

**REPORTS FROM PRESIDENT DORMAN AND PROVOST SPIROU**  
**18 September 2020 Meeting of the University Senate**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

1. **CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE WEEK** Due to COVID-19, we were unable to hold our 6<sup>th</sup> annual ceremony in April; instead, we hosted it this week by recognizing individuals and teams throughout the week. This is a time to celebrate both faculty and staff who have demonstrated excellence in their everyday work here at Georgia College. Below you will find the list of winners for this week. Please join me in congratulating these winners. Please note that our Bobcat Partner Award and Max Crook Volunteer Service Award have not been presented to the winners at this time. These will be announced at a later date. Please help me congratulate these individuals and teams for their outstanding work.
  - a. **Faculty**
    - i. Excellence in Online Teaching – **Marcie Peck**
    - ii. Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Endeavors – **Ashok Hegde**
    - iii. Excellence in Scholarship of Teaching and Learning – **Bryan Marshall**
    - iv. Craig M. Turner Excellence in University Service Award – **Nancy Beasley**
    - v. Excellence in Teaching – **Stephanie McClure**
    - vi. Teaching Excellence for Department/Program – **School of Nursing**
    - vii. Irene Rose Community Service Award – **Nicole DeClouette**
    - viii. Laurie Hendrickson McMillan Award – **Sterling Roberts**
    - ix. Georgia College Inclusive Excellence Faculty Award – **Peter Rosado Flores**
  - b. **Staff**
    - i. Individual Service Excellence – **Cathy Fungone**
    - ii. Team Service Excellence – **Center for Teaching and Learning**
    - iii. Team Service Excellence – **Information Technology**
    - iv. Outstanding Leadership Award – **Anthony Miller**
    - v. Bright Idea Award for Outstanding Process Improvement – **Parking and Transportation**
    - vi. Bobcat Spirit Award – **Elizabeth Hines**
    - vii. Georgia College Inclusive Excellence Staff Award – **Emily Brookshire**
2. **U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT RANKINGS** The 2021 U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges report lists Georgia College as a “Top Public School.” Designated ninth in the South, Georgia College was the highest-ranking Georgia institution in this category for the second year in a row. The 2021 Best Colleges guidebook shows Georgia College as 21st on the Best Regional Universities in the South list. “Best Regional Universities” are not ranked nationally, but rather against their peer group in one of four geographic regions—North, South, Midwest and West. Georgia College was also named as a top undergraduate teaching institution. The university was also ranked the seventh most innovative school in the region—the highest-ranked public university in the state in both categories. The Front Page story from Monday can be found [here](#).
3. **COVID-19 TESTING FOR STUDENTS** Student Health Services began offering COVID-19 testing for all students on Friday, September 11. Testing will be by appointment only at

Student Health Services on West Campus from 11:00 – 3:00 Monday – Friday. There are no out-of-pocket costs associated with this test. This test is a saliva test and much less invasive than a standard nasal swab. Students will be contacted by Student Health Services with their results. Please note that testing is not a substitute for your initiation of quarantine or isolation. Please contact Student Health Services at 478-445-5288 with any questions.

4. **FLU SHOTS FOR FACULTY & STAFF** CVS will be offering flu shots to all Georgia College faculty & staff members on Friday, September 25. Details are listed below with additional details from HR coming soon.
  - a. Friday, September 25 from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm
  - b. Bell Hall lot under the tent
  - c. No cost to GC employees with Anthem healthcare ID card
  - d. Bring your (medical) prescription card and a valid photo ID.
  - e. Scheduled appointments are highly recommended. HR will be sending out these details.
  - f. Must wear a mask and socially distance while waiting in line for your shot
  - g. Must pass a temperature check and must answer screening questions (COVID-19 and standard) prior to receiving shot
5. **FRESHMAN COHORT** The freshman cohort is hovering around 1367 students. Additionally, 46 undergraduates and 32 graduate students have delayed their start dates until spring semester. Overall, undergraduate enrollment is down by ~200 students; and graduate enrollment is up ~100 students, with overall enrollment at 6958 as of the last week in August. Credit hours are down by 2743 hours, and this is the important factor impacts our USG state appropriation formula funding. Fortunately, graduate credit hours (which are up) are weighted slightly higher in the formula funding allocation process.
6. **UNIVERSITY RETENTION COMMITTEE** As you might remember in my 2020 State of the University remarks, I called for us to dedicate ourselves to improving our retention at all levels of the student academic experience at Georgia College. With that in mind, I am assembling a group of individuals who can advise Provost Spirou and me on our retention efforts. I have charged this group with focusing on retention at all academic levels (freshman to sophomore, sophomore to junior, junior to senior) and study existing retention trends at Georgia College by completing an assessment utilizing relevant variables (such as: college of study, year of study, program, transfer, progression, on-campus vs. off-campus, etc.). In addition, I asked for them to examine the Gary Fretwell Report produced in November 2019 and consider recommendations Mr. Fretwell noted in that document. Finally, I would like for them to identify best practices in student retention and consider recommendations we might apply here at Georgia College to enhance our already good retention rates.
  - a. This committee will be co-chaired by Dr. Chris Ferland, Dr. Ken McGill, and Ms. Suzanne Pittman. Members of the committee are:
    - i. Kay Anderson
    - ii. Shawn Brooks
    - iii. Jordan Cofer
    - iv. Nicole DeClouette
    - v. Brent Evans
    - vi. Lee Gillis

