

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

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

1. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- a. We are still early in the legislative process when it comes to the status of the state budget. However, both the House and the Senate have now passed versions of the FY24 “amended” budget (the current fiscal year) and both include restoring the \$66 million that was cut from the USG’s budget last year. This is a good sign that these funds will make it into the final conference committee version of the amended budget, but we will have to wait and see. Our portion of the \$66 million was approximately \$750,000, so we are hopeful this will be restored to our budget.
- b. The Senate’s version of the amended budget also included \$5.5 million for the Herty Hall renovation project, which was a surprise to us. The Governor had put in another 1/3 of the renovation costs in the FY25 budget, which has yet to pass out of the House or Senate. It does not really matter to us whether the Legislators include the funds in the amended FY24 budget or the new FY25 budget; we are simply hoping we can get them to agree to fund the full \$16.5 million for the renovation costs. So, stay tuned for all of this to unfold.

2. BOARD OF REGENTS UPDATE

- a. The Board of Regents met on February 13, 2024, and approved our proposal for naming our Integrated Science Complex for Dr. Kenneth S. Saladin, as a tribute to his lifetime of contributions to the science program and support of students at GCSU during his 40 years of teaching and in every year since his retirement. A formal ceremony to celebrate the naming will be held on the afternoon of Friday, April 12, and I hope you will all mark your calendars to be there.

3. MANDATORY SECURITY TRAINING

- a. All faculty, staff, student workers and retirees with an email account within the University System of Georgia are required to complete semi-annual Information Security Awareness Training. All training must be completed by **Friday, March 1, 2024**.
- b. You are encouraged to begin this training as soon as possible, in case you have problems logging into your KnowBe4 account. USG pulls our campus statistics and utilizes them to determine our cybersecurity insurance rates. Your participation is critical as it aides in keeping our costs as low as possible.
 - i. Type www.knowbe4.com in the URL
 - ii. Choose Account Login
 - iii. Log in using your GCSU employee account and you will see your required training modules
 - iv. Click the **Start** button on each module to view the training.
- c. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Information Security Office at iso@gcsu.edu.

4. MODIFIED SUMMER SCHEDULE REMINDER

- a. Beginning **Monday, May 6**, we will begin our campus-wide modified summer schedule. As you may recall, following an in-depth discussion last year about

ways in which we can work to reduce the rising utility costs across campus, especially during the summer months, and exploring a way in which we could offer a little flexibility for work schedules during the summer, the Executive Cabinet approved a campus-wide modified summer schedule. This summer schedule details are below.

- i. Monday-Thursday -- 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with a mandatory half hour lunch.
- ii. Fridays -- 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., campus offices closed on Friday afternoons.
- iii. This schedule will remain in place through **Friday, August 9, 2024**.
- iv. We will have three state holidays during this time period on Monday, May 27, Wednesday, June 19, and Thursday, July 4. For the weeks of May 27 & June 17 in which those holidays fall, we will work a four-day work week from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For the week of July 1st, there will be a campus closure on Friday, July 5 (for which employees will need to take annual leave), and the observance of the holiday on Thursday, July 4. We will work Monday through Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. that week.
- v. This modified schedule will be in effect for all faculty and staff members during this summer period.
- vi. Supervisors have flexibility to work with individual employees to adjust the schedule when necessary. Adjustments are permissible within the hour before and/or the hour after the customary work day, if needed. All offices must remain covered during the 8:00 – 5:00 work day.

5. **SPRING COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES**

- a. This Spring we will hold four commencement ceremonies to honor our May and August 2024 graduates. These ceremonies are divided by college and each ceremony includes graduate and undergraduates. Speakers for each ceremony will be announced in early March.
 - b. Ceremony dates and times are:
 - i. **College of Health Sciences:** Friday, May 3, 2024 at 2:00 PM
 - ii. **College of Education:** Friday, May 3, 2024 at 7:00 PM
 - iii. **College of Business and Technology:** Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 9:00 AM
 - iv. **College of Arts and Sciences:** Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 2:00 PM
- 6.



- a. ***SACSCOC Reaffirmation On-Site Visit***
February 26- 29, 2024
- b. ***Faculty and Staff Service Recognition Brunch (invitation only)***
Friday, March 15, 2024
10:00 a.m. - Magnolia Ballroom

Trusted Elections and Civics for Georgians, brought together a diverse and bipartisan group of Georgia community leaders and national figures with the goal of facilitating discussion and allowing local leaders to hear directly from election officials. Former Chief Justices Harold Melton, David Nahmias, Leah Ward Sears, and Justice Keith Blackwell served as Co-Chairs of the Host Committee for this event, which included President Cox. Georgia College and State University students helped facilitate question and answer sessions for panels that focused on election administration and the state of democratic processes in the United States. President Cox and faculty members were asked to serve on a committee to continue the work of building trust in Georgia's elections. Georgia College & State University is the only academic institution in the state of Georgia and one of a few in the country to offer academic certificates in election administration, which encourage public service in election administration and civic awareness regarding election laws and processes.

