

COMMITTEE NAME: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF UNIVERSITY SENATE (ECUS)
MEETING DATE & TIME: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2023, 2:45-3:15 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	Jennifer Flory (CoAS, ECUS Chair Emerita)	
P	Catherine Fowler (CoHS, ECUS Vice-Chair)	
P	Lamonica Sanford (Library, ECUS Member)	
P	Costas Spirou (Provost)	
P	Rob Sumowski (CoE, ECUS Chair)	

Legend

Highlighted text denotes follow-up.

Bold denotes action or recommendation.

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:48 p.m. by Rob Sumowski (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 6 Oct 2023 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 — Rob Sumowski

1. **Presiding Officer Activities**

a. **Provost Meeting**

i. On October 26, I briefed Provost Spirou on the Chancellor’s message to the USGFC.

b. **USG Syllabus Requirement Meeting**

i. General Education Committee Meeting On October 31, APC Chair Andrew Allen and I received an email from General Education Committee (GEC) Chair Jeff Turner notifying us of a motion approved by GEC requesting that the University Senate “amend its current syllabus requirements policy to require that syllabi for all courses that meet general education requirements include the USG-approved Orienting Question, USG Learning Outcome, and Career-Ready Competencies.” On November 1, I discussed this motion with Academic Affairs and then

referred the matter to APC for its consideration. Chair Andrew Allen agreed to bring it to APC at its next meeting.

- c. **System-Wide or Tier/Sector Meeting Attendance**
 - i. On October 26-27, 2023, Catherine Fowler and I attended the Fall 2023 meeting of the University System of Georgia Faculty Council (USGFC) at Gordon State College. The Chancellor and USG staff addressed the Faculty Council on Thursday, October 26. After the Chancellor departed to catch a flight, Vice Chancellor Ashwani Monga addressed two pages worth of the Faculty Council's questions on a variety of issues over the course of two hours. Presiding Officer Elect Catherine Fowler will present details in her SCoN report.
 - ii. On October 27, I was invited by the Provost to attend the American Association of Colleges and Universities Conference from January 17-19, 2024. Because this takes place during the January 2024 University Senate meeting, Presiding Officer Elect Catherine Fowler has agreed to chair that meeting.
 - iii. On November 2, I attended the Council of Chairs meeting at the invitation of the Provost, where chairs discussed implementation of the USG's Core Impacts and related syllabus statement adjustments, which will occur through a soft introduction during Spring 2024 followed by full implementation in Fall Semester 2024.
2. **Post-Tenure Review** Information on the updated link to [Policy 4.7 Post-Tenure Review](#) has been added to Academic Affairs website and will be added to the November 17, 2024 Senate agenda as an information item. This is because although the link was updated by Academic Affairs prior to the October Senate meeting, there was insufficient time to update the October Senate meeting agenda.
3. **University Senate Budget and Foundation Updates** FY 2023, as of October 12, 2023
 - a. 1048105 University Senate (state account) has \$2,457.78.
 - b. F15320 University Senate (Foundation) has \$1264.00.

Presiding Officer Elect Report — Catherine Fowler

1. **USG Faculty Council Meeting** October 26-27, 2023, Gordon State College
 - a. Notes: Catherine Fowler
 - b. GCSU Attendees: Catherine Fowler and Rob Sumowski
 - c. Welcome from the Gordon SC President
 - d. Welcome from Michelle Brattain, Chair, USGFC
 - e. Approval of Minutes
 - f. CORE Refresh: Rushed timeline; anecdotes: changes make sense; work lies with the registrar for banner and degree works; language is being pushed to syllabi in some institutions; foreign language courses need to modify to fit the language; GSW has created an ad hoc committee to answer questions---one committee per letter of the word IMPACTS---can all area B courses fit into the letter I; how is the USG going to assess the changes once made, and how will the assessment affect fund distribution; at least 3 credit hours in each section---not a range, be specific.

