

**REPORTS FROM PRESIDENT COX AND PROVOST SPIROU
19 NOVEMBER 2021 MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. FY23 MANDATORY FEES

In a letter to all USG Presidents from Acting Chancellor Teresa MacCartney, dated November 11, 2021, she reviewed the Senate University Fees Study Committee that was created during the 2021 Legislative session to study the fees associated with the cost of postsecondary education and to make recommendations regarding potential changes, and noted that the University System of Georgia is a partner in this effort.

Earlier this afternoon, the Senate University Fees Study Committee released its report, which I'll discuss further below.

Student fees are a significant portion of the overall costs of attending college and the fees support a wide-ranging set of services and activities at our institutions. It is important for us to continuously examine the way these fees are assessed and to look for opportunities to advance both student affordability and transparency of these charges.

The mandatory fees we charge include: Athletic, Health, Transportation, Transportation Enhancement, Bobcat Cart, Activity, Activity Center, Sustainability Fee, Wellness Center, Technology, and the Special Institutional Fee.

Chancellor MacCartney's letter outlined the expectations for your Fiscal Year 2023 fee requests.

1. New fee requests or increases to existing fees will not be considered for recommendation to the Board unless the institution demonstrates a pressing need for the new funds, and a strong business case, including the analysis of available reserves. To avoid cost increases to students, requesting a reduction to a mandatory fee to offset a requested increase to another is encouraged when possible.
2. New fees are strongly discouraged and should not be proposed unless there is a critical institutional need, evidence of overwhelming student support and a clear benefit to student success.
3. Fee increases needed to support PPV projects whose revenues are falling or expected to fall below levels to sustain those projects will be considered. A detailed business case and analysis must be presented.

Each institution was asked to continue its efforts to maintain an affordable cost of attendance as we began to prepare our fee requests, and Vice President Fruitticher and his team and I have been approaching our budget with this in mind.

This afternoon, we received the Senate Study Committee's report, which reviewed the various fees charged within the University System, and ultimately recommended that the Special Institutional Fee be eliminated in a phased-out approach.

The Special Institutional Fee is a general purpose fee established during the Great Recession to offset state budget cuts. It was enacted as a temporary measure but became permanent in 2012 when state funding never cycled back into the USG budget, and today generates \$230 million for the system as a whole. This fee generates more than \$4 million each year for the Georgia College budget, and supports all aspects of our general operations, from salaries and benefits to maintenance of facilities, classroom support, and much more.

The Study Committee recommends that the revenue generated by the Special Institutional Fee be replaced by a three-pronged approach:

1. Cost savings at institutions
2. Classifying the Special Institutional Fee, in whole or part, as tuition so that it will be covered by the HOPE scholarship
3. Restoring state appropriations, in whole or part, to higher education funding levels of 2008 as adjusted for inflations. State Appropriations made toward the funding formula have fallen from 67% in FY2008 to 48% in FY2021 – so a partial restoration of these funds would help in discontinuing the Special Institutional Fee.

This is a Study Committee’s Recommendation in the State Senate – so many steps remain before this becomes the final action of either the House or Senate Appropriations Committees, but it will certainly provide a topic of serious discussion in the upcoming legislative session beginning in January. We would have to make serious reductions in our budget, services, and staffing if the Special Institutional Fee is eliminated or reduced, so we will closely monitor the budget process in the coming session to see where this issue lands.

2. QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN (QEP)

As the campus considers its next Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), I urge you to think boldly and creatively – and yet to also think about the opportunities that might be right at our feet. By this I mean the QEP gives an institution an opportunity to address significant needs on a campus with dedicated resources and attention – and according to the SACSCOC directive, the plan must focus “on improving specific student learning outcomes and/or student successes.” As you know, student learning outcomes and student success come in a wide variety of shapes and forms, and are measured throughout our campus.

So, while most QEP address traditional academic programs, on a campus with such a strong academic foundation, this might be an opportunity for us to address elements of student success from outside the traditional academic pathways. I’m not necessarily advocating for that – I just want you to be aware of all the options that we have at hand. We also don’t have to have a grandiose plan that requires thousands and thousands of dollars and manhours to implement and sustain. It can be targeted to some population or element of our campus, rather than to every student here. Again, I’m not advocating something here – I simply want you to think about the many things that play into student success here in a broad fashion and come up with a QEP that best addresses a significant need.

3. LISTENING TOURS

I appreciate the time from all who have attended listening sessions thus far, and many more are still scheduled.

The last session is scheduled for Thursday, December 16 at 2:00.