- iii. **Department of Psychological Science** With the support of MURACE and faculty development funding, the Department of Psychological Science will proudly showcase 73 students participating in 27 posters or presentations on undergraduate research. This event will be held under the guidance of 10 dedicated faculty members at the Southeastern Psychological Association in Orlando, Florida, from March 13 to 16.

b. **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY**

- i. **Dr. Scott Manley** will join the J. Whitney Bunting College of Business & Technology on July 1, 2024, as chair of the Department of Management, Marketing and Logistics (MML) and professor of Management. He is currently the Lalani Professor of Entrepreneurship & Free Enterprise at Midwestern State University, which has AACSB accreditation, is a public liberal arts university, and is a COPLAC member institution.
- ii. **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** The Department of Accounting and Business Law officially launched its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The program is oriented to those with low income, no experience with tax programs, and have questions about filing.

c. **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

- i. **Dr. Brenda Juarez Harris** The College of Education will be hosting Dr. Brenda Juarez Harris from February 27th-March 3rd. Dr. Juarez Harris will present her research on African American teacher exemplars to engage faculty and students in raising consciousness.

d. **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

- i. **The Aflac Bench** was recently installed commemorating the first CareGrant in GA (\$100,000) toward our mobile clinic effort.
- ii. **Grant** The College of Health Sciences received \$50,000 from Truist Bank's foundation toward prevention outreach in the community and mobile clinic.

e. **UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

- i. **Historical Letterpress and Book Arts Studio** Save the Date - Open House: Historical Letterpress and Book Arts Studio Wednesday April 10th (ALA Library Week) with demonstrations on the Chandler and Price a turn of the century letterpress and other activities. The Russell Library *Historical Letterpress and Book Arts Studio* is dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich heritage of book arts and historical printing. Our mission is to serve as a haven for creativity, education, and artistic exploration, fostering a deep appreciation for the art of printmaking and book arts in all forms.
 - ii. **University Library Spring Break Hours**
Library Closed: March 16th and 17th.
Library Hours: March 18th-22nd 8am-5pm.
Library Closed: March 23rd.
Library reopens – normal hours March 24th 12pm-1am.
- 2. **SCHOOLS AND HONORS COLLEGE**
 - a. **THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**
 - i. **GCSU Research Day 2024** Graduate students have submitted 44 research submissions, and 61 students are set to present at the GCSU Research Day 2024.
 - ii. **Graduate Assistant Awards** The Graduate School seeks to recognize the outstanding contributions graduate assistants provide in supportive roles to students, faculty, staff, and the university while pursuing graduate studies. The awards are presented in the spring of each year in celebration of Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week. Recipients will receive an award of \$200, a framed certificate, and GCSU swag. The deadline to submit nominations is March 8, 2024. Visit the [Graduate Opportunities](#) web page for the criteria, timeline, and online nomination form.
 - iii. **Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week** The Graduate School will host Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week March 25-28, 2024. The week will include free professional headshots for graduate students, a professional development workshop planned in collaboration with the Career Center, and the Graduate School Annual Spring Reception that will be held on Thursday, March 28 at 5:30pm in the Mansion Education Building.
 - iv. **The *US News and World Report* Graduate Online Rankings** were released on February 7th. The online nursing program ranked 1st in the state and #28 nationally. The online master’s degree in business (non-MBA) is second only to the University of Georgia statewide, and #43 nationally. The Georgia College online MBA is number #94 nationally and second in Georgia. Two other graduate programs were included in the top 100 national rankings: the online Criminal Justice program at #61 and the online Master of Education at #100. It should be noted that the education program made significant gains in the rankings year-over-year (last year it was ranked #132).
 - b. **HONORS COLLEGE**

