

COMMITTEE NAME: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF UNIVERSITY SENATE (ECUS)
MEETING DATE & TIME: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 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 Emeritus)	
R	Steve Dorman (University President)	
P	Jennifer Flory (CoAS, ECUS Vice-Chair)	
P	Catherine Fowler (CoHS, ECUS Chair)	
R	Karl Manrodt (CoB, ECUS Member)	
P	Lyndall Muschell (CoE, ECUS Member)	
P	Lamonica Sanford (Library, ECUS Member)	
P	Costas Spirou (Provost)	
GUESTS		
Shea Council (Administrative Assistant of the 2021-2022 University Senate)		

Legend

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 Catherine Fowler (Chair).

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

III. Approval of Minutes: As this was the first meeting of the year, there were no minutes to approve.

IV. Reports

Presiding Officer Report — Catherine Fowler

1. Presiding Officer Activities

- a. **President and Provost** I held two summer meetings with the Provost in which we discussed Covid, plagiarism policy, and SRIS. Plagiarism and SRIS were sent to APC for discussion. I held one meeting with President Dorman. I had multiple August phone meetings with the provost. I had email communication with Dr. Dorman, thanking him for his presence at the retreat; he sends his regrets for September ECUS and Senate meetings.
- b. **Senators** I held virtual Webex meetings with new senators and other senators I did not know.
- c. **Academic Leadership Team:** Attended Academic Leadership Team meeting on August 4.

- d. **Governance Retreat** The retreat, on August 9, was moved to virtual format, per member Qualtrics survey request.
- e. **Presiding Officer Elect Training** started in June and is on-going.
- 2. **COVID Testing Clinics** I am setting up and coordinating covid testing and flu shot clinics as part of the MRC activation and CoHS initiative (Dr. Fowler and Dr. Kaninjing). Clinics are being coordinated with Drs. MacMillan, Brooks, Czech, and Childre.
- 3. **ECUS Discussion**
 - a. **SRIS**
 - i. Comment: FAPC has been working on SRIS. **Follow Up: ECUS-SCC will steer SRIS from APC to FAPC.**
 - b. **Faculty Credentials** The policy manual says nothing about whether faculty with credentials from non-accredited universities can be part of the university. **Follow Up: Provost Spirou will request FAPC review the policy.**

Presiding Officer Elect Report — Jennifer Flory

- 1. **Revised 2021-2022 Slate of Nominees** Slate for University Senate 2021-22 is complete and will be emailed to ECUS and SCC. Changes since April are listed below.
 - a. DEIPC
 - i. Susan Bergeron, Staff Council appointee
 - ii. Lauren Miller, SGA appointee
 - b. RPIPC
 - i. Staff council members: Ashley Banks, John Donaldson, and John Jackson
 - ii. Appointees/designees
 - 1. Lee Fruitticher, President appointee, to replace Susan Allen
 - 2. Amber Collins, Chief Business Officer designee
 - 3. Susan Kerr, Chief Information Officer designee
 - 4. Gail Humphries, SGA appointee
 - c. SAPC
 - i. James Patrick Robertson and Molly Robbins, Student senators
 - ii. Kevin Blanch, Staff senator
 - iii. Appointees/designees
 - 1. Jack Howle, SGA appointee
 - 2. Tom Miles, Chief Student Affairs Officer designee
 - 3. Ruth Eilers, Staff Council appointee
- 2. **Election Oversight** The Corps of Instruction list was requested 8/25/21). Neil Jones email to Dr. Flory, 8/25/21: “Thank you for the note. This is on the agenda and we anticipate meeting the annual request by the prescribed September 15 due date. This approach is consistent with previous years.”
 - a. **Follow Up: Jennifer Flory will update the spread sheet once received and then email to ECUS for review, then send to SCC for review.**
- 3. **COVID-19** Covid policy and procedure questions (see September ECUS-SCC Minutes) were sent 8/31/21. Covid testing and vaccines information was requested on 8/29/21.
 - a. **Email Correspondence**

