REPORTS FROM PRESIDENT COX AND PROVOST ROBERTS 18 OCTOBER 2024 MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. <u>University Budget Forum</u> The FY 2026 University Budget Open Forum will be held on Wednesday, October 23, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room. As a part of our commitment to shared governance and transparent decision making, all campus community members are encouraged to participate. The deans from each of the colleges will present their funding priorities for the coming budget year. Following the deans, the vice presidents will present. This forum is open to the university community and provides an opportunity for understanding the funding needs across the university.

2. BOARD OF REGENTS UPDATE

- a. The Board of Regents met last week in Atlanta, condensing a two-day meeting that was initially planned for the campus of Georgia Southern University into a shortened version following the hurricane damage at Georgia Southern and a number of other USG campuses. (And as an aside, I do want to say thanks to a number of our Facilities and Public Safety staff members who agreed to travel to the campuses of Augusta University and East Georgia College to pull long shifts helping with their clean-up and extra security needs following the hurricane. The presidents of both institutions were effusive in their praise for our staff and for the donations of help our campus sent to them.)
- b. The Regents took several actions during the meeting. First, they passed a resolution (attached) urging the NCAA and NJCAA, two of the organizations that govern collegiate athletics on many USG campuses, to follow the NAIA's student-athlete transgender participation policy (which determines eligibility for participation in sex-specific athletic competitions based on a student-athlete's biological sex).
- c. Board Chairman Harold Reynolds also announced a packet of policy changes which he said the Board would vote on at its November 12 meeting. A copy of the proposed policies is attached.

3. PERSONNEL UPDATES

- a. We welcomed Mr. Mike Cavaliere, Assistant Vice President for University Communications and Chief Communications Officer, to campus October 1.
- b. Also on Oct. 1, we reassigned Lt. Michael Baker from our Public Safety Department into a new role as our Clery and Compliance Coordinator (working under the General Counsel's office) to better assure our campus-wide compliance with a wide variety of state and federal laws/rules to which colleges and university are subject.
- c. Also on Oct. 1, Monica Starley, in the President's Office, was promoted to Chief of Staff to the President, giving her a new level of responsibility for the management of our office. The University Events office is being reorganized and will report to her (more announcements about that to come this fall), and she will have additional authority to help manage the work of the Executive Cabinet. As is the case now, her deep institutional knowledge (20+ years at GCSU) is available

to help all of you, so don't hesitate to call on her if you have a question or need help figuring out how to maneuver through an issue here.

4. OPEN ENROLLMENT

- a. USG Open Enrollment will be open to benefit-eligible employees October 28 November 8, 2024. Enrollment in benefits for the 2025 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 14, 2024 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 (see 2025 Board Approved Rates and Plan Design linked on the right side of the screen).
- c. 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, 10/28: 11A-1P
 - ii. Thursday, 10/31: 9A-11P
 - iii. Wednesday, 11/6: 3P-5P
 - iv. Friday, 11/8: Please contact <u>benefits@gcsu. edu</u> or call (478) 445-5596 to schedule an appointment with the Benefits Team in their office (Wooten-Garner House) on this date.
- 5. ETHICS AWARENESS WEEK Ethics Awareness Week is scheduled for November 4-10, 2024. The purpose of this 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. Rhonda Fowler, Chief Audit Officer, is coordinating various in-person and virtual activities for the week, including a week-long shredding event with ShredX to encourage faculty and staff to purge items according to the USG Records Retention Schedule. Secure bins will be available throughout campus to receive items and locations will be announced via FrontPage in the coming weeks.