- i. **Truman Scholar Finalist** Axel Hawkins, a junior history major from McDonough, GA, has been named a finalist for the 2024 Truman Scholars competition, marking the third year in a row and the fourth time in the last five years that GCSU has had a Truman Finalist. Axel will interview with the regional Truman committee in Atlanta in March.
 - ii. **Legends of Honors** On March 6 at 6:00 p.m., Dr. Jenny Flaherty will deliver a Legends of Honors Zoom presentation titled “Save the Effing Bees! Eco-Anxiety in a Shakespeare Web Series,” which focuses on the web series Bright Summer Night, an adaptation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by New Zealand-based production company The Candle Wasters. Please register via GC Connect or contact Dr. Newsome for more information.
 - iii. **Lunchtime Session** On February 29 at 12:30 p.m., Dr. Michael Snowden will lead a lunchtime session titled “Hot in Here: Understanding How Global Warming Affects Communities,” with a focus on the impact of climate change on African American and low-income communities, based on his experiences in Alabama. Please register via GC Connect or contact Dr. Newsome for more information.
- c. **SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**
- i. **GCSU Alumni Lifelong Learning Series** The School of Continuing & Professional Studies is collaborating with Alumni Relations to offer the GCSU Alumni Lifelong Learning Series. If you would like to share an idea for this series, please contact Angela Criscoe (angela.criscoe@gcsu.edu) or Nadirah Mayweather (nadirah.mayweather@gcsu.edu).
 - ii. **The High Achievers Program** is looking for GCSU/community stakeholders to participate in the Speakers Bureau. If you would like to visit the High Achievers Program and talk about your career/life path, please contact Kenneth Daniels and/or call 478.445.8509.
 - iii. **Historic Museums**
 - 1. **Andalusia** Join us for Flannery O’Connor’s Birthday Celebration with the Colin Cutler Concert, scheduled for Thursday, March 21. Also, a new exhibition opening, cake cutting, and free tours will take place on Saturday, March 23.
 - 2. **The Old Governor’s Mansion** received a donation of a pier mirror and table that have provenance to the building during the governor’s period of occupancy. These items arrived on February 19th and are now on display in the Ladies Parlor.
 - iv. **Read Across America Week** is celebrated from March 2-6, 2024. The School of Continuing and Professional Studies will be celebrating Dr. Seuss’ birthday on March 1st in our two Primary Schools and the two Academies, as well as the Early Learning Center.
 - v. **Service Learning** The School of Continuing and Professional Studies is partnering with departments across GCSU on service-learning opportunities for students. Please contact Sequena Stanton and/or call 478.445.5613.

- vi. **The YES Program** at LVA and OHMS are gearing up for summer camps in June. If you know a business that would like to support the program's sustainability plan this summer, please consider sponsoring a field trip or a local outing such as skating or bowling. For more information, please contact Sequena Stanton and/or call 478.445.5613.

3. **OFFICES AND PROGRAMS**

a. **FINANCIAL AID**

- 1. GCSU completed the 2023 State Scholarship and Grant Programs Compliance Review with Georgia Student Finance Commission with minimal audit findings. All discrepancies have been addressed and all required actions have been implemented.

b. **THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS**

- i. **Usery Forum on Leadership** On February 19th, GCSU Leadership Programs hosted the Usery Forum on Leadership featuring the Honorable Deke Copenhaver. Copenhaver is the best-selling author of *The Changemaker: The Art of Building Better Leaders*. He served as mayor of Augusta-Richmond County from 2005 to 2014.

c. **MURACE**

- i. **Posters at the Capitol** was held on February 20th. GCSU students participating included Natalie Clark (Mentor: Tsu-Ming Chiang) and Isabelle Dattilio (Mentor: Peter Flores). This year's Posters at the Capitol event was back in the Capitol rotunda for the first time since COVID and featured several congressional members in attendance to learn about our students' research.

d. **OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS**

- i. **First Year Student Applications** As of February 19, 2024, First Year Student Applications are up by 7% compared to last year on this date; our Fall 2024 confirmation deposits are up by 54% compared to the last time GCSU was test-required in Fall 2022.
- ii. **Junior Day** will be held on April 6th. Students were invited to register starting at 6pm on February 20, 2024.
- iii. **Springfest** On March 2, 2024, we will host Springfest for admitted high school seniors. As of February 20, we have had 299 students registered for this event. Of the registered students, 214 have submitted their confirmation deposit and 170 have submitted both their confirmation and housing deposits.
- iv. **Transfer Student Applications** Fall 2024 transfer student applications are up by 18% compared to last year on this date.

e. **OFFICE OF GRANTS & SPONSORED PROJECTS**

- i. **Lunch 'N Learn** The Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects successfully conducted the inaugural Lunch 'N Learn session in February, entitled "Understanding Indirect Cost Distribution." If you are a faculty or staff member engaged in active grants and sponsored projects and were unable to attend, kindly reach out with any inquiries regarding the Indirect Cost Distribution on your respective project.