- i. I am emailing with a few questions for you in preparation for our Executive Committee of University Senate at the end of this week. I am the COVID-19 point person for ECUS. Please respond to my questions below by EOB on Thursday, September 2. Thank you for all of your hard work and support during this difficult time.
 - 1. What is our inventory on hand of COVID-19 vaccines?
 - 2. What is the demand for COVID-19 vaccines?
 - 3. What is the availability of COVID-19 vaccines to supplement this supply?
 - 4. What is our inventory on hand of COVID-19 testing supplies?
 - 5. What is the demand for COVID-19 testing supplies?
 - 6. What is the availability of COVID-19 testing supplies to supplement this supply?
- ii. Going forward, I would also like to request the following information be sent to me every week.
 - 1. The number of students tested at SHS for COVID-19.
 - 2. The number of positive COVID-19 tests at SHS.
 - 3. The number of students administered COVID-19 vaccinations.
 - 4. The number of employees administered COVID-19 vaccinations.
- iii. Shawn Brooks email to Dr. Flory, 8/30/21.

Dr. Childre has forwarded your request for information. Please be advised that we are working with both the USG System Office and the Department of Public Health to ensure that we have access to all of the COVID-19 tests and vaccines to meet the demands of our campus community. Moving forward, we also anticipate having access to sufficient supplies for both COVID testing and vaccinations for our campus. Please note that the only data we publish related to COVID on campus can be found on our web page at [GC COVID-19 Reporting & Confirmed Cases | Georgia College & State University \(gcsu.edu\)](https://www.gcsu.edu/covid-19-reporting). This information is published every Monday.

V. Unfinished Business

- 1. **University Senate Recognitions** Pins were delivered to the Deans for distribution to Senators.

VI. New Business

- 1. **2022-2023 Governance Calendar** Catherine Fowler provided a first draft of the governance calendar.
 - a. **ECUS Discussion**
 - i. Comment: Seek feedback on the draft from various entities such as the President's Office, the Provost's Office, and other offices that list events.

- ii. Comment: Create a calendar workgroup composed of the Presiding Officer and Secretary. Ask Lyndall Muschell to review the draft for the curriculum committees. **Follow Up: Catherine Fowler and Alex Blazer will form a calendar workgroup.**
2. **Senate Operating Procedures for 2021-2022** Senate will continue to meet in Webex.
 3. **ECUS Operating Procedures for 2021-2022** A **Motion** to adopt the *ECUS Operating Procedures for 2021-2022* was made and seconded. **The operating procedures were approved.**

VII. Open Discussion

1. **Faculty Misconduct** The committee discussed the document titled “Example Procedural Framework for Misconduct and Progressive Discipline” that was recently released by the USG.
 - a. Comment (Provost Spirou): The Provost’s Office has received a number of requests to approve a change of course modality in line with isolation and quarantine protocols for faculty infected with and/or exposed to COVID. The process involves faculty discussing the issue with HR, and the Chair submitting a request to the Dean, and the Dean submitting a request to the Provost. GC has approved all such requests of changes to course modality due to quarantine and isolation. The Misconduct and Progressive Discipline policy is not used for quarantining and isolating faculty; it is intended for faculty taking their courses online without permission. This is equivalent to faculty skipping class. We have not had a case like this at our institution.
 - b. Comment: Faculty are being used as coronavirus fodder. Faculty feel betrayed by administrators.
 - c. Comment: Not all faculty feel betrayed. My wife and I both got COVID. We isolated, took our classes online, and now we’re back to teaching in person.
2. **USG and GC Policy**
 - a. Comment (Provost Spirou): I share your concerns with the system. My goal is transparency. We are party of a university system. The CDC is a large entity that covers multiple public health issues. States can choose whether or not to follow CDC guidance, which is similar to how federalism functions.
 - b. Comment: A mask mandate does not affect course modality.
 - c. Question: What can we do as an institution?
 - d. Answer (Provost): We cannot institute a mask mandate.
 - e. Comment: Faculty feel frustrated. Everyone I talk with is in favor of one thing—a mask mandate. However, the Board of Regents will not institute a mask mandate; they are in line with the governor. The Provost shares our concerns with the system. Is the current USG guidance immoral? Yes. Is the current USG guidance unethical? Yes. Does it affect the health and safety of people on campus? Yes. It is what it is. People who were fully vaccinated have gotten sick. It breaks my heart. If I get too aggressive with students about wearing a mask, students will whine to the Provost and BOR. We can control that we wear masks, that we get ourselves vaccinated, and that we encourage students to wear masks.