a. **Bobcat Bash**

Friday, October 18, 2024 6:00 – 8:00 PM Centennial Center

b. University Budget Forum

Wednesday, October 23, 2024 9:00 a.m. – Noon Pat Peterson Museum Education Room

c. Faculty & Staff Fall Festival

Thursday, October 24, 2024 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Front Campus

d. Open Enrollment

October 28 – November 8, 2024

e. Ethics Awareness Week

November 4 - 8,2024

f. Hanging of the Greens

December 5, 2024 5:00 p.m. Front Campus

g. Winter Commencement

December 14, 2024 1:00 p.m. Centennial Center

Speaker: Professor Jehan El-Jourbagy

PROVOST'S REPORT

1. COLLEGES AND LIBRARY

a. College of Arts and Sciences

- i. The Arts Division will continue displaying creativity and talent of faculty and students with its Artober celebration on Wednesday, October 30, from 5-7pm at Ennis Hall. It will include activities and events from four departments, including Communication, Art, Music, and Theatre and Dance. It will include student music performances, student art displays, a graphic design After Effects demonstration, student film screenings, an Art Cake Off, mural painting and silkscreen demonstrations, dance selections from *The Nutcracker*, and the Andalusia *En Plein Air Exhibition* at the Underwood House Gallery.
- ii. **The Department of Chemistry** held the Forensics Night event on Oct. 1. They had 28 undergraduate students who volunteered for the event and over 150 community visitors attended.
- iii. **Department of English** Several MFA students in Creative Writing participated in the large and celebrated Decatur Book Festival in early October by presenting original prose and poetry on-stage.
- iv. **The Department of Music** will hold its annual Orchestra Concert on Tuesday, October 22 in Russell Auditorium. It will be conducted by

- faculty member Bryan Emmon Hall. Two nights later, on Thursday, October 24, the Wind Symphony will perform in Russell under the guidance of Conductor Cliff Towner.
- v. **Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Liberal Studies** The Jain Endowment in the Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Liberal Studies continues to grow by bringing in exciting new programming, including a just announced Vegan Fest later this year. Jain donors contributed \$4,000 toward the operation of this event. The Vegan Fest will include a free vegan meal for 200 students, faculty and staff. There will be a demonstration of cooking of simple vegan meals using easily available, inexpensive, ingredients. There will also be presentations and a Q&A session regarding nutrition and animal ethics. The PALS department will be collaborating with the Rural Studies Institute, Sodexo, and the Global Foodways Program on this event.
- vi. **The Department of Theatre and Dance** will perform William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* in the Campus Black Box Theatre on Nov. 6-9 at 7:30 pm and Nov. 10 at 2:00 pm. The department will also display a luminous staging of student choreography in *Bountiful: Fall Dance Concert* on Nov. 22-23 at 7:30 pm in Russell Auditorium.

b. COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

- i. GCSU Collegiate Middle Level Association (CMLA) Chapter Awarded a CMLA Chapter Grant, funded by the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) Foundation Fund. This \$2000 grant "is presented to the CMLA Chapter who has demonstrated commitment to the preparation of future middle level teachers." Funds from the grant will support the travel of all 21 Middle Grades seniors who will attend and present at the 51st annual AMLE Conference in Nashville in November.
- ii. Technology Professional Development Session Friday, October 18th: Monthly Technology Professional Development Session for CoE Faculty led by faculty from the Instructional Technology & Library Media Programs. October Focus: Design Thinking using TinkerCAD and 3D Printers.
- iii. **TEDx Georgia College** Friday, October 18th: TEDx Georgia College: The JHL CoE's own Drs. Cynthia Alby and Robert Sumowski will give TEDx Talks.
- iv. **Mrs. Charm Mapp** will be recognized at the 50th Annual Georgia Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (GACTE) Conference on November 14th as the Georgia Outstanding Mentor Teacher of the Year.
- v. **Dr. Suzanna Roman-Oliver**'s book, *The Science I Know: Culturally Relevant Science Lessons from Secondary Classrooms* was recently published.

c. COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

- i. **The Mobile Health Unit** unveiling will be held Tuesday, October 22nd at 2:30pm in the Parks Hall parking lot. There are 4 more health screening events this calendar year and the unit will be used for those events.
- d. College of Business and Technology

