

**REPORTS FROM PRESIDENT COX AND PROVOST SPIROU
24 FEBRUARY 2023 MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. MANDATORY SECURITY TRAINING

- a. All faculty, staff, and student workers with an email account within the University System of Georgia are required to complete bi-annual Information Security Awareness training. All employees must complete the training by **Friday, March 17, 2023**.
- b. You are encouraged to begin this training early, in case you have problems logging into your KnowBe4 account.
<https://training.knowbe4.com/auth/saml/03d94e4296f7>
- c. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Information Security Office at iso@gcsu.edu.

2. POLICY REVISIONS AND APPROVALS

- a. During the February 2023 Board of Regents meeting, revisions were made to the following BOR policy, mainly to align the BOR policy with a recent Georgia law regarding leave for blood and plasma donations:
- b. Personnel: [Board Policy 8.2.7.7 Other Leave](#)

3. CAMPUS UPDATES

- a. **Vice President for University Advancement** – Dr. Shelley Strickland’s last day on campus is today following a seven-month stint as our vice president for university advancement. Dr. Strickland decided this position was not a good fit for her and she will spend the next few months focusing on her family and her son before he leaves for college. We are working with The Registry to identify an interim for this position. In the meantime, WittKieffer, the search firm we used for this search will conduct the next search for free given the previous candidates’ tenure did not last a full twelve months. This search is top priority for me at the moment. We will be working to get this search started in the very near future.
- b. **Vice President for Student Life Search** – We expect to launch this search in late summer so that we can identify candidates in the fall and optimize student participation in the search. We will have an internal search committee in collaboration with an external search firm. More details to follow.
- c. **Chief Diversity Officer Search** – Dr. Dan Nadler, Interim Vice President for Student Life, has agreed to chair this search. We are working now to create the search committee. More details to follow.
- d. **Interim Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police** – Vice President Lee Fruitticher shared on Monday that former Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police, Brett Stanelle, has departed Georgia College & State University after nearly four years of service to the institution. Ms. Nikki Renfroe has agreed to serve as Interim Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police starting on Monday of this week. Ms. Renfroe, a Milledgeville native, is a 30-year veteran of the Georgia State Patrol, where she served in leadership roles until her retirement on May 1, 2022. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Renfroe to campus! More details about the search for our permanent Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police will be announced soon.

establishment of the S & R Palvia Endowed Veetraag Vigyaan Professorship in Jain Studies to help support a tenure-track faculty position in religious studies within the department.

- v. **Truman Scholarship Nominations** Two Political Science students have been nominated for Truman Scholarships while a Chemistry student has been nominated for the Goldwater Scholarship.

b. **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY**

- i. **Management Information Systems (MMIS)** The recently developed 4+1 Double Bobcat program was well received by students in the MMIS program for this semester and projections look positive for summer/fall enrollments. Graduate pathway articulation agreements have been signed with GMC and Andrew College; LaGrange College will be signing one in the coming weeks.
- ii. **Women in Technology Day** The first annual Women in Technology Day (WIT) is Friday, February 24. Baldwin County, Georgia Military College Prep School, Jones County, Washington County, and Early College are each sending a team of five female high school students for the day. President Cox will be welcoming them to campus at a breakfast. Participants will learn about technology opportunities in the Middle Georgia region from Angie Gheesling, Executive Director of the Development Authority of Houston County and from a keynote address by Meghan Aguilera, Client Integration Program Manager for Managed Security Services at IBM. Each team will participate in a virtual reality session, a robotic process automation session, and compete against each other using SAP in a maple syrup simulation game. Sponsorships from Thiele Kaolin company, Georgia Power, Robins Air Force Base 21stCentury Partnership, Fouts Bros, Responsive Technology Partners, Development Authority of Houston County, and Exchange Bank have made Women in Technology Day possible. Dr. Joy Godin, Kari Brown, Caroline Collier, and Dr. Paige Rutner led this effort.