PROVOST'S REPORT

1. **QUALIFICATIONS FOR FACULTY APPOINTMENTS** The Office of the Provost completed the implementation of University Senate Motion 2122.FAPC.003.P. following approval by President Cox. The updated information under "Faculty Appointments, Qualifications for" can be found [here](#).
2. **UNIVERSITY RETENTION COMMITTEE** This is the second year of the University Retention Committee. During the first committee meeting a review of the current retention and graduation data was conducted as well as the final report from last year with long term and short-term strategies. An update was provided on short-term strategies, TREK, and the implementation of Civitas. The committee was asked to identify the top 2-3 priorities for this year. Membership of the committee includes:
 - a. **Chairs**
 - i. Joel Robinson – Senior Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management
 - ii. Chris Ferland – Associate Vice President of Institutional Research and Effectiveness
 - iii. Brian Newsome – Dean of the John E. Sallstrom Honors College
 - b. **Committee Members**
 - i. Jordan Cofer – Associate Provost of Transformative Learning Experiences
 - ii. Shawn Brooks – Vice President for Student Life
 - iii. Kay Anderson – University Registrar / Assistant VP for Enrollment Management
 - iv. Shannon Simmons – Director of Financial Aid
 - v. Lisa Griffin – Director of School of Health and Human Performance
 - vi. Michelle Johnson – Director of Academic Advising
 - vii. Nadirah Mayweather – Director of Cultural Center
 - viii. Nicole Declouette – Associate Professor of Special Education /Interim Associate Dean
 - ix. Bill Donoher – Chair of Management, Marketing, and Logistics
 - x. Libby Murphy – Chair of World Languages & Cultures
3. **PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION** GC will host our annual President's Scholarship Competition on December 3, 2021. This competition is an opportunity for high-achieving high school seniors from across the country to compete for Georgia College's most prestigious scholarships. The PSC awards scholarships to incoming first-year students with superior academic accomplishments. Some of these awards also include stipends to study abroad and expand the student's liberal arts experience. Approximately 100 students will attend this competition. The daylong event will allow students to interview with faculty members, interact with current students, participate in classroom experiences and explore our beautiful campus.
4. **COMMENCEMENT** will be on Saturday, December 11, 2021, and will return to a traditional format. Faculty should arrive by 12:15 PM and park in a designated area

behind the Centennial Center. Faculty will initially remain in their vehicles, and, when prompted, move to a heated tent for line-up prior to entering the building. Seats in the staging area will be spaced to provide some social distancing. The reception following the ceremony will also be held outdoors.

5. **FINAL GRADES** are due by Wednesday, December 15, at 9:00 AM. Faculty can limit their course list to only current courses by typing “Fall 2021” in the search field at the upper-right hand side of the page. Faculty can also confirm that all grades have been received and saved if the word “completed” —in green – is listed next to the course in the grading status column. For additional information, please see the handout that will be attached to notification emails from the Registrar.
6. **SPRING 2022 REGISTRATION WAIT LISTS** will be paused from Wednesday, November 24 through Sunday, November 28, for the Thanksgiving holiday. This is standard practice when the university is closed for extended breaks. If seats become available during this time, students will receive notifications and a chance to accept those seats on Monday, November 29.
7. **PROVOST TASK FORCE** The RACAA meeting took place at Columbus State University (October 27-28) and included an update on Budget, Fintech Academy, and COVID. Additional discussion about the implementation of post tenure review and annual evaluations took place (i.e., integration of student success). We will need to begin the process of addressing the recently approved USG policies as that information becomes available. A 12-member Provost Task Force Committee (8 members from the University Senate) will review existing university policies, identify, and recommend changes to ensure that Georgia College is compliant with BOR approved updates to Board Policy 8.3. (October 12-12, 2021). Recommendations to the Provost by February 1, 2022. Membership of the Task Force includes:
 - a. **Co-Chairs:**
 - i. Catherine Fowler (Presiding Officer + COHS)
 - ii. Holley Roberts (Office of Provost)
 - b. **Members:**
 - i. Sabrina Hom (FAPC Chair + College of Arts and Sciences)
 - ii. Linda Bradley (DEIPC Chair + College of Education)
 - iii. Robert Blumenthal (Council of Chairs + College of Arts and Sciences)
 - iv. Nicholas Creel (APC Chair and College of Business)
 - v. Paulette Cross (University Senate + College of Education)
 - vi. Karl Manrodt (University Senate + College of Business)
 - vii. Sarah Myers (College of Health Sciences)
 - viii. Jennifer Flory (Presiding Officer Elect + College of Arts and Sciences)
 - ix. Lamonica Sanford (University Senate + University Library)
 - x. Micheal Stratton (Council of Deans)
8. **GC’S 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERAL ARTS MISSION** Celebrate the 25th GC designation as Georgia’s Public Liberal Arts institution of higher education (Academic Affairs Update):
 - a. The *GC Journeys* Symposium (October 29) (~80 participants)
 - b. The COE hosted “The Value of Liberal Arts in Preparing Teachers and Leaders as Architects of Change” (November 9) (~25 participants).