- vii. Lisa Griffin
- viii. Michelle Johnson
- ix. Nadirah Mayweather
- x. Shannon Simmons

7. **CONSTITUTION WEEK** Constitution week began yesterday and will conclude on Wednesday, September 23. Faculty and staff on the Constitution Week committee put together a dynamic program that addresses pressing issues of our time. Because the events are online, they were able to attract premier speakers, including two who clerked for Supreme Court justices and two who recently argued cases before the United States Supreme Court. Event links are available at <https://libguides.gcsu.edu/constitutionweek>. Please join me in supporting this event.
8. **ETHICS AWARENESS WEEK** Ethics Awareness Week is scheduled for November 9 – 15, 2020. The purpose of the week is to remind everyone in the university system of our shared ethical values and expectations so that these are incorporated into our day-to-day decisions. Ms. Stacy Mulvaney, Director of Internal Audit and Advisory Services, is coordinating various virtual activities for the week. More details about the week’s events will be announced in November.
9. **UNIVERSITY BUDGET FORUM** The FY2021 University Budget Open Forum will be held virtually on Wednesday, November 4, 2020, from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. As a part of our commitment to shared governance and transparent decision making, all campus community members are encouraged to participate. I will provide a budget overview beginning at 8:30 followed by the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, dean of the College of Business, dean of the College of Education and dean of the College of Health Sciences. Following the deans, the vice presidents will present. This forum is open to the university community and provides an opportunity for understanding the funding needs across the university.
10. **PPE UPDATE** We have recently received additional GEMA support for PPE supplies.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Clear Face Masks	320
Gloves	2,500
Face Shields	150
Gowns	700
3M Masks	14,000

- a. 432 clear face shields were ordered in late August for faculty and students.
  - b. 5,000 KN95 face masks were also ordered in late August.
  - c. The hand sanitizing stations have arrived, and the Building Services team has placed them at all of our building entrances.
  - d. A shipment of MERV 13 filters (recommended HVAC filters for COVID 19 vapor mitigation) arrived in late August and have been installed in A&S and the MSU. We are expecting the rest of the delayed shipment soon to ensure installation of the enhanced filters in all of the academic buildings.
11. **Policy Revisions** During the August 2020 Board of Regents meeting, revisions were made to the following BOR policies:
    - a. **Policy revisions were approved in response to changes in regulations released by the U.S. Department of Education.**
      - i. Campus Affairs

1. [Board Policy 6.7 Sexual Misconduct Policy](#)
- ii. Student Affairs
  1. [Board Policy 4.6.5 Standards for Institutional Student Conduct Investigation and Disciplinary Proceedings](#)

## **12. SAVE THE DATES**

- a. ***Fallfest***  
Saturday, October 17, 2020  
Virtual Ceremony
- b. ***University Budget Forum***  
Wednesday, November 4, 2020  
Virtual Ceremony
- c. ***Alumni Weekend***  
November 2 – 8, 2020  
Virtual Events
- d. ***Ethics Awareness Week***  
November 9 – 15, 2020  
Virtual Events

## **13. UPDATE ON COVID -19 RESPONSE**

- a. In prior meetings, we discussed the need to create a website to share our data around cases. In an effort to be transparent and timely, we committed to publishing these data on a daily basis. That is being done regularly on our website.
- b. As most of you know, at one point, we experienced a high of 79 cases in the month of August; but I am pleased to report that our case count has fallen significantly. So far, this month, the number of student cases has decreased considerably. In the past week, for example, we have seen a handful of cases emerge daily.
- c. I have had conversations with Dr. Damian Francis, our faculty expert in epidemiology within the College of Health Sciences. You may have noticed that we are publishing a weekly chart on our confirmed case count with a 7-day moving average. The trend line is very encouraging; and I am also told that as of September 14, 2020, the cumulative return to campus since August 7, 2020, is over 96 percent! So, you should be seeing many of these students returning to your classrooms.
- d. As I discussed the epidemiology of our cases with our Director of Student Health, it seemed that a common thread in many of the student cases appeared to be off-campus, large group settings such as parties and gatherings downtown. There does NOT appear to be any common place or event on campus that is linked to the increase in cases that we have seen. This analysis seems to be following what we are seeing emerge at other colleges and universities nationwide. This epidemiological assessment resulted in my recent explanation to students regarding how their external behaviors might threaten the safety of all on our campus. I am thankful for how students have responded which has resulted in lower rates of infection that we now see.
- e. So, what is all of this telling us: A low incidence of infection in faculty and staff, an epidemiology that points toward off-campus events as the cause for the