c. **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

- i. **Health Sciences Club** The College of Health Sciences is working with the GC Early College to establish a Health Sciences Club at the GCEC. At the end February, GCEC students will engage with faculty at the Athletic Training Lab. Following that programming, the students will engage with the Nursing Lab/faculty.
- ii. **A Poverty Simulation** is sponsored by the College of Health Sciences. The program allows participants to assume the role of a low-income family member living on a limited budget. The experience is divided into four 15-minute sessions, each representing one week in which you must provide for your family and maintain your home. The event will take place on March 24, 2023, 2:00-4:30pm; HSB 314 (Movement Lab).
- iii. **The Art Health Festival** is scheduled for April 15, 2023, 1:00, at the GCSU Front Campus. Over 200 vendors, blood pressure screenings, cholesterol screenings, blood sugar screenings, live music, yoga, Zumba,

food, kids area with face painting, games and giant inflatable bouncers/slides and more.

d. **UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

- i. **LibQual+ Survey** Russell Library is participating in the national LibQUAL+ survey sponsored by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). The survey, which will be open through April 7, measures campus perceptions of library service. The results will help to inform and help us assess and improve our services. The survey should only take approximately 5 minutes to complete and provides an opportunity to give feedback on Library services, collections, and spaces. This survey is open to all students, faculty, and staff (18 years old and older). To access the survey and to learn more about it, please visit <https://libguides.gcsu.edu/LibQUAL/StartSurvey>. Questions or concerns should be directed to Lamonica Sanford (lamonica.sanford@gcsu.edu) or Jolene Cole (jolene.cole@gcsu.edu).
- ii. **Trial Databases** Russell Library now has two new databases, [British Library Newspapers](#) and [Web of Science](#), active for trial and evaluation through March 12. These are listed in our database menu and in GALILEO, along with links to the feedback forms.

2. **SCHOOLS AND HONORS COLLEGE**

a. **THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**

- i. **Graduate Research Travel Grants** The Graduate School is reviewing applications for graduate research travel grants.
- ii. **Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award** The Graduate School is also accepting nominations for the OGA Award. The award package consists of \$200 from the Georgia College & State University Foundation, a framed certificate, and a swag gift bag. The submission deadline is March 18, 2023. Please complete the [OGA Award nomination form](#).
- iii. **Graduate and Professional School Fair** The Graduate School will participate at the Career Center's 2023 Graduate and Professional School Fair on Thursday, February 23rd along with many other GC graduate programs.
- iv. **Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week** is scheduled for March 27 – 30, 2023.

b. **HONORS COLLEGE**

- i. **FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP SEMI-FINALISTS** Four GCSU students were selected as semi-finalists for the Fulbright Scholarship:
 1. Cameron Alee, GC '22, Criminal Justice, was selected as a semi-finalist for the English Teaching Assistantship in South Korea
 2. Kelsie Doran, MFA-Creative Writing student, was selected as a semi-finalist for the English Teaching Assistantship in Norway
 3. Julian Lopez, GC '20, Management, was selected as a semi-finalist for the Fulbright/Maastricht University Study Award
 4. Anagha Ramakrishnan, GC '22, Mass Communication, was selected as a semi-finalist for the English Teaching Assistantship in Greece