- g. Post-Tenure Review: Concern about faculty put on performance review and the amount of time allowed to correct the issues; faculty reviews should be completed in a timely manner; deans should ensure that department chairs stay with the timeline; faculty with unsatisfactory review should have one year to improve; the timeline is crucial and be done within the timeline. Discussion regarding outside letters and the due time for portfolio. Some concern over the abbreviated time and advancing the due date for tenure for getting your portfolio together.
- h. Email the GCSU timeline for tenure to Michelle Brattain (USGFC president)
- i. In some cases, administration is not consulting faculty. Dr. Perdue said he would not approve one size fits all (but he is).
- j. USG policies should be viewed by faculty in advance. In some cases, the provost will endorse all BOR proposals. Ask Dr. Monga in the future to get faculty input early on in processes, as we are key stakeholders.
- k. Administrators: are they faculty or administrators? What line provides their pay?
- l. Sonny Perdue, USG Chancellor
 - i. MAP redraw state legislature: Dec. 8 special session; 66 million surplus- unsure where it will go; restore a portion of the past 10% is what he proposes; M and O is already set; utility costs are higher; he is trying to address this; lay groundwork for a formula change; working to get the legislature to understand school's operating expenses; Stuart Rayfield invested at Columbus state; they are involved in a few president searches- procedure seems awkward, but we do get consensus; his take on governance and the current presidents is positive; he strives to be transparent. Enrollment is everyone's job, and retention is our job. ...up .9500 students 3 % system wide; we are targeting 40 % of GA high school grads...match letters...metrics look good. Students are now our customers...
 - ii. CORE: He is aware about the rapid timeline and operational challenges; he is a 'faster' guy..... 10%...? taking funds from underperforming schools...re the incentive- trying to sort out the metrics...example---if there are doctoral programs; what is going on in rural GA---access to AP classes, and the quality of student we admit; budget---BOR are just the allocators, they cannot do COLA.
 - iii. Looking at loans...debt load...and trying to reduce student fees.
 - iv. Tuition increases....and fee increases last year...he was told to stop. Will have a tuition proposal increase this year.
 - v. Asking the chancellor to send out a letter to us as he did once before; address the core, and free speech vs. hate speech. We should be teaching speech and the public square, but emotions are high; he has talked with Biden, and concern for campus safety. Also assure faculty about their academic freedom.
- m. Dr. Ashwani Monga, USG Chief Academic Officer
 - i. Sonny Purdue pushed to get CORE refresh done sooner! He relies on the Provosts to get the info out. We are asking for faculty input. He did not get any messages from faculty. Faculty must be engaged. The board website has everything posted. History and English RAC were looking at this, and

not requiring a foreign language. All this predates Monga term. Foreign language---do they fit? Nothing is telling us to add courses. Keep foreign language optional.

- ii. They set broader outcomes. The why of the core refresh is to attract students, and graduate students. He is not interested in doing audits to chase the 20 % who will not comply. He wants people to buy into the core and the value of the core.
- iii. Much discontent among FC members saying we did not have input along the way. Monga cannot communicate it out before the board sees it. GEN ED members were in on the conversations. Discussion of Denley history and how he shut out faculty. Asking for a newsletter and or letter from Monga to perhaps communicate with faculty.
- iv. Working group established to discuss the 33% summer pay. Business procedure manual addresses this.
- v. Cost of meds; cyber threats; need more help with software and licenses; CIO is working on it and talks with various institutions.
- vi. 2.2 selection of presidents was a policy change in May 2022
- vii. AAUP censure does not appear to be a factor re: large number of applications for president. Slots. We need to convey to AAUP we have confidence in BOR. President makes final tenure decisions, and BOR.

V. Unfinished Business

1. **University Senate Handbook Revision** Jennifer Flory is preparing the update.
2. **2024-2025 Governance Calendar** Alex Blazer is preparing the draft.

VI. New Business

1. There was no new business.

VII. Open Discussion

1. There was no open discussion.

VIII. Next Meeting

1. **Calendar**
 - a. University Senate Meeting – Friday, November 17, 3:30 p.m., Arts & Sciences 272
 - b. ECUS Meeting – Friday, January 5, 2:45 p.m., Parks Hall 301
 - c. ECUS+SCC Meeting – Friday, January 5, 3:30 p.m., Parks Hall 301
 - d. University Senate Meeting – Friday, January 19, 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.

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 2:57 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: 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					3	0	0	
Cathy Cox <i>University President</i>	R	R	R					0	3	0	
Nicholas Creel <i>EFS, CoBT ECUS Member</i>	P	P	P					3	0	0	
Jennifer Flory <i>EFS, CoAS ECUS Chair Emerita</i>	P	P	P					3	0	0	
Catherine Fowler <i>EFS, CoHS, ECUS Vice-Chair</i>	P	P	P					3	0	0	
Lamonica Sanford <i>EFS, Library ECUS Member</i>	P	P	P					3	0	0	
Costas Spirou <i>Provost</i>	P	R	P					2	1	0	
Rob Sumowski <i>EFS, CoE ECUS Chair</i>	P	P	P					3	0	0	