The next event will take place on January 27, 2022:

- a. College of Health Sciences
25 Years of Liberal Arts in the Health Sciences

9. **AMERICAN PORTRAIT** The Study Away program will be rebranded as “American Portrait.” More information will be forthcoming from the International Education Center.
10. **THE INAUGURAL HALL OF FAME CEREMONY** of the College of Health Sciences took place on November 1, 2021 and recognized Dr. Carol Sapp and Sheila Malcolm.
11. **RENOVATIONS TO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS** are moving forward and should be completed this month.
12. **THE OFFICE OF TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCES** will be holding a Zoom info session on various forms of support available for community-based engaged learning on December 1st at 4pm. For more information, please contact Dr. Stefanie Sevcik, stefanie.sevcik@gcsu.edu.
13. **GEORGIA UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH VIRTUAL CONFERENCE** 33 students and 13 faculty mentors participated in the Georgia Undergraduate Research Virtual Conference on November 5. GC had the largest turnout in the state.
14. **WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP FACULTY FELLOWS** This year’s Women’s Leadership Faculty Fellows have been selected:
 - a. Dr. Linda Bradley, Professor of Literacy Instruction, COE.
 - b. Dr. Mary Magoulick, Professor of English, COAS.
 - c. Angela Criscoe, Associate Professor of Film, Television, and Digital Media Production, COAS and Interim Executive Director of the School of Continuing and Professional Studies.
 - d. Dr. Sabrina Hom, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Liberal Studies and Coordinator of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, COAS.
 - e. Dr. Libby Murphy, Professor of French and Chair of World Languages and Cultures, COAS.
 - f. Dr. Kristina Dandy, Professor of Psychology, COAS.
 - g. Dr. Krystal Canady, Associate Professor of Nursing, COHS.
15. **THE GEORGIA COLLEGE COMPLETE COLLEGE GEORGIA** report was submitted to the USG on Friday, November 12, 2021. The report is a comprehensive way of presenting the institutional efforts in improving student success.
16. **UNIVERSITY SYSTEM AFRICA COUNCIL** Every year, the University System Africa Council organizes a simulation of the annual meeting of Heads of State of the African Union (AU). The simulation, which takes the form of a three-day conference is known as SEMAU or the Southeastern Model of the African Union. Georgia College organized the SEMAU 2021 Conference from November 3-6, 2021. As a hands-on, experiential learning and the SEMAU concept is very much in line with GC’s liberal arts mission in general and GC Journeys in particular, which includes internationalization and an emphasis on diversity. Congratulations to Drs. Ubah, Palmer, and the GC Organizing Committee for a very successful event.
17. **SACSCOC** Georgia College received a communication from SACSCOC that our application for differential review was approved (10-year reaffirmation). We will report on 40 out of 85 Standards.
18. **HONORS PREVIEW DAY** The Honors College had a very successful Honors Preview Day (November 16th). About 150 prospective students and families attended the event. The remaining Legends of Honors presentations include:
 - a. Dr. Ashlyn Burch, “Academic Inspiration in the Face of a National Pandemic.” Friday, Nov. 19, 3:00 p.m.
 - b. Dr. Lynne Wilcox, “Epidemiology beyond COVID: The Other Outbreak of 2020.” Tuesday, Nov. 30, 6:00 p.m.

For more information, including links, please see [here](#).

