

**REPORTS FROM PRESIDENT COX AND PROVOST SPIROU
15 SEPTEMBER 2023 MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT SEARCH

- a. Candidate interviews are underway with the five (5) finalists chosen for on-campus interviews. Each candidate will meet with various groups across campus and will make a presentation at an open forum. I encourage you to attend the open forums and meetings when requested as your time permits. This is a critical hire for the University and your feedback is helpful to me.
- b. Two candidates have visited earlier this week, and next week, we will wrap up interviews with the final three (3) candidates coming to campus on Monday, September 18, Wednesday, September 20, and Thursday, September 21. A special thank you to Dr. Costas Spirou who graciously agreed to chair this search and to the members of the search committee.

2. PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR SEARCH Candidate interviews are also upcoming for a new Director of Public Safety/Chief of Campus Police. Open forums to meet the three (3) finalists will be held next Friday, Sept. 22, Tuesday, Sept. 26, and Friday, Sept. 29, at times/location that will be published on Front Page. I hope you can participate and provide your feedback to assist in the selection of a new Chief of Campus Police. Thanks to Charles Cruet from Auxiliary Services, who is chairing the search committee.

3. UPDATES FROM THE SEPTEMBER BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

- a. The Board of Regents met last Friday, September 8, and the primary issue of the meeting was budgets -- a broad overview of the USG's submission of an amended FY24 budget, and the upcoming FY25 budget to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget were presented. We were given authority to do three things:
 - i. Propose one-time enhancement projects in the amended FY24 budget for items that would "move the needle" in our educational mission, in efficiency or in similar notable ways, but we have been unable to find out thus far whether our projects were included in the System's proposed amended budget to OPB. (Our proposal for enhancements included funds to help our graduate school, the Simulation Center for our Nursing Program, several projects in the College of Business & Technology, and several Student Success programs).
 - ii. We likewise were given authority to seek a 3% increase of funding for our B-Unit programs – which for us is the Deal Center – but it had to be included with a 1% reduction for FY25. So, the Deal Center sought enhanced funding to support a program related to dyslexia. We also do not know whether it was included in the USG's submission to OPB.
 - iii. We also were given the first authority in a number of years to request new funding in the amount of 3% of our previous year's tuition budget for enhancements. We proposed infrastructure for our graduate school and several key faculty and staff positions, but as with the requests above, we do not know whether the USG has included our requests in the ultimate proposals to the Governor's office.

- b. We did get confirmation that the USG has submitted construction funding for the renovation of Herty Hall in the FY25 budget -- \$19.8 million. That will follow the design phase money that was appropriated this year. Of course, we still must wait to see whether the Governor includes this in his budget proposal to the Legislature, and whether the Legislature includes it in the ultimate budget they pass next spring. But this is an essential first step to keeping the renovation of Herty Hall on track.
 - c. In other actions at the BOR meeting, the Regents approved the proposal of the University of West Georgia to move from NCAA Division II athletics to Division I, where they plan to join the Atlantic Sun conference and add three new sports (men's track & field, beach volleyball, and stunt/cheerleading).
4. **USG FACULTY AWARD RECIPIENT** Congratulations to Dr. Joanna Schwartz, Professor of Marketing, who was recently awarded the 2023 Felton Jenkins, Jr. Hall of Fame Faculty Award for the University System. One nomination letter noted, "One of the first things that stood out when considering her for this candidacy is that she is the first CoBT Governor's Teaching Fellow in the history of that program, so her teaching is something that has been acknowledged at the state level. Her submission package for that includes a teaching philosophy that is genuinely inclusive and concerned about making sure that her students are challenged, but that they are challenged in an environment that is supportive." Dr. Schwartz is the fifth professor in the last six years to win this prestigious award from GCSU! Dr. Schwartz was recognized at the annual Regents' Scholarship Gala on Friday, September 8, 2023, in Atlanta.
5. **CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR**
- a. As I shared with campus earlier this week, I am pleased to welcome our new Chief Audit Officer, Ms. Rhonda Fowler, to campus. Having more than 20 years of experience in service-oriented accounting and operations, Rhonda joined us on September 1.
 - b. Prior to joining GCSU, Rhonda worked at the Gwinnett County School of Mathematics, Science and Technology. She served in a multifaceted position supporting the school's administration, faculty and central office in broad areas related to human resources, staffing, payroll, benefits, hospitality, accounting, risk management and facilities. She has also served as the Chief Accounting Officer for Truitt Consulting Group LLC and Director of Operations for Motivation Works, Inc.
 - c. Ms. Fowler has deep expertise in financial analysis, policies and procedures, campus operations and administrative reporting. Academically, Ms. Fowler earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees in professional accountancy from Mississippi State University. I know that GCSU will benefit greatly from her knowledge and expertise.
6. **POLICY REVISIONS AND APPROVALS**
- a. During the May 2023 Board of Regents meeting, shortly after the Senate's last meeting of the 2022-23 academic year, the Board approved revisions to BOR policy 6.5 regarding freedom of expression. These revisions were a follow-up to the board's approval of policy changes during the April meeting.
 - i. Campus Affairs:
 - [Board Policy 6.5 Freedom of Expression](#)