- ii. **GEORGIA COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL CONFERENCE** At the Georgia Collegiate Honors Council conference on February 10-11, Honors College students Kiama Karanja and Amy Newman took home prizes in the research paper competition. Kiama for first place in the Social Sciences category and Amy for second place in the Humanities category. Kiama’s paper “Race Phylogeny and the Influence of Racism in Evolutionary Thought” was under the direction of Dr. David Weese. Amy’s paper “the Misinterpretation of Women in Revolutionary France” was under the direction of Dr. Ashleigh Ikemoto.
- c. **THE SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**
 - i. **Faculty & Staff Reception** SCPS will be hosting a Faculty & Staff Reception on Wednesday, on April 12, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
 - ii. **Employer Education Partnerships** The SCPS is sponsoring an Employer Education Partnerships program (EEP) that is providing programming to a variety of schools, businesses, and municipalities. For more information, please see www.gcsu.edu/eep.
 - iii. **2022 Georgia Adopt-A-Streamer Trainer of the Year** Ruth Eilers, Director of Academic Outreach, won the 2022 Georgia Adopt-A-Streamer Trainer of the Year award.
 - iv. **Kids’ U Spring Break & Summer Camps** are open for registration. Early bird discount for those who register for [Kids’ U summer camps](#) before May 15, 2023. The program is offered by Continuing and Professional Education. Additionally, Social Dance begins March (Wednesday, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.) in Miller Dance Studio to (Shag, Fox trot, Waltz, more). Please [Register to participate](#).
- 3. **OFFICES AND PROGRAMS**
 - a. **FINANCIAL AID**
 - i. **Georgia Completion Grant** The GC Financial Aid Team implemented a new State Grant called the Georgia Completion Grant. This grant is for students who are within 80% of completing their degrees and need additional funding to assist them with paying balances. \$245,192 in funding has been disbursed to students which assisted them with their Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 term balances owed.
 - b. **THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS**
 - i. **Usery Forum** The Office of Leadership hosted their Usery Forum on Leadership with speaker, T. Dallas Smith, on February 20th. Mr. Smith is a Regent for the USG and the Founder and Chief Executive Officer at T. Dallas Smith & Company. He has been awarded as Atlanta’s Most Admired CEO (2017), Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtor’s Realtor of the Year (2018) and Empire Board of Realtors Broker of the Year (2018).
 - c. **MURACE**
 - i. **The National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR)** will be held on April 13-15 at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire. GCSU will be sending a large delegation (23) to Wisconsin to showcase the undergraduate research projects at NCUR. Student travel assistance is sponsored by GC Journeys, MURACE, and the Office of the Provost.

- ii. **Posters at the Georgia State Capitol** The fifth annual Posters at the Capitol will take place next Monday, February 27th. This event highlights some of the state's top undergraduate research projects. Students will present for legislators and the general public. This year, Posters at the Capitol received the most submissions it has ever received (90), and after rigorous vetting, 38 projects were chosen. Georgia College & State University is tied for sending the most projects (5) and the most students (7). Congratulations to Drs. Kalina Manoylov, Arnab Sengupta, Tsu-Ming Chiang, Chris Clark, and Hasitha Mahabaduge on mentoring student projects for Posters at the Capitol. Posters at the Capitol is organized by Georgia College & State University in collaboration with the Georgia Undergraduate Research Collective.
 - iii. **Undergraduate Research** The Winter 2023 issue of *Undergraduate Research* is currently under development. We received 51 submissions from institutions across the country including NYU, McGill, Georgetown, Emory, Barnard, Boston University, and Simpson. Acceptances so far included student work from Auburn University, University of Calgary, St. Olaf College, and Cumberland University. The publication is expected to appear in late March 2023.
- d. **OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS**
- i. **Applications and Admissions** The Office of Admission has received a record number of first-time student applications for fall 2023. As of February 20, we have received 6,944 applications, a 42% increase over last year. We have admitted 4,575 students, a 65% increase over last year. We have received 1,099 confirmation deposits, a 60% increase over last year. 875 students have POUNCED, a 63% increase over last year. 750 students have submitted a housing application, a 55% increase over last year.
 - ii. **The Adopt an Admit Program** continues with great success. The Office of Admissions have assigned 111 diverse freshmen students to 53 faculty/staff mentors.
 - iii. **Email Campaign** The Office of Admissions launched an email campaign for over 11,000 students who are set to graduate high school in 2026 (high school freshmen). We now have active communication/marketing campaigns for high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.
 - iv. **Springfest** will be held on March 4th. Springfest is an open house opportunity for high school seniors who have been admitted for the fall. The event will include opportunities to interact with financial aid, academic advising, student panels, and faculty members from a variety of departments. Currently, there are over 340 students registered. We are on pace for a record-setting number of participants.
 - v. **Junior Day** will be held on April 22nd. Junior Day is an opportunity for high school juniors to come and experience campus beyond what is offered on a regular campus tour. Students will have the opportunity to participate in sessions ranging from how to write a college application essay to nursing in the 21st century.