- ii. **Understanding Indirect Cost Distribution Workshop** The Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects held a workshop titled “Understanding Indirect Cost Distribution” on February 14, 2024. We would like to encourage our faculty colleagues to explore funding opportunities. Please contact Kadian Leslie at Kadian.Leslie@gcsu.edu for more information.
 - f. **OFFICE OF THE PROVOST & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**
 - i. **Faculty Evaluation Process** The Office of the Provost is working closely with the University Senate on expanding the faculty evaluation process. Specifically, conversations with ECUS and FAPC revealed the importance of assessment practices beyond SRIS.
 - ii. **Flannery O’Connor Birthday Celebration** The Office of the Provost is working on program activities for the celebration of the upcoming 99th birthday of Flannery O’Connor. A committee is currently meeting for the 100th birthday of the famed author in 2025.
 - iii. **Scott Beard Leadership Circle** The Office of the Provost will be organizing the Scott Beard Leadership Circle (COPLAC) at the GCSU campus in July of 2025. The program is currently at Sonoma State University.
 - iv. **Student Excused Absences Policy** The Office of the Provost is working closely with the colleges and the Office of Student Life to revisit the student excused absences practices. The goal is to gain an understanding of the circumstances under which student excused absences should be approved during the review process.
 - g. **OFFICE OF STUDENT SUCCESS & CAREER DEVELOPMENT**
 - i. **The Career and Graduate School Fair** will be held March 28, 2024, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Centennial Center.
 - ii. **The GC in DC Lunch and Learn** will be held March 5, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Lanier 140.
- 4. **CENTERS AND INSTITUTES**
 - a. **ANDALUSIA INTERPRETIVE CENTER**
 - i. **Special Project Award** The Georgia Association of Museums presented its 2024 Special Project Award to Georgia College’s Andalusia Interpretive Center. The center competed against the largest and most well-funded museums in the state for this category.
 - b. **CENTER FOR ECONOMIC EDUCATION**
 - i. **Minority Youth in Business** The Center for Economic Education is partnering with the Office of Admissions and the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship to hold its annual Minority Youth in Business Program this summer.
 - c. **CENTER FOR INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**
 - i. **Incubator** The Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship has begun developing plans to launch an incubator on campus that will be located at the university library.
 - d. **CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING**
 - i. **ChatGPT and AI** The Center for Teaching and Learning recently offered “ChatGPT in the Classroom: Practicalities & Pedagogies” and “Enhancing

Your Classroom Instruction with AI with Drs. Ward Risvold and Meg Geddy.” The sessions attracted 67 participants.

- ii. **Liberal Arts Skills in the Professions** The Center for Teaching and Learning is launching a needs assessment survey directly connected to concepts to be covered in the LASP (Liberal Arts Skills in the Professions).
 - iii. **The 5th Annual High Impact Practices (HIPs) Summer Institute** offers a professional development opportunity for the Summer of 2024. Sponsored through [GC Journeys](#) and hosted by the [Center for Teaching and Learning](#), this institute assists faculty in incorporating one (1) Transformative Experience as a cornerstone of their course during the Fall of '24 or Spring of 25. While most of the institute's work is self-paced throughout the summer, there are three (3) scheduled meetings: May 8 from 10 am to 2 pm in-person, June 10 from 2 to 4 pm virtual, and August 2 from noon to 2 pm in-person. Priority consideration will be given to applications received by March 15. Initial acceptances will be sent out by March 30. Applications will continue to be accepted until May 1, pending availability. For more details, please contact the Center for Teaching and Learning at 478-445-2520 or ctl@gcsu.edu. To apply, follow this link:
https://gcsu.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cC2ccYsYZghTFpc.
- e. **EARLY LEARNING CENTER**
 - i. **The Montessori Academy** enrolled 96 students this spring and employed 3 new GCSU student workers. They are also hosting two Pre-Education majors.
 - f. **LEARNING CENTER**
 - i. **Supplemental Instruction** For Spring 2024, the Learning Center has partnered with 58 Supplemental Instruction leaders in 98 sections of courses through three colleges. The SI Program is directly supporting over 3,500 students.
 - g. **SANDRA DUNAGAN DEAL CENTER FOR EARLY LANGUAGE AND LITERACY**
 - i. **Faculty Collaboration Event** On January 18th, the Deal Center hosted its first Faculty Collaboration event in the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room. Eighteen GCSU faculty and staff members attended. Leadership provided an overview of the mission and work of the Deal Center and shared that the new strategic plan includes the goal of strengthening ties with GCSU. Center staff discussed how the Deal Center has collaborated with the university in the past and provided some examples of collaboration and synergy moving forward.
 - ii. **Dr. Holley Roberts and Dr. Lindee Morgan** On February 9th Drs. Roberts and Morgan presented to the Joint Senate Higher Education and Education and Youth Committee meeting. The 20-minute presentation included a brief introduction to the Deal Center, an overview of the independent psychometric review the Deal Center conducted to evaluate the strength of universal reading screeners approved by Georgia’s State Board of Education, and summary of the statewide inventory that the Deal

Center is collecting to assess district progress toward implementation of HB 538. In addition, Dr. Morgan presented on effective literacy coaching models and recommended that Georgia consider coaching standards as established by the state of Florida. The week following this presentation, the GaDOE issued a press release indicating they would be adopting Florida's standards for literacy coaches.