- a. USG Open Enrollment will be open to benefit-eligible employees October 23 – November 3, 2023. Enrollment in benefits for the 2024 plan year will take place via OneUSG. This year is considered an active open enrollment; all employees will be required to login and complete the certification of tobacco use and working spouse (if applicable). If employees do not login and take the required action during Open Enrollment, they will default to the status that results in a surcharge. This year, the respective surcharges will remain \$150 per month. Even if employees have zero interest in making any changes to their current coverage, it is vital that they login to complete their respective certification(s). The Office of Human Resources' Benefits Team will be available to assist employees with Open Enrollment questions in the Library, Room 302 on several different occasions throughout the two weeks of Open Enrollment; specific dates they will be available are listed below and the schedule will also be circulated via FrontPage as Open Enrollment approaches. Contact benefits@gcsu.edu for questions or more information.
 - b. At the August 8, 2023 Board of Regents' meeting, the Regents approved health plans for the coming year that will increase employee premiums in 2024. A summary of the approved plan design changes and premiums are available on the [USG Benefits website](#).
 - c. The Benefits Fair will take place in the Student Activities Center/Magnolia Ballroom on Monday, October 9th from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM with vendors taking no break for lunch. Employees may also schedule an on-site flu shot this day, pending limited appointment availability. Please monitor FrontPage for details on signing up as more information is expected to be available by Friday, September 15, 2023.
 - d. The Office of Human Resources' Benefits team will be available for Open Enrollment assistance in the Library, Room 302 on the following days:
 - i. Monday, 10/23: 11A-1P
 - ii. Wednesday, 10/25: 11A-1P
 - iii. Friday, 10/27: 11A-1P
 - iv. Tuesday, 10/31: 11A-1P
 - v. Thursday, 11/3: 11A-1P
 - vi. Friday, 11/3: Please contact benefits@gcsu.edu or call (478) 445-5596 to schedule an appointment with the Benefits Team in their office (Wooten-Garner House) on this date.
 - e. It is highly recommended that employees NOT wait until the last minute to complete their Open Enrollment elections. Often, the OneUSG system lags during the final days as there is a significant increase in web traffic across all 26 institutions in the USG, and wait times when calling the Benefits Call Center (1-844-587-4236) are longer toward the end of Open Enrollment as well.
10. **ETHICS AWARENESS WEEK** Ethics Awareness Week is scheduled for November 6 – 12, 2023. 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. Sarah Whatley and Ms. Jen Yearwood, in coordination with Ms. Rhonda Fowler, are coordinating various in-person and virtual activities for the week. More details about the week's events will be announced in October.