outbreak, a reduction in numbers as students have responded to the challenge regarding this external behavior, a national narrative that reinforces the idea that student behavior in large groups leads to COVID outbreaks.

- f. I believe what this is telling us is that our preparations, our mitigation strategy, and the constant reminders that we are sending out – all of this appears to be working. And for that – let me say THANK YOU!! I greatly appreciate the work that the entire university has done to keep themselves and each other safe. Please know that this work will continue. Even though the number of employee cases has always been fairly low, we still have a lot of work to do to remind everyone that we are battling a serious infectious disease that spreads rapidly – particularly in indoor areas where crowds congregate without social distancing and face masks.
- g. We must continue to remind our everyone to socially distance themselves, wear face masks, avoid crowds, and exercise good judgment – especially off campus where we now believe the majority of our student cases can be traced to. The way we have configured our classrooms, our dining experience, our Wellness and Recreation Center, common areas, and so forth – I believe all that is paying off very well for us; and our students and faculty seem to be safe while they are on our campus. And for that, let me thank you again for doing all that you do to keep yourselves and each other safe. There is more work to do, but I am feeling much better about the trajectory of our case count and the ongoing efforts we are making to remind everyone to stay safe.

## **PROVOST'S REPORT**

### **1. CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING**

- a. Since August 26<sup>th</sup>, the Center for Teaching and Learning launched a number of offerings to support faculty:
  - i. The Science of Learning
  - ii. Assessment for the Digital Learning Environment
  - iii. Developing Relationships in a Digital Environment
  - iv. Video Recording Solutions for Recording your Presentation or Tutorials
  - v. Creating an Inviting and Welcome Space for Learning: Universal Design for Learning
  - vi. Making Your Work Known!: How to Capture What You Are Doing for Publication and Presentation
  - vii. Using Technology Devices for Video Recording Presentations and How-to Videos
  - viii. Which Teaching Strategies Yield the Greatest Bang for Your Buck?
  - ix. You Can Love Student Assessment. Really
- b. The Center for Teaching and Learning also developed videos on how to use the new technology within the classrooms. These include:
  - i. How to Set Up the Elmo Document Camera
  - ii. How to Use the Q Document Camera
  - iii. How to use the Clear Touch 1080 P Camera
  - iv. Scheduling Classes in Zoom
  - v. Scheduling Classes with Webex
  - vi. Scheduling Classes with MS Teams
  - vii. Using ImageMate with Zoom
  - viii. Using ImageMate with Webex

- ix. Using ImageMate with MS Teams
  - x. QCamera with Webex
  - xi. QCamera with MS Teams
  - xii. QCamera with Zoom
  - xiii. How to Access and Connect to Air Server Connect
  - xiv. How to Access and Connect to Air Server Connect Using Webex
  - xv. How to Access and Connect to Air Server Connect Using MS Teams
  - xvi. How to Access and Connect to Air Server Connect Using Zoom
  - c. We have 208 registrations (September 17, 2020) for these offerings.
2. **SPRING 2021 CLASSES**
- a. The Department Chairs and University Registrar started the classroom assignment process for Spring 2021.
  - b. Registration for Spring 2021 begins October 26<sup>th</sup> and advising appointments are underway for this and graduation applications.
  - c. Given the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic and the implications for colleges and universities, Georgia College restructured the Fall 2020 academic calendar. A number of universities across the country have already reorganized their Spring 2021 academic calendars and moving forward by cancelling their spring break (Baylor, Kentucky, Iowa, Wisconsin, Purdue, Cal State, Ohio State, Iowa State, and others). Following a review of the Spring 2021 GC academic calendar, and in the same spirit of doing all that we can for the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff, a similar approach will be pursued. This includes starting the semester on January 19, 2020, no spring break, with final exams the first week of May.
3. **E-CONTRACTS** This initiative was successfully launched (within the first week we had 200 contracts).
4. **PROFESSIONAL LEAVE** The Office of the Provost distributed the Call for Faculty Professional Leave proposals to the deans for the 2021-2022 academic year. Faculty applications should be submitted to the Dean's office by October 15, 2020.
5. **ENGAGEMENT LEARNING CONSORTIUM** The Office of the Provost is submitting a membership application for Georgia College to join the Engagement Learning Consortium <https://engagementscholarship.org/>. This resource will support our faculty and students collaborate with other colleges and universities to encourage the creation of strong university-community partnerships. This also furthers community-engagement learning efforts at GC.
6. **SEARCH FOR SENIOR ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT** The search is continuing. Susan Kerr is chairing the committee. The application closing date was September 7. The committee completed Skype interviews with 9 candidates the week of September 14<sup>th</sup> and invite finalists to campus at end of the September.
7. **CUR AURA AWARD** On September 15, we submitted the document for the CUR AURA award. This award recognizes the top undergraduate research program in the nation.
8. **EMERITUS POLICY** The Provost's Office asked University Senate to revisit the Emeritus Policy and review procedural issues.
9. **2020-2021 ACADEMIC FORECAST** On September 10, 2020, the Office of the Provost submitted the 2020-2021 Academic Forecast to the USG.
- a. College of Arts and Sciences and College of Business
    - i. Joint undergraduate BS in Data Science