- vi. **Admitted Student Receptions (ASR):** ASR's are opportunities for students who have been admitted for fall 2023 to meet one another at a local venue. This also gives them the opportunity to meet with members of various departments and organizations on a more casual and informal basis. Our upcoming ASR's are Lawrenceville (March 27), Savannah (March 28), Macon (April 11), Cumberland (NW Atlanta - April 13), and Milledgeville (April 18).
- e. **OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND EFFECTIVENESS**
 - i. **Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System** The Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness submitted the IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) winter surveys. These include data related to fall enrollment, finance, academic libraries, and human resources.
 - ii. **Academic Data Collection** The spring ADC (Academic Data Collection) to USG was successful and the QEP is in final design phases. The QEP will be completed in the next few months and submitted to SACSCOC.
 - iii. **Core Assessment and Smart Reports** Please complete your Core Assessment and SMART reports for the SACSCOC reaffirmation process. If you need any assistance, contact Lauren Farmer at extension 3350 or lauren.farmer@gcsu.edu
- f. **OFFICE OF THE PROVOST & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**
 - i. **Visiting Scholars Program** Dr. Brenda Juárez Harris February 27-March 3, 2023, Dr. Brenda Juárez Harris, an applied sociologist, and social justice educator will be on campus as a Provost visiting scholar. On March 2nd from 5:00 -7:00 p.m. in the arts and sciences auditorium, she will show the film *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* and facilitate a discussion after the film.
- g. **THE OFFICE OF STUDENT SUCCESS AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT**
 - i. **Student Success and Retention Series** The purpose of this series is to identify, advance, and develop goals strategies, and activities to increase student persistence, retention, and graduation. The information presented will be data driven and interactive, with a focus on information sharing and consensus building. All sessions have been scheduled to take place in the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room:
 1. Session 1: Data Overview and Student Panel will be held on March 9th at 12:30 pm. Facilitators: Lauren Easom and Dr. Erin Weston.
 2. Session 2: The Role of QEP and Mental health in Student Retention will be held on March 21st at 12:30 pm. Facilitators: Emily Jarvis and Dr. Cara Smith.
 3. Session 3: Biology Freshman Engagement Series will be held on March 27th at 12:30 pm. Facilitators: Dr. Indiren Pillay.
- 4. **CENTERS AND INSTITUTES**
 - a. **ANDALUSIA INSTITUTE**
 - i. **Grants** The Andalusia Institute has recently celebrated supporting three federal grants on Flannery O'Connor.