- f. Comment (Provost): Recently, a student complained to the BOR about a faculty member, and I spent two days explaining to the system that the situation is more complicated than the student suggests. We're in a difficult position. We're not making our own decisions. And it's not just us. I share your questions and concerns with the system. Recently, when chairs asked about Pfizer vaccine approval and USG changing system policy, I immediately called the system and found out that the BOR had no plans to amend the current policy.
 - g. Question: Is there any workaround or legal loophole that we can do to accomplish the mission (of students wearing masks) without violating USG orders?
 - h. Comment (Provost): We can strongly encourage students to wear masks and get vaccinated. We can use plexiglass dividers in the classrooms.
 - i. Comment: Choral organizations are concerned about dividers. The dividers are not helpful because they create uncirculated air pockets. I've been successful getting students to wear masks in choir by saying if they wear masks then they can sing closer together.
 - j. Comment (Provost): The dividers are a resource and faculty can utilize them, if they wish. Please let me know if a classroom needs one of those dividers.
- 3. Faculty Resignations**
- a. Question: I know of four faculty members this semester who have quit over the lack of USG/GC COVID protections. How is the university dealing with faculty quitting over COVID policies?
 - b. Answer (Provost): At GC, faculty have stepped up to help students by teaching courses of faculty members who have resigned. At the system level, USG institutions provide regional assistance, meaning if faculty teaching expertise is needed within the region, a member institution within the region will be called on to provide instruction.

VIII. Next Meeting

- 1. **Calendar**
 - a. University Senate Meeting – Friday, September 17, 3:30 p.m., Webex
 - b. ECUS Meeting – Friday, October 1, 2:00 p.m., Webex
 - c. ECUS+SCC Meeting – Friday, October 1, 3:30 p.m., Webex
 - d. University Senate Meeting – Friday, October 15, 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. Catherine Fowler will ensure that such items (if any) are added to the agenda of a future meeting of ECUS or ECUS-SCC.

IX. 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 2:55 p.m.**

X. 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)

COMMITTEE OFFICERS: CATHERINE FOWLER (CHAIR), JENNIFER FLORY (VICE-CHAIR), ALEX BLAZER (SECRETARY)

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2021-2022

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	9/3	10/1	11/5	1/7	2/11	3/4	4/8	P	R	A	
Alex Blazer <i>EFS, CoAS ECUS Secretary</i>	P							1	0	0	
Hauke Busch <i>EFS, CoAS, ECUS Chair Emeritus</i>	P							1	0	0	
Steve Dorman <i>University President</i>	R							0	R	0	
Jennifer Flory <i>EFS, CoAS ECUS Vice-Chair</i>	P							1	0	0	
Catherine Fowler <i>EFS, CoHS ECUS Chair</i>	P							1	0	0	
Karl Manrodt <i>EFS, CoB ECUS Member</i>	P							1	0	0	
Lyndall Muschell <i>EFS, CoE ECUS Member</i>	P							1	0	0	
Lamonica Sanford <i>EFS, Library ECUS Member</i>	P							1	0	0	
Costas Spirou <i>Provost</i>	P							1	0	0	