- ii. Joint undergraduate certificate in Arts Management
- b. College of Arts and Sciences
  - i. Professional Writing (graduate)
- c. College of Business
  - i. Graduate Certificates: IT Auditing, IS Data Analytics, Web Developer
- d. College of Health Science
  - i. Nutrition (graduate certificate)
  - ii. Simulation Education Nursing (graduate certificate)
- e. College of Education
  - i. Transition the EdS in Special Education and MEd in Special Education to online delivery

10. **USG PROGRAM APPROVAL PROCESS** The USG is creating a new program approval process by integrating two variables to the proposed program: (1) salaries of graduates, (2) future demand. The Carl Vinson Institute of Government is engaged in developing the data necessary for the new academic degree authorization format. Low enrollment programs will still need to be submitted.

11. **USG ADMISSION CRITERIA**

- a. The USG provided guidance regarding adjustments to USG Admission Criteria following the lack of SAT and ACT Testing availability: This temporary adjustment will allow students to apply for admission without submitting ACT or SAT scores at state colleges, state universities, comprehensive universities and research universities in the USG for the Spring, Summer and Fall 2021 semesters. Students who have SAT/ACT scores may still submit them.
- b. According to the USG guidance, prospective first year students must meet all other admission requirements, including satisfactory completion of the Required High School Curriculum and all other requested documentation. But, in the absence of ACT/SAT scores, institutions will make admissions eligibility decisions based on the materials that the student has submitted, utilizing a GPA threshold that is at least the following sector minimum, but no less than the current institutional requirement, rather than the usual Freshman Index (FI) criteria.

Sector	Minimum unweighted high-school GPA
Research	3.0
Comprehensive	2.6
State University	2.4
State College	2.0

- c. Additionally, institutions may encounter students who submit their ACT/SAT scores, but who are only admissible by not including those submitted scores. Institutions may admit applicants who would be denied for admission by using their submitted test-scores but can be admitted to the Spring, Summer and Fall 2021 semesters using the GPA based criteria.

12. **USG POST-TENURE REVIEW WORKING GROUP** The University System of Georgia (USG) announced the formation of a Post-Tenure Review Working Group to evaluate existing policy and make recommendations for updates as needed. The group is composed of faculty leaders from all USG sectors, USG staff and members of the Board of Regents. The working group's purpose will be to review and recommend updates to

board policy and campus practices to ensure all faculty remain productive throughout their careers. Periodic evaluation of tenured faculty helps assess whether faculty continue to stay current in their field, engage in service to their campus and community and teach effectively. The overall purpose is to encourage faculty development after tenure. Board of Regents policy on post-tenure review was first adopted in 1996. The policy has remained largely unchanged since 1996.