- ii. **Book Discussions** Last week, Andalusia Institute hosted in person and virtual discussions on Flannery O'Connor's "The Life You Save May Be Your Own." On March 23rd, they will host a discussion of O'Connor's classic, "Good Country People."
 - iii. **Andalusia Interpretive Center Ribbon Cutting** Save the Date for the Andalusia Interpretive Center Ribbon Cutting, Friday, March 24, 2023.
 - b. **EARLY LEARNING CENTER**
 - i. **Montessori Academy** Current enrollment at the Montessori Academy includes 94 students and due to the significant number of students on the waiting list a new classroom is proposed to open in August 2023 to meet the needs of GCSU, Baldwin County School District and community families.
 - c. **THE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER**
 - i. **Study Abroad Applications** 211 students have applied to study abroad summer and fall 2023 compared to 152 this time last year.
 - d. **THE LEARNING CENTER**
 - i. **Supplemental Instruction (SI)** session visits have increased 20% and Math Lab usage has increased 15%. Fall SI support have requests for 56 SI leaders to support close to 80 sections. The Learning Center is currently recruiting heavily for Fall LC staff.
 - 1. Drop-In Tutoring available from 9:00 am – 9:00 pm Mondays – Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.
 - 2. Excel Bootcamps are in Round 4 February 20th – 23rd
 - e. **RURAL STUDIES INSTITUTE**
 - i. **Rural Changemakers Lecture Series** The Rural Studies Institute (RSI) is launching its inaugural Rural Changemakers Lecture Series on April 11, 2023. Catherine Coleman Flowers, a MacArthur genius fellow, who is internationally recognized for her work on environmental issues will be the inaugural speaker. For more information, please contact the RSI.
- 5. **INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS**
 - a. **CIVITAS** Deans and department chairs will be sharing information with their faculty about the Civitas Inspire! platform that we are now using for our student success and retention efforts. Faculty are encouraged to use this platform to issue an alert to academic advisors whenever they have concerns about a student, such as missing classes or failing assignments. Faculty can also use this tool to notify students and their advisors when they are doing well. Serious issues or concerns about the student's or another's safety should still be directed to the CARE team.
 - b. **GC THRIVE** students recently visited the state capitol for the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) Advocacy Day. The program was recently featured on Channel 41 WMGT and Channel 13 WMAZ. A GCSU THRIVE Reception to meet students is scheduled for March 30th 11:00-12:15 in Kilpatrick Atrium. Applications are open for fall admission. For more information, please contact Dr. Nicole Declouette at nicole.declouette@gcsu.edu
 - c. **USG DATA DASHBOARD** The USG is also working on a data dashboard for student access which is expected to be operational in the Fall 2023.
- 6. **CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS**

- a. **CHATGPT: TEACHING AND LEARNING IN THE AGE OF AI** In collaboration with COPLAC, Georgia College organized and delivered a successful virtual session titled “ChatGPT: Teaching and Learning in the Age of AI.” We had 731 participants registered and 469 attended the session on February 2.
 - b. **DEAN, DEPARTMENT CHAIR, AND ASSOCIATE PROVOST TRAINING** The USG organized a PTR Workshop (January 26 & 27) for all system institutions. Our department chairs, deans, and associate provosts had an opportunity to participate and engage with other colleagues.
 - c. **THE 2023 ANNUAL GOVERNOR’S SUMMIT ON EARLY LANGUAGE AND LITERACY**, with the theme Supporting Emergent Literacy Development with Evidenced-Based Practices for Young Children, will be held July 12-13, 2023, on the university campus.
 - d. **GOVERNOR’S TEACHING FELLOWS SYMPOSIA** The Governor’s Teaching Fellows program recently announced the 2023 Spring Symposium and the 2023 - 2024 Academic Year Symposia. The Spring Symposium will be held May 15-19, 2023 on the UGA campus, and this year, they invite faculty teaching in STEM disciplines to apply. The Academic Year Symposia will follow previous guidelines and is open to all full-time faculty. All candidate letters of support and application materials should be submitted no later than February 24, 2023, for the Spring Symposium and March 1, 2023, for the Academic Year Symposia. Please contact the Center for Teaching and Learning for more information.
 - e. **MOMENTUM SUMMIT VI** kicked off with participation across the USG institutions. The **Momentum Summit Capstone event, which will be held in person on the campus of Georgia Southern University in Statesboro is scheduled to take place on Friday, March 10.**
 - f. **MULTICULTURAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE** This year’s Multicultural Student Leadership Conference (MSLC) will be held June 22-24. This is an opportunity for students of diverse backgrounds to come to campus and engage in interactive sessions with GCSU faculty and staff members in unique breakout sessions. Students will hear about different styles of leadership and participate in engaging learning opportunities. Throughout the conference, students will work in groups to create a presentation on various leadership skills to present to a panel of judges.
 - g. **THE USG TEACHING & LEARNING CONFERENCE 2023** will take place at the University of Georgia (March 27-29, 2023). Georgia College faculty will be leading five program sessions.
7. **CURRICULUM**
- a. **GENERAL EDUCATION** At the recent USG Spring 2023 Provost meeting (February 7), it was announced that the System will be leading a refresh of the General Education program. The goal will be to give more meaning to the existing program and address some structural challenges (course credits vary across the USG institutions).
8. **FACULTY**
- a. **FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS**
 - i. **Charles Dunn Award** The Georgia College & State University nomination for the COPLAC [Charles Dunn Award](#) for faculty is Dr.