- iii. **Training Event** The Deal Center held a volunteer reader training event on January 20th, designed for aspiring classroom readers. The training day included: 1) instruction on evidence-based strategies for sharing stories with children by the Deal Center program team, examples of high quality, engaging, shared reading techniques; 2) shared reading by Evan Bush, Director of Youth Services with the Georgia Public Library System, and DC board member; and 3) Inspiration by board member Carrie Deal, daughter of former Governor Deal and Mrs. Sandra Deal, and champion for promoting early language and literacy development. The event included background checks through the GCSU Office of Public Safety and a networking opportunity with Communities in Schools representatives to schedule reader visits to local schools.

5. **UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES**

- a. **A PROVOST TASK FORCE ON EXPANDING PROGRAMMATIC OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS COLLEGES** will launch soon with representation from the colleges. This university-wide task force will explore collaborations across the colleges which is at the core of a liberal arts institution of higher education (e.g., minors/concentrations, team-teaching, cross college curricular options, multi-and interdisciplinary research/teaching, etc....).

6. **CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS**

- a. **THE USG MOMENTUM YEAR 2024** is currently underway with programming focusing on student success.
- b. **RESEARCH REGENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL** The university hosted the inaugural Research RAC of the USG on Friday, February 26, 2024.

7. **ACCREDITATION**

- a. **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH** Submission of accreditation paperwork is complete for CEPH accreditation of the BS in Public Health.
- b. **SACSCOC** On-site visits will take place on February 26-29th. This is part of the ten-year reaccreditation of the institution as well as of the QEP. Please be prepared to host these guests on campus all day Tuesday and Wednesday. We are utilizing just about every conference and meeting space on campus so they will likely be in your area. Please inform your students in classes this week and your student workers that they will be here and discuss with them the purpose of the visit and the team's role (why they are here). We have created a MyGCSU intranet page (page 3, under 'Departmental Content') that has a lot of resources that will be helpful for the visit. Please be familiar with the QEP (see QEP Executive Summary and QEP full proposal) and please review GCSU's mission and vision before next week's visit. These resources are on the intranet site.

8. **CURRICULUM**

- a. **THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING TO DIRECTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE** program track was approved by the USG. Our goal is to start a cohort this year. This program will not have an impact on the MSN which the university will continue to offer.
9. **FACULTY**
- a. **FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**
 - i. **Summer Research** Three faculty members were awarded summer support to complete their writing projects for publication submission: Kerry Neville, English; Jennifer Flaherty, English; and Suzanna Roman-Oliver, Teacher Education.
 - b. **ADMINISTRATOR AND FACULTY SEARCHES**
 - i. **Associate Provost of Student Engagement and Academic Excellence**
The Office of the Provost launched a search for the Associate Provost of Student Engagement and Academic Excellence position.
10. **CALENDAR**
- a. **MIDTERM GRADES** for all 1000-2000 level core classes (including GC1Y and GC2Y courses) are due by 9:00 AM on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. The last day for students to drop a Spring course with a W or withdraw from all Spring courses with W grades is Friday, March 1. After that date, students will receive grades of WF if they drop a course or withdraw from all courses.
 - b. **REGISTRATION** Summer and Fall 2024 registration for currently enrolled, degree-seeking students begins on Monday, March 11, 2024.
 - c. **GCSU RESEARCH DAY 2024** will be on March 27th. Please consider allowing this day as an alternative teaching day, there will be research activities happening throughout the day. This year's research day looks to have more student participation than last year.
11. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- a. **DEAN'S LIST** Students who earn Dean's List recognition will receive a communication from their respective college Dean's Office.
 - b. **USG POLICY GUIDANCE ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY**
 - i. Employee Expression of Political Opinions – BOR Policy 8.2.18.3;
 - ii. Employee Involvement in Political Campaigns – BOR Policy 8.2.18.3;
 - iii. Use of Institution Facilities in Political Campaigns – BOR Policy 6.14.1.