- i. **The Bobcat Trading Room** has moved to ATK 102. A Bobcat Boardroom has been established in ATK 101 as part of the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship. The ribbon cutting for these new areas will be held on Feb. 21 in conjunction with Homecoming weekend.
- ii. **Business Executive-in-Residence** The CoBT is hosting their first Business Executive-in-Residence, Barry Wolfe, October 21-24. Barry is a retired attorney and former Director of Labor & Employee relations at Dean's Foods and Dairy Farmers of America. He will be headlining a panel discussion on salary negotiations that is open to all students, faculty, and staff on Oct. 23 from 10-11 in A&S Auditorium. Please encourage your students to attend.
- iii. **Master of Logistics and Supply Chain Management** The spring cohort of the MLSCM program launches in January for students without work experience and for Double Bobcats. This online program is piloting 8 week classes.

e. University Library

- i. **Furniture** With support from Academic Affairs, the furniture in the library's atrium area has been updated.
- ii. **Podcasting Workshops** In collaboration with the Flannery O'Connor Institute for the Humanities, Russell Library will offer two podcasting workshops: October 24 from 1:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. in Library 241 and November 12 from 5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. in the Museum Education Room.
- iii. **Jolene Cole**, Professor of Library Science, was recently named Mid-Career Librarian of the Year by the Georgia Library Association.

2. SCHOOLS AND HONORS COLLEGE

a. THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

- i. Graduate Admissions (relocated to Parks Hall Room 108)
 - 1. Administrative Graduate Assistants Non-academic offices that wish to request an Administrative GA for AY 2024-2025 should complete the Administrative Graduate Assistant online request form on or before December 15, 2024. The form is available on the Graduate Assistants web page in the Administrative Graduate Assistant Request (non-academic offices) section.
 - 2. **Application Fee Waiver** The Graduate Admissions office will launch its fall application fee waiver campaign, October 17 November 1, 2024. The fee waiver will be available for all graduate programs. The special promotional code for the online application is, APPLY4FREE.
 - 3. **Graduate Coordinator Module** The Graduate School launched a Graduate Coordinator module (course) within Georgia View, designed to provide graduate coordinators, graduate program directors, and administrative assistants with easy access to essential Graduate Admissions resources and materials. The inaugural upload features training materials on the new CRM system, Slate, and staff will continue to enhance the module by

- adding additional resources to support the graduate studies partners.
- 4. **Workshops** The Graduate Admissions office offered workshops, in-person and virtually, on Slate to graduate coordinators, graduate program directors, and administrative assistants. Approximately twenty faculty and staff across the colleges have taken part in the training sessions.

ii. Graduate Student Research

1. **Graduate Research Travel Grants** The deadline for Graduate Research Travel Grants has been extended to October 31, 2024. The application is available on the Graduate Opportunities web page.

iii. Graduate Recruitment Opportunities

- 1. **Georgia Education Technology Conference** The Graduate School will support the College of Education at the 2024 Georgia Educational Technology Conference in Atlanta, Georgia in November.
- 2. **Recruitment Fairs** The Graduate School has been represented at GCSU and Kennesaw State University graduate recruitment fairs and will be attending upcoming fairs at Atlanta Metropolitan State College and Wesleyan College.

b. HONORS COLLEGE AND NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- i. Honors Convocation has been rescheduled for Tuesday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m. in Magnolia Ballroom. At Honors Convocation, new Honors students will be inducted into Eta Sigma Alpha (the Honors Student Association). Anna Whiteside, Assistant Director of the Honors College and the university's National Scholarships Coordinator, will deliver the keynote address, and guests will enjoy a dessert reception. The program begins with a faculty processional with participants dressed in regalia.
- ii. New Orleans Trip Over Fall Break, the Honors College took 43 students to New Orleans, where they toured the French Quarter and visited both the World War II Museum and the Whitney Plantation. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the fundraising campaign that made the New Orleans program possible.

c. SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

i. Communities in Schools

- 1. **Fundraising Breakfast** Communities in Schools held a Fundraising Breakfast on Tuesday, October 15th. The funds raised will support the CIS Site Coordinator Model.
- 2. **Grants** Communities in Schools is pursuing the *Georgia Reads* and *Reaching Rural Communities* Grants.
- ii. **Production Services** has moved to the Office of the President. Although Keith Bergeron and his team will continue to support audio and video needs across campus, Keith will work closely with Chief of Staff Monica Starley and President Cox in providing excellent services across campus.
- iii. Historic Museums

1. Andalusia

- a. En Plein Air Event In collaboration with GCSU's Art Department, 12 artists came to Andalusia to paint the landscape as part of Art-ober.
- b. Upcoming: Thursday, November 7th *Flannery in Manhattan* by Katheryn Krotzer Laborde Book Talk

2. Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion

- a. Upcoming: Death After Dark Tours on Friday, October 25
 The tour will explore death practices of the 19th century on an after-dark tour of the Mansion.
- iv. The School of Continuing and Professional Studies is hosting several events this fall that are open to the community. Attendance is encouraged.
 - 1. **Berlin Festival & Prague** Join the Max Noah Singers on their Summer 2025 Choral Festival in Berlin & Prague! Learn more at https://cpe.gcsu.edu/gcsu/course/course.aspx?catId=90
 - 2. Rome & the Amalfi Coast (Dec. 5 Dec. 14, 2025) Registration is open

3. OFFICES AND PROGRAMS

a. ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

- i. Career Center On October 2, 2024, the Career Center hosted 100 graduate schools and employers, and 423 students at their Fall 2024 Career & Graduate School Fair.
- ii. **The GCSU Financial Aid** team cohosted a financial literacy program for our students along with the Georgia Secretary of State's Office. The *Money Talks* event was led by a moderator and included a panel of speakers from various financial sectors. Information was shared with our students on practical money skills consisting of topics on credit and loans, budgeting, saving, starting small businesses and more.
- iii. **The Office of Admissions** completed a successful Early Action application cycle. We received over 4,300 applications—a 6% increase over last year's 4,066 Fall 2024 Early Action applications. Early Action Decisions will be released in mid-November.
- iv. Office of Student Success and Career Development On October 22, 2024, at 12:00 p.m., in the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room, the Office of Student Success and Career Development will host an installment of its Student Success and Retention Series. The session, entitled "Transforming Student Worker Positions into Valuable Internships," will focus on how to convert student worker positions into meaningful internship experiences that benefit both students and departments. Attendees will learn strategies to enhance job roles with skill-building opportunities, integrate academic learning, and provide mentorship to students. By leveraging campus jobs as internships, departments can foster a talent pipeline, enhance student engagement, and support student success.
- v. The Registrar's Office and Academic Advising Center completed outreach with students who had unsatisfactory grades at midterm. Students

- were strongly encouraged to meet with their instructor prior to deciding to drop or continue enrollment in those courses. Students were also connected with appropriate resources, including the Learning Center, the Writing Center, and the Language Resource Center.
- vi. **Spring Registration** Registration for the Spring 2025 semester will begin Monday, October 28. Using the theme of "Registration Doesn't Have to be Scary," undergraduates are receiving additional resources about being prepared, practicing problem solving and resilience, and asking for help as needed. The Registrar's Office and the Academic Advising Center will open at 6:45 a.m. on Monday, October 28 through Thursday, October 31. Advisors will also be in the library on Halloween morning to support our first-year students who will register for the first time that day.
- vii. **Super SaTOURday** will take place on Saturday, October 19 and will include a campus tour and information session. There are 6 tour time slots throughout the day with opportunities to see Adams Hall and the West Campus showrooms. There are currently over 520 students registered for Super SaTOURday.
- viii. **Withdrawal Deadline** The last day for students to withdraw or drop a Fall class with a W grade will be Tuesday, October 22. This date was extended due to the campus closure for Hurricane Helene.

