer Townes (Library, ECUS Member)	
GUESTS		
Shawn Brooks (Vice President for Student Life)		
Shea Council (Administrative Assistant of the 2020-2021 University Senate)		

Legend

Italicized text denotes information from a previous meeting.

*Denotes new discussion on old business.

Highlighted text denotes follow-up.

Bold denotes action or recommendation.

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Hauke Busch (Chair).

II. Approval of Agenda: A Motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded. **The agenda was approved.**

III. Approval of Minutes: A draft of the 8 Jan 2021 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

Presiding Officer Report — Hauke Busch

1. **University Senate Budget** No spending is anticipated for the university budget at the present time.
2. **University Senate Recognitions** University Senate Recognitions (Certificates/Pins) Report has been generated and has been forwarded to President Dorman for final review and signing.
3. **University Senate Meeting Guests** Dr. Shawn Brooks, Vice President of Student Life, will present on the Mental Health Initiative at the next meeting of University Senate.

Susan Kerr, Chief Information Officer, will present on the Information Technology Governance.

Presiding Officer Elect Report — Catherine Fowler

1. **Election Oversight** All faculty election results have been received.
 - a. COAS: Dr. Glotzbecker, Dr. Welborn, Dr. Flory, Dr. Trujillo
 - b. COB: Dr. Folk, Dr. Richardson, Dr. Ling, Dr. Creel
 - c. COE: Dr. Muschell, Dr. Cross
 - d. Library: Dr. Sanford
2. **At-Large Election** Voting will occur from February 22 to February 26.
3. **University Senate on University Committees** Committee continuations and vacancies will be reviewed in March.

V. Unfinished Business

1. **Senate Representatives on University Committees** A review of University Senate Representatives on University Committees will occur to fill vacant positions.
2. **Proposed Revisions to University Senate Bylaws (Diversity Committee)** The motion is going to have its 2nd reading at the next senate meeting.

VI. New Business

1. **Mental Health Initiative** Dr. Shawn Brooks, Vice President for Student Life, introduced the Mental Health Initiative. The demand for counseling services has grown exponentially over the last 15 years. This is a systemic trend in higher education. The USG is in the process of implementing a comprehensive plan for mental health services at all 26 institutions. The CARES Act and Governor Kemp's Emergency Relief fund supplement mental health resources with \$11.5 million for the USG and member institutions. The initiative will be promoted on FrontPage, Bobcat Vision, and committees and stakeholders like University Senate. The three components of the USG mental health initiative include
 - a. Mental Health Resources
 - i. Christie Campus Health (24/7 psychiatric and clinical services)
 - ii. website (<https://gcsu.edu/gcmentalhealth>)
 - iii. toll free number for students that is answered by student navigators to determine the best counselor with whom to connect the student callers
 - iv. an 8-session cognitive training course
 - v. Wellness Hub (desktop website and smartphone apps)
 - b. Strategic Planning
 - i. GC is partnering with Jed Campus/Jed Foundation, in a four-year program, to help develop a long-term strategic plan for addressing student mental health. First, students will be surveyed (the response rate for the Healthy Mind Survey administered over winter break was 11.3%). Second, professional staff will submit a baseline assessment to Jed and

- discuss what GC is doing well and what GC can do better. Finally, the strategic plan will be operationalized.
- c. Mini-grants: Out of the \$11.5 million in mental health resources, \$1.75 million has been set aside for mini-grants for individual institutions. GC has applied for three mini-grants:
 - i. Technological resources (Mongoose Cadence is a texting app that will be used by not only Counseling Services but also Student Life)
 - ii. Counselor education
 - iii. Hiring a part-time counselor
 2. **COVID Updates Presentation of Data** Angie Childre, Interim Director of Student Health Services reports, “We have had 7 reported positive cases this week so far. Vaccines are not available at this time. This is what we are communicating with the campus community: ‘Georgia College has received approval from the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) to serve as a COVID-19 vaccine distribution site. We are awaiting further information from DPH on the timing and the allotment of vaccines we can expect. As soon as we have more information, we will communicate that to our campus community.’”
 3. **State Legislator’s Request for List of Course Sections** In response to a state legislator’s request for course sections teaching “privilege” and “oppression” regarding specific gender, race, and religion, some faculty have voiced concerns about academic freedom, both for individual instructors (whose careers may become political targets) and campus curricula (which could be tied to legislative funding). Prior to the meeting, electronic questions were asked about the legality of the request, the process in which the list was collected, and the transparency of the list.
 - a. **ECUS Discussion**
 - i. During the meeting, Provost Spirou reported that the legislator has a right to ask the question, and institutions must respond to questions from the USG. While some system provosts submitted course section lists on behalf of their faculty, Provost Spirou reached out to deans to request that chairs and departments assemble the information. The Provost and APC will work together to create a standard procedure for such course content requests in the future. Faculty can ask their dean or department chair for the list. No names were submitted, just catalog numbers and titles.
 - ii. Comment: Even if the administration does not believe that faculty and curricula are being targeted, some faculty feel that their courses and programs are being targeted and they request that the administration protect them. Response: The USG document contains hundreds, if not thousands, of courses. No names are listed. Our mission is pursue knowledge and to educate and to help young people.
 - iii. Question: If faculty are targeted by online harassment campaigns, will the university protect them? Answer: Both USG and GC Legal Affairs are legal resources for faculty.
 - iv. The interested reader can review the entire list, obtained by the *Atlanta-Journal Constitution* at <https://beta.documentcloud.org/documents/20478860-rep-dunahoo-request-002>.

VII. Open Discussion

1. None

VIII. Next Meeting

1. **Calendar**
 - a. University Senate Meeting – Friday, February 26, 3:30 p.m., Webex
 - b. ECUS Meeting – Friday, March 5, 2:00 p.m., Webex
 - c. ECUS+SCC Meeting – Friday, March 5, 3:30 p.m., Webex
2. **Tentative Agenda:** Some of the deliberation today may have generated tentative agenda items for ECUS and ECUS-SCC meetings. Hauke Busch will ensure that such items (if any) are added to the agenda of a future meeting of ECUS or ECUS-SCC.

IX. Adjournment: 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 2:59 p.m.**

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)

COMMITTEE OFFICERS: HAUKE BUSCH (CHAIR), CATHERINE FOWLER (VICE-CHAIR), ALEX BLAZER (SECRETARY)

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2020-2021

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	11/6	1/8	2/12	3/5	4/9	P	R	A	
Alex Blazer <i>EFS, CoAS ECUS Secretary</i>	P	P	P	P	P			5	0	0	
Hauke Busch <i>EFS, CoAS ECUS Vice-Chair</i>	P	P	P	P	P			5	0	0	
Steve Dorman <i>University President</i>	R	R	R	R	R			0	5	0	
Catherine Fowler <i>EFS, CoHS ECUS Member</i>	P	P	P	P	P			5	0	0	
David Johnson <i>EFS, CoAS ECUS Chair Emer.</i>	P	P	P	P	P			5	0	0	
Karl Manrodt <i>EFS, CoB ECUS Member</i>	P	A	P	P	P			4	0	1	
Lyndall Muschell <i>EFS, CoE ECUS Member</i>	P	P	P	P	P			5	0	0	
Costas Spirou <i>Provost</i>	P	P	P	P	P			5	0	0	
Jennifer Townes <i>EFS, Library ECUS Member</i>	P	P	P	P	P			5	0	0	