

2025-2026 UNIVERSITY SENATE
MINUTES FOR THE 25 APR 2025 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
University Senate Officers: Presiding Stephanie Jett,
Presiding Officer Elect and Secretary to be determined at this meeting

ATTENDANCE

Members	P denotes Present	A denotes Absent	R denotes Regrets
Andrew Allen-P	Kerry James Evans-P	Bekir Mugayitoglu-A	Cara Smith-A
GeGee Arnold-P	Sayo Fakayode-A	Desaree Murder-P	Marshall Smith-P
Alex Blazer-P	Jennifer Flory-P	Christine Mutiti-P	Will Smith-P
George Cazacu-P	Matthew Forrest-A	Joyce Norris-Taylor-P	Rob Sumowski-P
Mikkel Christensen-P	Brad Fowler-A	Amy Pinney-P	Amy Sumpter-A
Corey Claxton-P	Hedy Fraunhofer-P	Frank Richardson-A	John Swinton-P
Cathy Cox-R	Bryan Hall-P	Holley Roberts-P	Natalie Toomey-P
Nicholas Creel-P	Shantee Henry-P	Suzanna Roman-Oliver-R	Winston Tripp-P
Angela Criscoe-P	Sabrina Hom-P	Peter Rosado-R	Eryn Viscarra-A
Holly Croft-P	Stephanie Jett-P	Ezra Ryall-P	Talecia Warren-A
Jamie Downing-P	Mehrnaz Khalaj Hedayati-P	Lamonica Sanford-P	Aric Wilhau-P
Helen DuPree-A	Adam Lamparello-P	Serena Semere-P	
Josefina Endere-A	Nadirah Mayweather-A	Arnab Sengupta-P	
Guests	Role on University Senate or Position at the University		
A. Kay Anderson	Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management and University Registrar		
Nathan Bedsole	Assistant Professor of Communication and Volunteer on the 2025-2026 APC		
Maria Gordon	Senior Secretary, Department of Healthcare Systems and Informatics, and Staff Council Appointee to the 2025-2026 DEIPC		
Dana Gorzelany-Mostak	Associate Professor of Music and CAO Designee to the 2025-2026 APC		
Rhonda Griffin	Administrative Assistant of the 2025-2026 University Senate		
Phil Male	Assistant Professor of Scenic Design and Volunteer on the 2025-2026 SAPC		
Nancy Mizelle	Professor of Middle Grades Education, Chair of the Department of Professional Learning & Innovation, and Volunteer on the 2025-2026 BIPC		
Kim Muschaweck	Assistant Professor of Teacher Education and Parliamentarian of the 2025-2026 University Senate		
Kirsten Schipper	Program Coordinator, Continuing and Professional Education, and Staff Council Appointee to the 2025-2026 SAPC		
Simplice Tchamna	Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Volunteer on the 2025-2026 APC		
Brian Watson	Chief Information Officer to the 2025-2026 RPIPC		

CALL TO ORDER Nicholas Creel, Presiding Officer of the 2024-2025 University Senate, called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

PASSING THE GAVEL:

- a. Nicholas Creel (Presiding Officer of the 2024-2025 University Senate) called Stephanie Jett (Presiding Officer of the 2025-2026 University Senate) to the podium.
- b. The first two questions were directed to Nicholas Creel and the third was directed to the university senate.
 - i. Will you view your role as presiding officer as an opportunity, rather than a burden?
 - ii. Will you be a faithful steward of the resources of the University Senate?

- iii. And will you, members of the 2024-2025 University Senate, vow to support your Presiding Officer in his efforts toward effective shared governance?
- c. The answers to the first two questions were “I will” from Stephanie Jett while the answer to the third question was “We will” from the membership.
- d. Nicholas Creel transferred the role of Presiding Officer of the University Senate.

CONSENT AGENDA A consent agenda was available as an item of business listed on the meeting agenda and read as follows.

1. **AGENDA/MINUTES**

- a. University Senate Meeting Agenda (25 Apr 2025, 3:30 p.m.)

