**Request for Board of Regents to Consider Bridge Funding for Enrollment Shortfall Based on Unintended Consequence of Standardized Testing Requirement**

WHEREAS on March 18, 2022, the Board of Regents (BoR) of the University System of Georgia (USG) made standardized test scores optional for acceptance to all USG schools except for the University of Georgia, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Georgia College & State University (GCSU).

WHEREAS while the members of the faculty, staff, and students believe that the decision made by the Board of Regents was made with the best intentions, the decision to require test scores has created an unintended negative financial impact to the operating budget for the 2025 fiscal year.

WHEREAS the timing of the decision and lack of consultation with GCSU administration did not allow for appropriate action to ensure a full incoming freshman class for the 2022 Fall semester; GCSU fell short of our capped freshman enrollment by 133 students for the Fall 2022 semester. The decline in the fall 2022 enrollment resulted in an immediate decrease in tuition of approximately $1.0 million for fiscal year 2023. This shortfall in enrollment is projected to result in a $728,840 reduction to state appropriations for fiscal year 2025.

WHEREAS this budget short fall coincides with the already expected budget reductions across all USG institutions, the faculty, staff, and students of GCSU worry that the quality of instruction and ability to prepare our students for the workforce may be negatively impacted by the extra burden of the enrollment funding shortfall through loss of faculty lines, staff positions, and teaching resources.

WHEREAS admissions applications and deposits for fiscal year 2024 are on pace to not only bring enrollment to standard historical levels but is currently projecting a larger first-year class. This increase in first-year students combined with the aforementioned shortfall will create a dire challenge for the faculty, staff, and administration to provide the high-quality liberal arts education that we strive to deliver.

WHEREAS the projected reduction to state appropriations for the 2025 fiscal year is a result of actions outside of the control of the GCSU faculty, staff, administration, and students and is an unintended consequence of a decision made by the BoR in good faith.

BE IT RESOLVED that the faculty, staff, and students of GCSU respectfully request that the BoR of the USG consider providing additional funding for the enrollment shortfall to GCSU for the 2025 fiscal year.