11. SAVE THE DATE



- a. **Constitution Week**
September 18 – 22, 2023
<https://libguides.gcsu.edu/constitutionweek>
- b. **Fallfest I**
Saturday, September 16, 2023
Front Campus
<https://www.gcsu.edu/admissions/fallfest>
- c. **Strategic Planning Table Top Sessions**
September 26, 2023
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Location: TBD
- d. September 29, 2023
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Location: TBD
<https://www.gcsu.edu/imagine2030>
- e. **Family Weekend**
September 29 – October 1, 2023
<https://www.gcsu.edu/parent>
- f. **Fallfest II**
Saturday, October 21, 2023
Front Campus
<https://www.gcsu.edu/admissions/fallfest>
- g. **Benefits Fair**
Monday, October 9, 2023
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Magnolia Ballroom
- h. **Faculty & Staff Fall Festival**
Thursday, October 19, 2023
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Front Campus
- i. **Open Enrollment**
October 23 – November 3, 2023
- j. **University Budget Forum**
Thursday, October 26, 2023
9:00 a.m. – Noon
Pat Peterson Museum Education Room
- k. **Hanging of the Greens**
November 30, 2023
5:00 p.m.

- Front Campus
1. **Winter Commencement**
December 16, 2023
1:00 p.m.
Centennial Center

PROVOST'S REPORT

1. COLLEGES AND LIBRARY

a. COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

- i. **Aquatic Sciences Center** The College is also expanding the capacity and scope of the Aquatic Sciences Center that incorporates faculty and student research, along with an entrepreneurial funding model.
- ii. **Writing Studies Program** The College of Arts & Sciences embarked on a new Writing Studies Program renovation of first-year writing courses with an eye towards building a foundation for future-focused curriculum.

b. COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

- i. **Masters of Accountancy Program** An MOU, focused on the Master of Accountancy program, was signed with Middle Georgia State University and a ceremonial signing will be held soon.
- ii. **Societal Impact Plan – Advancing Equality and Improving Social Mobility Strategic Plan** In August, the COBT faculty approved the Societal Impact Plan – Advancing Equality and Improving Social Mobility, and it can be found on the CoBT strategic plan web page.
- iii. **Work Practicum in Design Thinking** A group of students participated in a summer Work Practicum in Design Thinking. MIS students traveled to New York and toured the SAP Customer Experience center in Hudson Yard and visited Celonis at the One World Trade Center where they were trained in process mining. They also met at Infosys in the One World Trade Center and learned about IT consulting. The group met in Atlanta at Southwire's Spark Lab at Georgia Tech and worked on a real business case problem that Southwire provided to the students. Using Design Thinking and Celonis' process mining tools to analyze Southwire's transactional data, the students worked all week in Atlanta, Carolton, and Milledgeville and identified issues with Southwire's order to cash and procure to pay processes. The teams presented their findings and recommended possible solutions to Southwire at the end of the week. This new initiative was led by Dr. Joy Godin, Associate Professor of Management Information Systems.

c. COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

- i. **The First Doctor of Education Graduate of GCSU** is Dr. April Dockery, Coffee County School System.

d. COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

- i. **Bachelor of Nursing to Doctor of Nursing** The School of Nursing completed a review of the BSN to DNP program outcomes and is completing student acceptances to the spring and summer cohorts.