Kalina Manoylov and Caroline Fettes for the [David Prior Award](#) (for students). Previous winners can be found on the [Awards page](#) of the COPLAC website.

b. **ADMINISTRATOR AND FACULTY SEARCHES**

- i. **Academic Leadership Searches** The Dean Search for the College of Education is moving forward. The Committee recently completed virtual interviews and plans to invite four finalists to campus in the next two weeks. Please participate in the Open Forums and share your observations and insights with the committee. The Search Committee for the Dean of the College of Health Sciences is currently completing virtual interviews.
- ii. **Director Search** The Executive Director search for the Deal Center is progressing, and virtual interviews are currently taking place.

9. **CALENDAR**

- a. **MIDTERM GRADES** are due on Tuesday, February 28, by 9:00 a.m. Faculty teaching Area A-E courses (including GC1Y and GC2Y) are required to submit satisfactory or unsatisfactory grades by this deadline. Faculty are strongly encouraged to report grades for all other courses as well, even if you only submit the grades for students who are failing in your non-required courses. Having this information available helps the Academic Advising Center and the Registrar's Office prioritize interventions by giving them a more holistic and reliable view of the student's current course performance.
- b. **REGISTRATION** for the Summer 2023 and Fall 2023 semesters will begin on Monday, March 6 and run through Thursday, March 9.
- c. **THE SUMMER ORIENTATION** schedule has been updated for the summer of 2023; freshman orientations will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout June and July for a total of 6 freshman orientations. Freshman orientation dates will be June 6, 8, 13, 15; July 18, 20. Our first transfer orientation will be July 19, with a second transfer orientation occurring in mid-August.
- d. **GCSU RESEARCH DAY 2023** will take place on March 29th. Currently, Research Day has more student proposals than in the past but is still accepting proposals. Please encourage students to submit by March 1st. GC Journeys and MURACE are partnering with the Graduate School, the John E. Sallstrom Honors College, the Library, Student Life, Career Center, Women & Gender Studies Symposium, Barnes & Noble, and the Office of the Provost. For faculty teaching during this time, please consider diverting your classes to encourage student to attend.



RESEARCH DAY SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE MARCH 29, 2023

TIME	MAGNOLIA BALLROOM	PEABODY AUDITORIUM	ARTS & SCIENCES	OUTDOOR	OTHER SPACES
9:00-10:00	President Cox and Posters				WBS Symposium, All Day! (Museum Education Room)
10:00-11:00	Poster Session	Careers in STEM Panel	Digital Humanities Showcase (A&S Auditorium)		Undergrad Student Oral Presentations, All Day!
11:00-12:00		Research/Creative Activity as Pedagogy Panel	Digital Humanities Showcase (A&S Auditorium)		Grad Student Presentations, All Day!
12:00-1:00				Wellness Picnic (Front Campus)	Times Talk (Library)
1:00-2:00		Latin American Studies Talk		Resource Fair	Thunder Sightings!
2:00-3:00		GC Venture Capital Challenge	*3 in 3* Presentation Competition (\$200 Prize) (A&S 2-72)	Resource Fair	English Grad Symposium
3:00-4:00		GC Venture Capital Challenge	Speech & Debate Scrimmage (A&S 2-72)		English Grad Symposium
4:00-5:00		GC Venture Capital Challenge	Faculty Excellence Panel (A&S 2-72)		

Co-Sponsored by The Office of the Provost, MURACE, GC Journeys, The Graduate School, Ina Dillard Russell Library, The John E. Sallstrom Honors College, and Barnes & Noble
For more information go to: <https://www.gcsu.edu/murace/student-research-conference>