

2026-2027 UNIVERSITY SENATE
MINUTES FOR THE 24 APR 2026 MEETING
University Senate Officers: Presiding Officer Joyce Norris-Taylor,
Presiding Officer Elect Brad Fowler, Secretary Alex Blazer

ATTENDANCE

Members	P denotes Present	A denotes Absent	R denotes Regrets
Christine Amezcuita-A	Jennifer Graham-A	Jonathan Meyer-A	Sam Samiya-A
Nathan Bedsole-A	Desaree Henriquez-P	John Moore-P	Lamonica Sanford-P
Alex Blazer-P	Shantee Henry-A	Bekir Mugayitoglu-P	Arnab Sengupta-P
Rachel Bray-P	Sabrina Hom-P	Christine Mutiti-P	Cara Smith-A
George Cazacu-P	Lonnie Howell-P	Laura Newbern-P	Liz Speelman-A
Tormechi Chambliss-P	Stephanie Jett-P	Joyce Norris-Taylor-P	Rob Sumowski-P
Cathy Cox-P	David Johnson-P	Austin Parks-P	Amy Sumpter-A
Nicholas Creel-P	Sara Jordan-P	Amy Pinney-P	John Swinton-P
Angela Criscoe-P	Mehrnaz Khalaj Hedayati-P	Kelly Prior-A	Natalie Toomey-A
Jennifer Flory-P	Samuel Kleppinger-A	Frank Richardson-A	Charles Ubah-A
Matthew Forrest-A	Jason Lindsey-A	Holley Roberts-P	Aric Wilhau-P
Brad Fowler-P	Hasitha Mahabuduge-P	Suzanna Roman-Oliver-R	
Hedy Fraunhofer-P	Amelia Malcom-P	Peter Rosado-P	
Guests	Role on University Senate or Position at the University		
A. Kay Anderson	Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management and University Registrar		
Linda Bradley	Professor of Reading, Literary & Language and CAO Designee to the 2026-2027 APC		
Kevin Bucholtz	Associate Provost for Student Engagement and Academic Excellence		
Chris Clark	Professor of Economics and CAO Designee to the 2026-2027 FAPC		
Catherine Fowler	Associate Professor of Nursing and Volunteer to the 2026-2027 RPIPC		
Rhonda Griffin	Administrative Assistant of the Office of the Provost and Administrative Assistant of the 2026-2027 University Senate		
Marcia Henry	Assistant Professor of Nursing and Volunteer to the 2026-2027 APC		
Riley-Kate Miller	Student and SGA Appointee to the 2026-2027 SAPC		
Kim Muschaweck	Associate Professor of Teacher Education and Parliamentarian of the 2026-2027 University Senate		

CALL TO ORDER Stephanie Jett, Presiding Officer of the 2025-2026 University Senate, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

PASSING OF THE GAVEL

- a. Stephanie Jett (Presiding Officer of the 2025-2026 University Senate) called Joyce Norris-Taylor (Presiding Officer of the 2026-2027 University Senate) to the podium.
- b. The first two questions were directed to Joyce Norris-Taylor and the third s directed to the university senate.
 - i. Dr. Norris-Taylor: 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 2026-2027 University Senate, vow to support your Presiding Officer in her efforts toward effective shared governance?
- c. The answers to the first two questions were “I will” from Joyce Norris-Taylor while the answer to the third question was “We will” from the membership.

- d. Stephanie Jett 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 (24 Apr 2026)

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 24 Apr 2026) were not yet available for review.

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

1. **Elected Faculty Senators** Nathan Bedsole, Rachel Bray, Tormechi Chambliss, Sara Jordan, Amelia Malcom, and Austin Parks
2. **Selected Staff Senators** Lonnie Howell

UNFINISHED BUSINESS There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **MOTION 2627.CON.001.O 2026-2027 SLATE OF NOMINEES**, Stephanie Jett, 2026-2027 Presiding Officer, presented the motion: “To endorse the Slate of Nominees for the 2026-2027 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. *SCoN - Motion - Bylaws Compliance (2026-04-16)* 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.
 - I. 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.
 - ii. *SCoN - Motion - Committee Assignments 2026-2027 (2026-04-16)* This pdf document contained the slate of nominees proposed by the 2025-2026 Subcommittee on Nominations to serve on the committees and as officers of the 2026-2027 University Senate.
 - iii. *SCoN – Motion – US Committee Assignments 2026-2027 (2026-04-16)* This spreadsheet document contained the 2026-2027 University Senate

representatives nominated to serve on university-wide committees by slate of nominees proposed by the 2025-2026 Subcommittee on Nominations.

b. **DISCUSSION**

i. **Officers**

1. Joyce Norris-Taylor noted the 2025-2026 Subcommittee on Nominations had received two nominations for Presiding Officer Elect of the 2026-2027 University Senate, and Brad Fowler agreed to accept the nomination. Joyce Norris-Taylor invited other nominations for this officer position from the floor. 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. Joyce Norris-Taylor noted the 2025-2026 Subcommittee on Nominations had received one nomination for Secretary of the 2026-2027 University Senate, and Alex Blazer agreed to accept the nomination. Joyce Norris-Taylor 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 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 Subcommittee on Nominations discussed this slate of nominees at the 3 Apr 2026 ECUS with Standing Committee Chairs meeting and adopted, via email, 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 2026-2027 University Senate Secretary, and he accepted.
 - vi. Brad Fowler was nominated for 2026-2027 University Senate Presiding Officer Elect, and she accepted.
 - vii. 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, BIPC, 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. BIPC 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 Belonging and Inclusion 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.
- d. **SENATE ACTION** Motion 2627.CON.001.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** — **JOYCE NORRIS-TAYLOR, CHAIR**
 - a. **PLANNING IN PROGRESS** The following 2026 governance retreat information was shared.
 - i. **DATE** The retreat date is Monday, 10 Aug 2026.
 - 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 2026-2027 University Senate and Standing Committees – university senators, appointees, designees, volunteers – are invited to attend the retreat.
- v. PLANNING COMMITTEE Joyce Norris-Taylor is chairing the committee with members to be determined. Joyce Norris-Taylor 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. **2026-2027 UNIVERSITY SENATE COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS — JOYCE NORRIS-TAYLOR, 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 (Brad Fowler); BIPC: 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 (Rob Sumowski).
 - b. All committee organizational meetings will occur directly after University Senate adjourns. All committee organizational meetings not accomplished on 24 Apr 2026 will be completed during the committee breakout sessions of the Governance Retreat on 10 Aug 2026.

OPEN DISCUSSION Joyce Norris-Taylor invited open discussion from the floor. There was none.

ADJOURN

1. **STANDING COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS** Joyce Norris-Taylor reminded members to proceed to breakout rooms after adjournment for committee organizational meetings, including election of committee officers.
2. **ATTENDANCE AND SIGN-IN SHEET** Joyce Norris-Taylor 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, 18 Sep 2026 at 3:30 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 3:42 p.m.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. There are no supporting documents.