13. **OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS** Recruitment for the entering class of Fall 2021 is underway, mainly virtually. The impact of limited availability of test sites for ACT and SAT has resulted in the USG's test optional admission decision so the holistic review process will put much more emphasis in high school rigor, personal essays, recommendations from teachers, and resumes of involvement.
14. **FALLFEST AND PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION** Georgia College's premiere visitation program, Fallfest, will take place virtually on October 17. The President's Scholarship Competition will also be held virtually on November 20. More information and requests for faculty judges will be forthcoming.
15. **FINANCIAL AID OFFICE** GC Financial Aid Office has administered \$1,889,700 funds distributed to our institution from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. These emergency financial aid grants have been administered to students who had expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus including eligible expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care.
16. **TESTING CENTER** Since the number of seats we can use in the Testing Center have been reduced, due to COVID-19 concerns, the Testing Center has made it possible for students who take the online Major Field Tests (Senior Exit Exams) and the TEAS Tests (part of the Nursing admissions requirement) to test remotely using an online proctor. This will be a reduction of about 400 students coming into the Testing Center during fall semester and will allow us to continue to test students who get accommodations in person.
17. **ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER** The Virtual Academic Advising Center, <https://gcsu.zoom.us/my/gcadvising>, is open M-F from 8:00am – 5:00pm.
18. **MINDSET SURVEY** Mindset Survey over 740 responses. This is a record year of participation.
19. **ACADEMIC EXPO** The 11th Annual Academic Expo will be held virtually on Wednesday, September 30 – Friday, October 2, 2020. Deans and Chairs have been invited to submit videos. They are due to [abigail.dalton@gcsu.edu](mailto:abigail.dalton@gcsu.edu) on Monday, September 21.
20. **HONORS COLLEGE**
  - a. The Honors College moved to the Humber White House following a renovation of the space during the summer.
  - b. The Honors 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorations/Honors College Opening Celebrations to be held in conjunction with Alumni Week.
21. **GC JOURNEYS** The program reports a 15.1% increase in students participating in Transformative Experiences (High-Impact Practices) on campus, including increases in undergraduate research and community-based engaged learning.
22. **CAREERS** The new software will replace the existing software for hiring and is expected to launch in January 2021.
23. **BUDGET** FY22 budget process for Academic Affairs is scheduled for Friday, October 2, 2020 from 8:30 to 10:30 AM. Due to the current situation with COVID-19, the meeting will take place virtually. The budget sheets and one-page narratives are due no later than Wednesday, September 30th.



24. **USG CHANCELLOR'S LEARNING SCHOLARS** Four GC faculty were nominated by the Provost, applied, and accepted as USG Chancellor's Learning Scholars. The Chancellor's Learning Scholars program funds faculty fellows at University System of Georgia institutions. These fellows will work on topics of high-impact practices (transformative learning experiences) and online learning, then work with GC Journeys and the Center for Teaching and Learning to lead faculty learning communities on campus.
- Scott Butler, Professor of Public Health
  - Jim Schiffman, Associate Professor of Communication
  - Jehan Eljourbagy, Assistant Professor of Business Law
  - Stefanie Sevcik, Lecturer of English
25. **UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH** Students/faculty from various institutions across the country have submitted papers (more than 40 submissions) thus far for review in *Undergraduate Research*. Some of those institutions include:
- Middlebury College
  - Stetson University (FL)
  - UNC-Greensboro
  - Grambling State University
  - UNC-Charlotte
  - University of Florida
  - Albion College
  - Bryn Mawr
  - University of Virginia's College at Wise
  - Ball State University
  - Swarthmore

We continue to seek/invite submissions for the inaugural issue.

26. **FALL 2020 LIBRARY HOURS** M-Th 7:30-10:00pm; F: 7:30am – 6:00pm; Saturday: 10-6pm; Sunday: 12-10pm.
27. **CONSTITUTION WEEK** is currently underway, scheduled for September 17-23, 2020.
28. **WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FELLOWS PROGRAM** sponsored by the Office of the Provost begins on November 2020 and runs through May 2021. Dr. Holley Roberts, holley.roberts@gcsu.edu and Dr. Chavonda Mills, [chavonda.mills@gcsu.edu](mailto:chavonda.mills@gcsu.edu) are directing this initiative. Applicants should submit materials to Rhonda Griffin, Administrative Assistant for the Office of the Provost ([rhonda.griffin@gcsu.edu](mailto:rhonda.griffin@gcsu.edu)) by Wednesday, September 30, 2020. For more information, please see: <https://www.gcsu.edu/provost/womens-leadership-faculty-fellows-program>.
29. **SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RENOVATION PROJECT** The design phase of the Special Collections Renovation project (with Reading Rooms) at the University Library has been launched.
30. **FALL 2020 FACULTY RESEARCH GRANTS** The deadline for submissions is September 18, 2020.
31. **INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE FACULTY RESEARCH GRANTS** The deadline for submissions is October 1, 2020.
32. **CURRICULUM COMMITTEES** UCC, GEC, and Graduate Council started their 2020-2021 meetings on August 28, 2020.
33. **GOALS** The Academic Affairs unit goals for 2020-2021 can be found in the September 2020 edition of the *Provost Notes*.