- iii. **GC Thirst for Knowledge**, an initiative launched by Academic Outreach in the School of Continuing and Professional Studies is up and running as a GC Journeys opportunity! Through this program, Academic Outreach is offering Adopt-a-Stream trainings, monthly stream monitoring sessions, and offering events such as an alternate Winter Break to GCSU students of all majors.
 - iv. **Ferst Readers Foundation** In partnership with the Baldwin County Early Learning Center and the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center, the School of Continuing and Professional Studies will participate in an initiative to provide books each month to all the Head Start students through the Ferst Readers Foundation. Ferst Readers addresses one of the most basic issues of childhood literacy – ensuring the availability of quality books in the home so parents can read to their children.
 - v. **The High Achievers Program** completed its end-of-the-year desktop monitoring review with the Department of Human Services on September 1st. Program highlights include students engaging in mental health support sessions with [Provisions Counseling](#), a local counseling practice in Milledgeville. More about the HAP’s summer experience can be viewed in the [newsletter](#).
 - vi. **Historic Museums** began Phase II of the construction at Andalusia’s Interpretive Center. This work will include construction of the storytelling court, porch system, golf cart parking, additional site lighting, additional paved parking, and work on the site’s exterior siding. We hope to have this project completed by the end of the year.
3. **OFFICES AND PROGRAMS**
- a. **ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**
 - i. **The Council of Student Ambassadors** inducted 40 new members this week. The Enrollment Management Team is grateful to have this strong student group to support their recruitment efforts, particularly as they prepare for Fallfest this Saturday, September 16.
 - b. **FINANCIAL AID**
 - i. **Fall 2023** Georgia College & State University’s Financial Aid Office had a successful Fall 2023 by administering federal, state, and institutional funds to the largest first year class in our institution’s history of 1,813. Of the 1,813 first time students, 1,687 of them received the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship which is 93% of this first year class.
 - c. **GC JOURNEYS**
 - i. **AASCU Excellence & Innovation Award for Student Success and College Completion** GC Journeys was awarded the AASCU (American Association of State College & Universities) Excellence & Innovation Award for Student Success and College Completion. The award will be given at the November 2023 AASCU Conference.
 - d. **THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS**
 - i. **Alex Gregory Leader in Residence** The Office of Leadership has officially welcomed Jane Kidd to serve as the Alex Gregory Leader in Residence.

- ii. **The GEM (Georgia Educational Mentorship) Program** will celebrate their kickoff on September 21st with a dinner in Atlanta for the selected 23 GEM students and their mentors.
 - iii. **Leadership Academy** The Office of Leadership welcomed 174 students for their incoming Leadership Academy, a program for first year students.
- e. **MURACE**
- i. **Co-Directors** MURACE welcomes Dr. Hasitha Mahabaduge and Dr. Ania Rynarzewska who will serve as Co-Directors for the 2023-2024 year.
 - ii. **Family Weekend** MURACE & GC Journeys are helping to host an undergraduate student showcase for the Family Weekend on September 30th.
 - iii. **Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference** MURACE is encouraging GCSU students to submit their proposals for GURC (Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference) at Valdosta State University. MURACE will cover travel and registration expenses for students and faculty mentors.
- f. **OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS**
- i. **Fallfest I** is scheduled for September 16 (388 total students registered vs. 351 (2022)). Because of the strong interest by prospective students, we organized Fall Fest II on October 21, 2023. For Fallfest I, our annual fall preview day is on September 16. We are currently expecting over 750 guests to visit our campus for this event, with 120 guests joining us the evening before the event for an ice cream social on Front Campus. We are also expecting 48 guests to join us on Friday, September 15, for our GLIMPSE, an event dedicated to showing prospective students of all backgrounds a peak into diversity on GCSU's campus.
 - ii. **First Year Students** GCSU welcomed 1,813 fall 2023 first year students, the largest, most academically prepared, and most diverse freshman class since our institution was designated as Georgia's Public Liberal Arts University in 1996. The Fall 2024 first year application is open, and we plan to release early action decisions in mid-November.
- g. **OFFICE OF GRANTS & SPONSORED PROJECTS**
- i. **Fiscal Year 2024** The Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects (OGSP) has begun FY24 with remarkable success. During the first two months of FY'24, specifically in July and August, OGSP secured grants and sponsored activities totaling \$2,493,939, a substantial increase compared to the \$1,866,307 received by the same time in FY'23. This achievement signifies that OGSP has already reached 58% of the FY'23 grant total, which stood at \$4,293,567.
 - ii. **Strategic Initiatives** FY24 OSGP will be focused on Enhancing Grant Application Success Rates, Researching New Funding Sources, Diversifying Funding Sources Fostering Interdisciplinary Collaboration through Educational Initiatives and Collaborating with University System Partners. By pursuing these strategic initiatives, OGSP aims to foster a culture of grant-seeking excellence, promote innovative research and

projects, and secure diverse and sustainable funding sources for Georgia College & State University.