A **MOTION** to adopt the consent agenda was approved by voice vote with no proposed extractions, no further discussion, no dissenting voice, and only voting members of the university senate eligible to vote.

MINUTES As the previous meeting of the University Senate immediately preceded this meeting, the minutes for that meeting (2:00-3:15 p.m. on Friday 25 Apr 2025) were not yet available for review.

UNIVERSITY SENATOR PINS Nicholas Creel distributed university senator pins to the first-time members of the University Senate. Pin recipients were as follows.

- 1. **Elected Faculty Senators** George Cazacu, Jamie Downing
- 2. **Selected Staff Senators** Serena Semere

UNFINISHED BUSINESS There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. **MOTION 2425.CON.002.O SLATE OF NOMINEES 2025-2026**, Stephanie Jett, 2025-2026 Presiding Officer, presented the motion: “To endorse the Slate of Nominees for the 2025-2026 University Senate Officers and Committees as proposed in the supporting documents.”
 - a. **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS** Supporting documentation was available in the online motion database: <https://senate.gcsu.edu/motions/slate-nominees-2025-2026-04152025>
 - i. *Committee Assignments + Subcommittee Assignments* This pdf document contained the slate of nominees proposed by the 2024-2025 Subcommittee on Nominations to serve on the committees and as officers of the 2025-2026 University Senate.
 - ii. *Bylaws Compliance* This pdf document provided verification of the slate’s compliance with university senate bylaws. This report is required as articulated in the university senate bylaws. The pertinent bylaw is quoted here.
 - 1. V.Section1.D.2.e. **Compliance Report**. The Subcommittee shall prepare a report that demonstrates that the composition of all committees complies with the requirements of these bylaws. Such a

report shall be submitted to the Executive Committee when the initial committee recommendations are made and any time that changes are proposed to committee membership.

b. **DISCUSSION**

i. **Officers**

1. Nicholas Creel noted the 2024-2025 Subcommittee on Nominations had received four nominations for Presiding Officer Elect of the 2023-2024 University Senate, and Stephanie Jett agreed to accept the nomination. Nicholas Creel invited other nominations for this officer position from the floor. Nicolas Creel was nominated but declined the nomination. This nomination invitation is required as articulated in the university senate bylaws. The pertinent bylaw is quoted here.
 - a. II.Section4.A. Presiding Officer and Presiding Officer Elect. The University Senate shall have a Presiding Officer, who presides at all meetings of the University Senate, and a Presiding Officer Elect, who shall assume the position of Presiding Officer the following year. Only elected faculty senators are eligible to serve as Presiding Officer or Presiding Officer Elect. The election of the Presiding Officer Elect shall proceed as follows. At the spring organizational meeting of the University Senate, the outgoing Subcommittee on Nominations shall nominate one elected faculty senator from the incoming University Senate. **The Presiding Officer at the spring organizational meeting shall then call for other nominations from the floor.** Should this result in more than one nominee for Presiding Officer Elect, all members of the incoming University Senate shall vote by secret ballot. The nominee receiving the most votes shall be the Presiding Officer Elect. The terms of service for the Presiding Officer and Presiding Officer Elect shall begin with the adjournment of this spring organizational meeting, and shall end when her/his successor assumes office.
2. Nicholas Creel noted the 2023-2024 Subcommittee on Nominations had received two nominations for Secretary of the 2024-2025 University Senate, and Alex Blazer agreed to accept the nomination. Nicholas Creel invited other nominations for this officer position from the floor. No nominations were received from the floor. This nomination invitation is required as articulated in the university senate bylaws. The pertinent bylaw is quoted here.
 - a. II.Section4.B. Secretary. The University Senate shall elect a Secretary at its spring organizational meeting who shall be responsible for keeping minutes at all meetings of the University Senate. Only elected faculty senators are eligible to serve as Secretary. The election of the Secretary of the University Senate shall proceed as follows. At the spring organizational meeting of the University Senate, the outgoing Subcommittee on Nominations shall nominate one

elected faculty senator from the incoming University Senate. The Presiding Officer at the spring organizational meeting shall then call for other nominations from the floor. Should this result in more than one nominee for Secretary, all members of the incoming University Senate shall vote by secret ballot. The nominee receiving the most votes shall be the Secretary. The term of service of the Secretary shall begin at the call to order of the first meeting of the University Senate following the spring organizational meeting at which (s)he is elected, and shall end when her/his successor assumes office.