**QUESTION AND ANSWER President Dorman and Provost Spirou provided written answers to senators' questions submitted prior to the meeting.**

1. **STUDENT SERVICES** Will any student services require downsizing/right-sizing as a result of fiscal losses from the pandemic?
  - a. The losses being recognized by the pandemic are thought to be temporary in nature. While there is no intention to right-size student life or student services, the pandemic has prompted all departments to consider creative and innovative ways to improve all campus operations.
  - b. Currently, there is not a specific focus to reduce our current workforce. However, we will continue to monitor positions and funding alignment to ensure the priorities of the institution are being adequately met. The university will continue to look for ways to reduce ongoing expenses across our campus operations, and we are asking all departments and offices to remain fiscally conservative as we adjust to the fiscal realities that emerge from the pandemic and a 10 percent budget reduction.
  - c. The pandemic has excited our entrepreneurial spirit to explore the alternate delivery of programs and services that provided even greater benefits to our students.
2. **STUDENT MEAL PLANS** Do students with meal plans have sufficient opportunity to use the Max if they choose to do so?
  - a. Yes, they have more than adequate opportunity to utilize the dining hall. The MAX is open for all three meal periods. During the week, the hours are 7:15am-10am for breakfast, 11am-2pm for lunch, and 4:30pm-7:30pm for dinner. On weekends, the hours are 11am-2pm and 5:00pm-7pm.
  - b. The MAX provides both dine-in service as well as a grab-n-go option that not only includes pre-packaged items, but a rotating menu of hot, "comfort food" options as well. In addition, we're providing a pre-order option via our "Bite – Universities" app, which allows guests to pre-order what they'd like and have it available for pickup when they arrive (at The MAX as well as our retail dining units such as Books n Brew and Chick-fil-A). With few exceptions, seating has been adequate; and lines have moved quickly. In addition, we have added outdoor seating on front campus which seems to be extremely popular. Students have shared very positive feedback on our offerings and food quality this fall. Any students with special dietary needs or other issues can contact our Dining Services staff for individual assistance.
3. **OFFICE AND CLASSROOM CLEANING** Is office and classroom cleaning and disinfecting ongoing? If so, what is the schedule for each.
  - a. Building Services cleans and disinfects classrooms each night and during the day upon request. Office spaces will be cleaned according to their normal schedules, and additional cleaning supplies have been provided to allow for more personalized cleaning as needed by occupants. Office spaces that have receptionist areas are cleaned three times a week; but high-touch items such as light switches, copy machines are cleaned daily by occupants of the areas. For additional sanitization supplies, employees may request supplies through the Facilities work order system.
4. **FUNDING FOR RETURN TO CAMPUS** A return to campus plan required considerable expenditures for technology, installation of safety shields, and purchase of PPE. Did the university system or the legislature provide any funding to support these purchases? If

not, where was funding obtained? What programs and services will be eliminated or reduced as a result of cost-shifting?

- a. There have been several different funding sources utilized to help support the additional costs associated with the pandemic. The institution has recognized approximately an \$8.8M loss in revenue since April as a direct impact of the pandemic, stemming from student refunds and the inability to deliver some revenue generating programs and services. GC received \$2M from the federal CARES Act funding to help offset \$5.9M in the aforementioned losses recognized in student fee refunds in the Spring. The institution has invested \$535K for safety related supplies and IT equipment and software since April. Of this investment, the largest expense was for classroom and office shields and technology enhancements. Coordinated and distributed through the University System Office, we have received two disbursements for masks, gloves, hand sanitizer solutions and other related equipment from GEMA.
  - b. Although some self-supported programs are paused or not in typical full operation, no programs have been eliminated or reduced, as the institution utilized conservative monetary management to address losses, the unplanned expenses for PPE and the other mitigation measures that we have implemented. Our historical practices of remaining fiscally conservative and also being able to redirect expenses where they are needed have allowed us to support these critical investments in the safety and well-being of our campus community. The USG continues to be helpful in securing access to certain inventories and supplies, such as testing equipment.
5. **VOLUNTARY SEPARATION PROGRAM** What are the projections for savings from the voluntary separation program? Will any of these savings be applied to the pandemic shortfall?
- a. Our need is \$1M; however, we won't know if we've accomplished the goal until the restructuring or elimination of the affiliated positions is solidified. We hope to have this analyzed and affirmed by the end of October. The plan for the savings is to offset a temporary source of funding used to cover the \$4M state budget cut. We will continue to redirect temporary one-time funding sources to support campus safety measures during the pandemic.
6. **UNMASKED CROWDS DOWNTOWN** Does the irresponsible behavior of students downtown violate GC policies/honor code? Dr. Miles tells me that, in large part, it does not. If this is true, why haven't these policies been rewritten to reflect the reality of COVID?
- a. See the answer below to both questions 6 and 7.
7. **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT** Why can't our honor code oblige students to behave responsibly off-campus in regards to COVID safety? How are extant policies being enforced?
- a. Actually, there is sufficient language in the student code of conduct to enforce off campus behavior which threatens the safety of the campus. The code states:
  - b. **Georgia College may discipline a student in nonacademic matters. This normally involves matters which occur on the Georgia College campus or at Georgia College-sponsored events, but may be extended to off-campus matters which could reasonably be expected to impact the Georgia College community.**
  - c. **Students are subject to disciplinary action for violating the following Code of Conduct: *Conduct that constitutes a danger to the personal safety of other members of the university community.***