- h. **OFFICE OF THE PROVOST & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**
 - i. **The Academic Affairs Unit Goals** for 2023-2024 can be found in the September 2023 edition of the *Provost Notes* and are aligned with the strategic plan.
 - ii. **The Academic Affairs Budget Hearing** is set for September 29, 2023 (FY25). The University Budget Hearing is scheduled for October 26, 2023.
 - iii. **Constitution Week** is scheduled for September 18-21, 2023. For more information, please visit the [link](#).
 - iv. **USG Dashboard** The USG has developed a dashboard of academic data for each of the 26 institutions. The portal includes information on enrollment, # of students by major, retention/graduation by program, DFWI rates by course, etc. Academic Affairs will be examining the data closely to identify improvements and support student success.
- 4. **CENTERS AND INSTITUTES**
 - a. **ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER**
 - i. **Academic Expo** This year's Academic Expo will be held on Wednesday, September 27th from 10:00-3:00 in the Magnolia Ballroom. The Academic Advising Center coordinates this annual event for undergraduates that highlights the major, minor, and certificate options offered by each academic department. Department chairs will coordinate faculty participation from their department.
 - ii. **Early Alert Notifications** Many thanks to the faculty who have responded to the Academic Advising Center's request for early alert notifications. These alerts help advisors intervene when a student is struggling academically, connect the student to campus resources, and improve the likelihood of student academic success and retention. Although you may already reach out to individual students who are struggling in your courses, sharing information through early alerts and midterm grade reporting helps us identify students who are struggling across multiple classes, who may be facing mental health or transition issues, and who may need to connect to additional support and services to be successful at Georgia College.
 - b. **CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING**
 - i. **AI Programming** A 10-person faculty/staff committee meets to discuss AI programming issues and organize programming in this area at GCSU. The English Department is coordinating with all ENGL 1101 instructors to discuss ways to introduce AI to first year students. The Writing Center & The Center for Teaching and Learning are co-sponsoring a 3-part series on AI workshops. All workshops are held on Wednesdays @ 2:00 p.m. in the CTL Classroom:
 - 1. "Teaching Beyond the Frontier: AI Applications in Education" September 27th. Facilitators: Cynthia Alby & Ward Risvold

2. "AI-Powered Writing: Challenging the Role of Technology in Creativity", October 25. Facilitators: Bailey McAlister, Roberto Leon, Emily Pucker
3. "Empowering Faculty: AI and Research Support for Student Learning", November 15. Facilitators: Jolene Cole
4. Perusall: An AI Workaround – To Support Deep Reading of Texts
Facilitators: Cynthia Alby and Elissa Auerbach

Please contact the Center for Teaching and Learning for additional information.

- ii. **Annual Report** The Center for Teaching and Learning just released their 2020-2023 Annual Report "We Foster Empowerment!" Please visit the CTL site for more information about the excellent work by our CTL colleagues that support teaching and learning at GCSU.

c. **EARLY LEARNING CENTER**

- i. **Montessori Academy** Current enrollment at the Montessori Academy is 98 students. The Georgia College Empathy Study begins this month at the Academy.