- c. **SCoN Report** The proposed slate of nominees to be voted on by the University Senate is as follows.
- i. Committee preferences and nominations for university senate officers (Presiding Officer Elect and Secretary) were invited from all elected faculty senators.
 - ii. Elected Faculty Senators were also invited to express their interest in serving as a university senate representative. The responses received allowed the 2024-2025 SCoN to fill nearly all the university senate representative positions.
 - iii. A call for volunteers to serve on university senate committees was made to the corps of instruction. Each volunteer was invited to express preference for committee service.
 - iv. Informed by these individual committee preferences and officer nominations, the 2024-2025 Subcommittee on Nominations discussed this slate of nominees at the 4 Apr 2025 ECUS with Standing Committee Chairs meeting and adopted the slate of elected faculty senators and volunteer committee assignments. Appointees, designees, selected staff senators, and selected student senators were awaiting selection by Staff Council. The slate is presented for your consideration.
 - v. Alex Blazer was nominated for 2025-2026 University Senate Secretary, and he accepted.
 - vi. Joyce Norris-Taylor was nominated for 2025-2026 University Senate Presiding Officer Elect, and she accepted.
 - vii. The Selected Staff Senators and Staff Council Appointees will be identified over the summer and added to a revised slate of nominees for vote at our first fall university senate meeting.
 - viii. There is an elaborate set of requirements in the university senate bylaws with which the slate must comply.
 1. ECUS composition includes the President, Provost, Presiding Officer, Presiding Officer Elect, Past Presiding Officer, and Secretary. Additionally, ECUS must have at least one elected faculty senator from each academic unit (colleges and the library).
 2. Desirable for each of the standing committees (APC, DEIPC, FAPC, RPIPC, SAPC) is corps of instruction representation from all academic units (colleges and the library), yet this requirement is not explicit in the university senate bylaws.

3. Each of APC and FAPC require no fewer than eleven (11) and no more than thirteen (13) members distributed as follows:
 - a. no fewer than nine (9) and no more than eleven (11) members selected from the corps of instruction faculty, at least seven (7) of whom are elected faculty senators,
 - b. a Presidential Appointee,
 - c. and a Chief Academic Officer Designee.
4. DEIPC requires exactly thirteen (13) members distributed as follows:
 - a. seven (7) members selected from the corps of instruction faculty, at least six (6) of whom are elected faculty senators,
 - b. a Chief Diversity Officer Designee,
 - c. a Director of Human Resources Designee,
 - d. a Director of Admissions Designee,
 - e. a Staff Council Appointee,
 - f. a Student Government Association Appointee, and
 - g. a Presidential Appointee,
5. RPIPC requires no fewer than eleven (11) and no more than thirteen (13) members distributed as follows:
 - a. no fewer than four (4) and no more than eight (6) members selected from the corps of instruction faculty, at least four (4) of whom are elected faculty senators,
 - b. three Selected Staff Senators,
 - c. a Presidential Appointee,
 - d. a Chief Business Officer Designee,
 - e. a Chief Information Officer Designee, and
 - f. a Student Government Association Appointee.
6. SAPC requires no fewer than eleven (11) and no more than thirteen (13) members distributed as follows:
 - a. no fewer than four (4) and no more than six (6) members selected from the corps of instruction faculty, at least four (4) of whom are elected faculty senators,
 - b. two Selected Student Senators,
 - c. one Selected Staff Senator,
 - d. a Presidential Appointee,
 - e. a Chief Student Affairs Officer Designee,
 - f. a Staff Council Appointee, and
 - g. a Student Government Association Appointee.
7. There are thirteen highlighted positions in the slate that will be resolved in the coming months.
 - a. Admissions Director, DEIPC
 - b. Staff Council Appointee, DEIPC
 - c. Student Government Association Appointee, DEIPC
 - d. Presidential Appointee, DEIPC
 - e. Selected Staff Senator, RPIPC
 - f. Selected Staff Senator, RPIPC
 - g. Selected Staff Senator, RPIPC
 - h. Student Government Association Appointee, RPIPC