- d. In an effort to include students in the decision-making process, Dr. Dorman consulted with the student government president, as well as a chief justice who adjudicates student Code of Conduct concerning ways to enforce this aspect of the conduct code. In addition, a reminder was sent to students on August 24 about this language in the code along with the following statement:
  - e. “Let me be clear: Students found in violation of this code of conduct as it relates to off-campus activities, such as house parties and large gatherings, thereby endangering the health and safety of others related to the spread of COVID 19, will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension from Georgia College.”
  - f. Additionally, the City of Milledgeville has implemented a face mask code. Any student receiving a face mask violation from the City of Milledgeville may be subject to the penalties conferred by the city, and their names may be sent to our University Police Department and from there to Student Life for adjudication of this honor code violation.
8. **CONTACT TRACING APP** Why don't our students have a tracking app, like the one used at other USG campuses, to identify risky behavior and quarantine students who engage therein?
- a. We have consulted with USG representatives, and they are not aware of any application in use at any USG school that tracks students in this way or otherwise identifies their risky behaviors to quarantine those particular students.
9. **ADMINISTRATION AND STUDENT LIFE** I hear from many colleges where student life and upper admin have been very present and engaged with student life, especially on evenings/weekends. Le Moyne’s President even moved into the student neighborhood full-time. Where are Dr. Miles and Dr. Dorman on Thursdays and Fridays from 10pm to 2am?
- a. Thank you for your observation.
10. **COLLEGE RESPONSIBILITY IN THE COMMUNITY** I respect the college’s efforts but unfortunately it is clear that we haven’t done enough. The college is responsible for bringing all these young people to Milledgeville and for the consequences when they spread COVID on and off campus. What are the next steps for the administration to prevent unsafe behavior?
- a. Anywhere we’ve identified problems, we’ve worked diligently to address them and are encouraged by the results we’ve seen. We’ve been happy to adopt any reasonable recommendations to improve the school’s situation and continue to work in the best interest of our students with regard to their health and wellbeing. We welcome your suggestions.
  - b. We are constantly reminding our students to stay safe, avoid crowds and wear face masks. This work will continue. We are also working to develop additional public relations campaigns in conjunction with SGA and other willing student groups to encourage safe behavior. An example of this is an upcoming video competition to tap into the creative energy and enthusiasm of our Bobcat community with cash prizes for the top three submissions. We have appealed to our collective values of Reason, Respect and Responsibility and have gone further to remind students that the student code of conduct may be invoked as a further deterrent against unsafe behavior.
11. **STUDENT DESIRE FOR ONLINE CLASSES, PART 1** I’m sharing a recurring question that I receive from students in my class. “I’m concerned about coming to class and being exposed. Can I please connect to your class virtually for the remainder of the semester?”

As we've not received approval to allow students who express concern to connect to our classes virtually, can we have some guidance on the language to use in our responses to students?

- a. A response along the lines of the following could be used as a possible template:
    - i. Currently, the University System of Georgia has asked us to provide a modified face-to-face instructional experience for our students, with the relevant health and safety measures in place, to ensure the well-being of our campus community. Please know that we are making every effort to comply with the guidance from the CDC and the Georgia Department of Public Health, which includes social distancing and other mitigation measures that we have implemented. Specifically, our implementations have included the following:
      1. Face-to-face classrooms have been modified with social distancing, and we are offering hybrid learning options and alternative locations to minimize people density.
      2. All common areas, labs, recreational facilities and other locations on campus have been physically modified to ensure social distancing.
      3. Plexiglass barriers have been erected in classrooms and other highly trafficked locations for additional mitigation.
      4. Face masks are required in all campus facilities and wherever six feet of social distancing is not possible.
      5. Hand sanitizer stations have been installed across campus, and classrooms are cleaned daily with additional supplies for students and faculty to use as needed.
      6. Campus dining services are limiting the number of students in the MAX and have introduced other mitigation measures, such as to-go boxes to avoid crowding.
      7. Elevator use has been restricted, and distance markers have been added to locations across campus to avoid crowds.
    - ii. Georgia College and our system office will continue to closely monitor the situation now that students have returned to campus. We greatly appreciate your concern as we navigate these difficult circumstances. As always, we will communicate any additional information, guidance and directives that we receive.
    - iii. We are encouraged by the current decline in numbers of students who test positive. In conference with our director of student health, it appears that the current epidemiology of the outbreak on our campus is not related to classroom/academic facilities but is related to off campus activities where large gatherings and crowded indoor spaces are prevalent. This is concurrent with the broader national data and public narrative which reinforces that conclusion.
12. **STUDENT DESIRE FOR ONLINE CLASSES, PART 2** In a discussion some of my students were having before class one day, there seemed to be general consensus that all of the students wanted to connect remotely. I have public health students, so they are probably more concerned about COVID-19 than the average student. Personally, it's been quite a challenge to keep up with the flurry of emails about students' quarantine status and who should be in class vs. online. I've heard a few other faculty from other schools on campus share that sentiment over the past week.