d. **SANDRA DUNAGAN DEAL CENTER FOR EARLY LANGUAGE AND LITERACY**

- i. **Georgia Council on Literacy** Governor Brian Kemp appointed Dr. Lindee Morgan, Executive Director of the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy, Dr. Noris Price, Superintendent of Baldwin County School District, and Dr. Gary Bingham, Deal Center Research Sub-Committee Member, to the Georgia Council on Literacy. The Council will oversee the implementation of the Georgia Early Literacy Act which was signed into law earlier this year. Drs. Morgan, Price, and Bingham are among 30 experts appointed to the group tasked to use their expertise to review, research, and make recommendations for program improvements, with the goal of improving literacy rates across the state. The committee will also focus on students with learning differences, including dyslexia, in addition to children from low resource households.
- ii. **Governor's Summit** The Deal Center hosted the 2023 Governor's Summit with the theme of Supporting Emergent Literacy Development with Evidence-Based Practices for Young Children. The Deal Center hosted 6 multi-disciplinary keynote speakers, 14 breakout presentations, and 200+ attendees from counties across the state including teachers, principals, superintendents, senators, advocates, etc. President Cox appointed Carrie Deal, daughter of Mrs. Sandra Dunagan Deal and former Governor Nathan Deal to the Deal Center's Governing Board.
- iii. **Literacy Month** This month is special to the Deal Center as it celebrates literacy thanks to Governor Kemp's proclamation in 2021 designating September as Literacy Month in the state of Georgia. The Deal Center is hosting a 12-part series entitled 'Professional Learning Community: Emergent Literacy.' We have hosted 9 sessions averaging 63 attendees per session for a grand total of 569 with a total of 229 different participants awarding 246 CEUs. We have received great

feedback and multiple requests to host the series again. Dr. Lindee Morgan, Executive Director of the Deal Center, will speak about literacy in Baldwin County at the next Milledgeville Baldwin County Chamber of Commerce Eggs and Issues on Wednesday, September 20th.

5. **INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS**

a. **AI WEBINAR SERIES** The USG has scheduled an AI Webinar Series. Please see below regarding topics, dates, and registration information.

i. **The GPT Revolution: Exploring Prospects & Roadblocks in Teaching/Learning**

September 27, 2023, 12 – 1 PM

Meg Mittelstadt, University of Georgia

In the past year, new tools have emerged in the rapidly expanding field of generative AI that are sending shockwaves through higher education. In this session, we will explore prospects and roadblocks associated with the use of Generative Pre-trained Transformer (GPT) and similar generative AI models in teaching and learning. We will focus on identifying where our own line in the sand falls with regard to use (or not) of generative AI personally, use (or not) by our students, etc. [Register here.](#)

ii. **The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Higher Ed: Shaping the Change**

October 16, 2023, 12 – 1 PM

Cynthia Alby, Georgia College & State University

We are already feeling the impact of artificial intelligence on higher education, but this is merely the tip of the iceberg. Which long-held beliefs and practices are crumbling? What do we need to consider? How might we re-imagine teaching and learning in response to this disruption in ways that not only solve the issues AI presents but, in the long run, better support the flourishing of students, faculty, staff, and administration? Expect to walk away with a personalized list of ideas for responding wisely to the issues and affordances AI has brought to the table. [Register here.](#)

iii. **From A.I. to A+: Unleashing the Power of ChatGPT**

October 26, 2023, 12 – 1 PM

Cori Crews and Casey Colson, Valdosta State University

iv. **Navigating the Digital Future: Faculty Exploring AI's Role in Education**

October 31, 2023, 3 – 4 PM

Charles Grimm, Georgia Highlands College

Dr. Sunil Hazari, University of West Georgia

Kimberly Van Orman, University of Georgia

Discover the practical side of AI in education. This faculty panel will provide insights into using AI in higher ed, discussing its advantages and challenges. Learn how they're incorporating AI into student assignments and classroom activities. Join us for a straightforward and informative discussion on AI's role in shaping the future of education, with time for Q&A with our panelists. [Register here.](#)