- i. Selected Student Senator, SAPC
 - j. Selected Student Senator, SAPC
 - k. Selected Staff Senator, SAPC
 - l. Staff Council Appointee, SAPC
 - m. Student Government Association Appointee, SAPC
- d. **SENATE ACTION** Motion 2425.CON.002.O was **APPROVED** via voice vote with no further discussion, no dissenting voice, and only voting members of the university senate eligible to vote.

COMMITTEE REPORT This being an organizational meeting, there was only one additional committee report.

1. **GOVERNANCE RETREAT PLANNING COMMITTEE** — **STEPHANIE JETT, CHAIR**

- a. **PLANNING IN PROGRESS** The following 2025 governance retreat information was shared.
 - i. **DATE** The retreat date is Monday, 11 Aug 2025.
 - ii. **LOCATION** The retreat will take place at a location to be determined.
 - iii. **SCHEDULE**
 - 1) Arrival and Registration 8:45am to 9:00am
 - 2) Call to Order 9:00am
 - 3) Adjourn 2:00pm
 - iv. **INVITEES** All members of the committees of the 2025-2026 University Senate and Standing Committees – university senators, appointees, designees, volunteers – are invited to attend the retreat.
 - v. **PLANNING COMMITTEE** Stephanie Jett is chairing the committee with members to be determined. Stephanie Jett invited any of those present who were interested in assisting with retreat planning to contact her.
 - vi. **SURVEY** A survey will be circulated requesting dietary preferences, confirmation of intent to attend, and preferences on proposed retreat agenda items. It is requested that this survey be completed in a timely manner.
 - vii. **STAY TUNED** More information about the governance retreat will be disseminated by email as it becomes available.

INFORMATION ITEM

1. **2025-2026 UNIVERSITY SENATE COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS** — **STEPHANIE JETT, PRESIDING OFFICER**

- a. After adjournment, proceed to breakout rooms for Standing Committee Organizational meetings and election of committee officers. Rooms for committee breakout sessions with facilitators in parentheses: APC: A&S 2-46 (Nicholas Creel); DEIPC: A&S 2-54 (Stephanie Jett); FAPC: A&S 2-70 (Alex Blazer); RPIPC: A&S 2-74 (Joyce Norris-Taylor); SAPC: A&S 2-75 (Holly Croft).
- b. All committee organizational meetings will occur directly after University Senate adjourns. All committee organizational meetings not accomplished on 25 Apr 2025 will be completed during the committee breakout sessions of the Governance Retreat on 11 Aug 2025.

- c. Members of the newly formed AI Policy Review Committee should break away from their standing committee meetings at 4:20 p.m. to return to A&S 2-72 for a brief committee meeting.

OPEN DISCUSSION Stephanie Jett invited open discussion from the floor. There was none.

ADJOURN

1. **STANDING COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS** Stephanie Jett reminded members to proceed to breakout rooms after adjournment for committee organizational meetings, including election of committee officers.
2. **ATTENDANCE AND SIGN-IN SHEET** Stephanie Jett requested that each individual present at the meeting sign the university senator attendance sheet or guest sign-in sheet on their way out if they hadn't already signed in.
3. **NEXT UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING** is scheduled for Friday, 19 Sep 2025 at 3:47 p.m. in Arts & Sciences 272.
4. **MOTION TO ADJOURN** As there was no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. There are no supporting documents.