- a. The sentiments we have received are decidedly mixed. On the one hand, we have some students and parents express concerns over in-class learning, while others have made it clear that they prefer a modified face-to-face teaching experience. An in-person experience is also what the USG has asked us to provide along with appropriate mitigation measures that are in place. As our COVID positive case count has declined, we are encouraged that our mitigation efforts and awareness campaigns around safe behavior appear to be working.

**13. SURVEILLANCE TESTING AND CONTACT TRACING** Does USG have policies specifically prohibiting surveillance testing and contact tracing? If not, can GCSU be a good community citizen and follow the recent White House Coronavirus Task Force recommendations for the State of Georgia by 1) hiring student contact tracers and 2) increasing (or, in GCSU's case, starting) surveillance testing (<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/7204532-Georgia-9-6-20.html>)? If not, why not? If the answer is no because we have to follow CDC and USG guidelines, it should be pointed out that 1) the CDC, which has been shown by recent news reporting to be controlled by an administration for campaign purposes, has not updated its considerations for IHEs since June 30, 2020 well before colleges and universities around the country, such as GCSU, started actively hurting the public health of their surrounding towns and communities (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/ihe-testing.html>), 2) USG allows other institutions to offer online classes, and 3) the administration is putting not themselves but rather faculty and students in harm's way by adopting "more risk" to "highest risk" for students and faculty—without asking students or faculty their comfort level of risk—when it mandates "full-sized in person classes" (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html>). We have been masking and physically distancing for months and the pandemic is still uncontrolled. What is the rationale for not doing everything possible—and consistently recommended by public health experts—to control the spread?

- a. Georgia College is following the directives set forth for all schools within the USG, which is to provide a modified face-to-face learning experience for our students along with other mitigation measures that have been in place for several months now. All contact tracing is handled by the Department of Public Health at their direction. Surveillance tracing has not been recommended by the CDC at this time.
- b. If our COVID case count is any indication, it appears that our efforts to control the spread are working. We ask that everyone, including faculty, staff and students, continue to do all that we can to remind each other how to remain safe against COVID.

**14. STUDENTS AND SHARED GOVERNANCE** Students are expressing concern that they are not included in decision processes.

- a. Drs. Brooks and Miles meet with SGA President Nathan Graham on a weekly basis in order to address student concerns. In addition, Dr. Dorman has a standing monthly meeting with the SGA president to keep in touch with student concerns and receive feedback. Where and when possible, we include student leadership in conversation and discussion about issues that pertain to them.

**15. STUDENTS RETURNING TO CLASSES** Is there a process that clears students to return to classes after receiving a positive COVID test? Professors receive notice from the Academic Advising Center regarding how long a student is excused, but it is unclear to me whether or not there is a process to clear them (e.g. are they being tested to confirm

they are negative before returning)? I have now had students who are starting to return to class (who did have COVID), and they just tell me they are cleared to return. I am not questioning the veracity of their statements, but I was curious regarding the process that clears them to return to the classroom.

- a.** CDC does not require a negative test for release of isolation. There are 3 criteria that have to be met: At least 10 days of isolation completed, improvement of symptoms and no fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducers. No USG universities are requiring negative tests for return-to-campus activities.
- b.** When a student notifies us of a direct exposure to someone who has tested COVID-positive or who is symptomatic or when a student is symptomatic or has tested positive, the Dean of Students Office sends a written communication back with them about their anticipated return-to-class date. Students with direct exposure are required to isolate for 14 days. Students who test positive and/or become symptomatic are required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days AND until they are fever-free for at least 24-hours without using fever-reducing medication. They are provided with an anticipated return date when they first communicate with Student Health Services and the Dean of Students, and faculty are notified of their absence.
- c.** Student Life has also created a COVID Care Team that communicates with each student who has been asked to isolate. The COVID Care Team member works with the student to help answer questions and respond to the student's concern. A negative COVID test is not required for a student to return to class.