- b. **THE UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITY FACULTY MENTORING NETWORK** is a mentoring program that will be sponsored by the Office of the Provost, the Office of Inclusive Excellence, and the Center for Teaching and Learning. The mentoring program is designed to involve new and junior faculty as mentees and more senior faculty as mentors. While this program was designed to support underrepresented junior faculty, the program is open to all junior faculty who would like to participate. Recruitment for the program will begin later this fall and announcements about the program will be sent to junior faculty as soon as mentors are confirmed. The program will take place from January 2024 through April 2024 with a final wrap-up in May 2024.
- 6. **UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES**
 - a. **CURRICULUM COMMITTEES** (UCC, GEC, and Graduate Council) started their 2020-2021 meetings on August 25, 2023.
 - b. **THE ANDALUSIA INSTITUTE TASK FORCE** completed its recommendations and submitted a report to the provost.
- 7. **ACCREDITATION**
 - a. **SACSCOC** The university submitted the SACSCOC Report for the 10-year reaffirmation review (September 8, 2023). The off-site visit will take place 10/31-11/3, 2023 and the on-site visit (including QEP presentations) from 2/26-2/29, 2024.
- 8. **CURRICULUM**
 - a. **CORE CURRICULUM**
 - i. **The USG Refresh of the Core** will include a slightly adjusted course distribution. Specifically, US History and Political Science will be a separate category from Social Sciences in area E. The USG Recommendation to amend Board policy 3.3.1 Core Curriculum, effective immediately, with full implementation by Fall 2024, will take place at the October 2023 BOR meeting. The changes will include the nomenclature of core curriculum areas, and the inclusion of system-wide learning outcomes and career-ready competencies in all course syllabi. The proposed USG Core is included below:

Core IMPACTS	Area Shorthand
Institutional Priority	Institution
Mathematics & Quantitative Skills	Mathematics
Political Science and U.S. History	Citizenship
Arts, Humanities & Ethics	Humanities
Communicating in Writing	Writing
Technology, Mathematics, & Sciences	STEM
Social Sciences	Social Sciences

9. **FACULTY**

a. **FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

- i. **Affordable Learning Georgia**, an initiative of the University System of Georgia that is focused on affordable textbooks and course materials, is soliciting proposals for Round 24 of its grant program. The deadline to apply is October 30. Interested faculty should submit an intent to apply to the Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects by October 11.
- ii. **The Collaborative Research Grant Program** is a new initiative that supports our liberal arts education mission. These faculty awards will prioritize collaborations across departments and colleges. Application deadline is September 15, 2022.
- iii. **Community-Based Engaged Learning Grant**. Application deadline is September 15, 2022.
- iv. **Faculty Research Grants – Round I**. Application deadline is September 15, 2022.
- v. **Inclusive Excellence Research Grant**. Application deadline is September 15, 2022.
- vi. **The Provost’s Visiting Scholars Program** is intended to enrich the learning experiences of faculty and students within the context of an academic department/school. The initiative will allow academic departments/schools to invite domestic scholars for a week-long visit (Sunday to Friday). Each Scholar will contribute to the life of the academic department and enrich the student experience. The deadline for applications is September 30, 2023. Last fall, we welcomed four Visiting Scholars (Southern Utah University, Arizona State University, Wake Forest University, University of New Mexico).

- vii. **Professional Leave** The purpose of professional leave is to refresh and reinvigorate tenured faculty members; to improve, through appropriate activity, the academic qualifications and teaching competence of the faculty; to encourage productive scholarly research; and to stimulate contributions of high caliber in the future that will enhance the stature of both the individual and the University. For more information, please see the policy. Applications are due on October 15, 2023.
 - viii. **The Women’s Leadership Faculty Fellows Program** will begin in Fall 2023 and will run through May 2024. Fellows will attend monthly meetings where they will learn from senior administrators on campus as well as visiting speakers. Application deadline is Friday, September 29, 2023.
- b. **ADMINISTRATOR AND FACULTY SEARCHES**
 - i. The search committee for the Dean of the College of Education met this week and began the review of applicants. We expect finalists to be on campus during the fall semester.

10. **CALENDAR**

- a. **MIDTERM GRADES** for all Area A-E core courses are due by Friday, October 13, at 9:00 AM. Faculty are strongly encouraged to submit midterm grades for all classes, as they provide students and advisors with important information regarding students’ work to that point in the term.