19. **JOHN H. LOUNSBURY LECTURE ON AMERICAN EDUCATION** The College of Education is planning the *John H. Lounsbury Lecture on American Education* for February 28th at 5:00 p.m. in Peabody Auditorium.
20. **PROFESSIONAL LEAVE** The following 12 faculty members were awarded a professional leave for 2022-2023 academic year:
- a. Bradley Koch, Government and Sociology, COAS, Fall Semester 2022.
 - b. Juan Ling, Management, Marketing, and Logistics, COB, Spring Semester 2023.
 - c. Hasitha Mahabaduge, Chemistry, Physics, & Astronomy, COAS, Fall Semester 2022.
 - d. Brandon Samples, Mathematics, COAS, Spring Semester 2023.
 - e. William Risch, History and Geography, COAS, Full Academic Year 22-23.
 - f. Karl Manrodt, Management, Marketing, and Logistics, COB, Fall Semester 2022.
 - g. David Weese, Biological and Environmental Sciences, COAS, Fall Semester 2022.
 - h. Abraham Abebe, Art, COAS, Full Academic Year 22-23.
 - i. Dave Bachoon, Biological and Environmental Sciences, COAS, Spring Semester 2023.
 - j. Roger Coate, Government and Sociology, COAS, Fall Semester 2022.
 - k. Rachel Epstein, Mathematics, COAS, Fall Semester 2022.
 - l. Gongbing Hong, Information Systems and Computer Science, COB, Spring Semester 2023.
21. **THE PROVOST VISITING SCHOLAR'S PROGRAM** is part of an intentional effort to further our interdisciplinary collaborations, to support student learning, and to engage faculty with scholars across disciplines. Congratulations to the following departments and their Visiting Scholars, who will be on campus Spring 2022:
- a. Economics and Finance: *Dr. Douglas Walker* is an economist at the College of Charleston with a specialty in gambling. He is a past Distinguished Research Award Winner and was a visiting professor at Harvard Medical School, among many other honors.
 - b. Information Systems and Computer Science: *Dr. Peter Cardon* is a prolific scholar and engaged educator in the field of business communication; he is a Professor of Clinical Business Communications at the University of Southern California.
 - c. Health and Human Performance: *Mr. Butch Reynolds* is a world record, Gold and Silver Medal winning, Olympic Sprinter and currently serves as one of the top applied exercise scientists when it comes to speed training in the country.
- The Visiting Scholar's Review Committee included:
- a. Trae Wellborn (COAS)
 - b. Bo Beadles (COB)
 - c. Natalie Toomey (COE)
 - d. Jinkyung Park (COHS)
 - e. Jolene Cole (University Library)
 - f. Holley Roberts (Office of the Provost)
 - g. Dr. Jordan Cofer (Office of the Provost)
22. **FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATOR SEARCHES** A number of faculty searches are continuing in the colleges, including for Associate Dean in the College of Business and the College of Arts and Sciences. The search committee for the Associate Provost and Director of the Graduate School welcomed three finalists to campus. Thank you to committee members for their service to the university!

23. **FARM TO CAMPUS FESTIVAL** The College of Business, the Office of Sustainability, and Auxiliary Services at Georgia College hosted the first ever *Farm to Campus Festival* on October 28th. This event was very successful and further demonstrates GC's commitment to societal impact and community engagement.
24. **SPRING 2022 GC JOURNEYS DEPARTMENT MINI-GRANT** The Office of Transformative Learning Experiences announced the Spring 2022 GC Journeys Department Mini-Grant. *GC Journeys* Planning Mini-Grants up to \$5,000 are available for departments to analyze the department/program's current *GC Journeys* plan and to create an action plan for institutionalizing, strengthening, and/or expanding students access to Transformative Experiences (High-Impact Practices) within the department's curriculum. Submissions are Due December 15th. Winners Announced January 4th. Visit *GC Journeys* website for more information
25. **DEPARTMENT-BASED IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS** For Spring 2022, *GC Journeys* is offering Department-based Implementation Grants for Undergraduate Research and CbEL. Visit *GC Journeys* website for more information.
26. **THE NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP OFFICE** worked closely with students in 2020-2021 to submit 43 applications for awards. So far, we have a number of students recognized as finalists or recipients: 1 Gilman Recipient; 1 Gilman Alternate; 1 Newman Civic Fellowship Recipient; 2 Fulbright Canada MITACS recipients; 2 Fulbright semi-finalists; 1 Fulbright alternate.
27. **UNIVERSITY LEARNING CENTER** After hours tutoring at the University Learning Center is experiencing an increase in demand this second half of the semester; thus far we have had over 325 visits from 170 unique students. Services are M-R: 6-9p in three locations: The Learning Center, West Campus classroom, and online.
28. **SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTOR (SI)** support has been extended to 75 sections for spring semester. Approximately 90% of the SI Leader positions have been filled and those students hired for early training. The University Learning center has had 1,500 individual students taking advantage of their SI sessions this fall. That number represents 27% of our undergraduate student population.
29. **THE MONTESSORI ACADEMY** was awarded \$10,000 Deal Center grant that will be utilized to support and engage families in the development of language and literacy for infants and toddlers. The Academy collaborated recently with GC Music students who provided violin lessons with the Montessori Academy children and is developing additional collaborations with the College of Business Marketing Program, Department of Music, Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy, and the School of Continuing and Professional Studies.
30. **PATHWAYS TO GC** The university is currently working on updating the *Pathways to GC* agreement (transfer students) with Gordon State College and establishing a similar agreement for honors students with the College of Coastal Georgia.
31. **THE SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES** released its inaugural [Newsletter](#).