b. OFFICE OF GRANTS AND SPONSORED PROJECTS

- i. **Research Advisory Council (RAC)** The Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects in collaboration with the Office of the Provost is in the process of introducing the Research Advisory Council (RAC) at Georgia College & State University.
 - 1. Invitations to join the RAC were recently sent to individuals representing various areas across campus.
 - 2. The primary objective of the RAC will be to provide strategic guidance and support to faculty, staff, and students engaged in research activities.
 - 3. The council will aim to facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations, identify emerging research trends, and provide mentorship opportunities to nurture a thriving research ecosystem.

c. STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

i. Rural Studies Institute

1. Hosting Dr. Sandra Godwin on November 1, as part of the Feast for Thought: "An Exploration of Food, Society and the Environment by Engaging the Public Liberal Arts."

ii. Writing Center

1. As of October 1, the Writing Center has had 270 appointments.

d. **Leadership Program**

i. **TEDxGeorgiaCollege** will be hosted Friday, October 18, in Russell Auditorium. TEDxGeorgiaCollege will feature nine distinguished speakers and performers who will deliver talks on the latest ideas and research. Each talk will be broadcast internationally and shared through TED's global network, showcasing for the international TED community

- the unique voices, stories and ideas that make Georgia College special. Learn more and purchase tickets at tedxgeorgiacollege.com.
- ii. **The Usery Forum on Leadership** is hosting Neil Stott, a Management Practice Professor of Social Innovation from the University of Cambridge on Wednesday, November 6, 2024.

e. **International Education**

i. International Fest – October 23, 5-7 pm.

f. MENTORED UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ENDEAVORS

- i. COPLAC Southeast Regional Undergraduate Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity Conference April 11-12, University of Virginia's College at Wise.
- ii. **Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference (GURC)** November 8-9 at Emory Oxford. MURACE will be covering 100% of the travel. 23 presentations were accepted.
- iii. **National Conference on Undergraduate Research** will be held in April 7-9 in Pittsburgh, PA. Abstracts are due December 6, 2024.
- iv. Research Day 2025 is scheduled for April 16, 2025.
- v. **Search for the Coordinator of Undergraduate Research** is nearing completion. This position will serve students and faculty in research related support including student travel.

4. CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

a. SANDRA DUNAGAN DEAL CENTER FOR EARLY LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

- i. 2025-26 Research Grant Initiative for Early Language and Literacy Practices
 - 1. October 8th, the request for applications was launched for the Deal Center's annual research grant competition.
 - 2. Up to \$250,000 will be awarded in FY25, with individual grants capped at \$50,000 for a one-year project running from February 1, 2025, to January 31, 2026.
 - 3. Applications will be open until November 18, 2024, 11:59 PM

ii. Lakeview Primary Reading Clinic

- 1. In collaboration with Baldwin County Schools, the Deal Center has launched the Lakeview Primary Reading clinic.
- 2. Thirteen GCSU students have been trained by the Deal Center as reading tutors to support implementation of UFLI curriculum.
- 3. This project is serving as a pilot including data collection to measure the effectiveness of this program and hopefully scale it for communities across the state

iii. State Board of Education Presentation

- 1. Dr. Morgan was invited to present at the annual State Board of Education retreat at Brasstown Valley Resort on September 30th.
- 2. Dr. Morgan reported to board members and guests on the work of the Deal Center overall as well as providing a detailed explanation of the process and timeline for the Deal Center to lead Georgia's selection *of universal reading screeners per SB 464*.

b. CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

i. **Peer Feedback on Teaching (PFoT)** For Fall 2024, PFoTs are offered from October 21 through November 15 for in-person and synchronous online courses. If interested in scheduling a PFoT, please contact the Center for Teaching and Learning.

ii. Quality Matters

- 1. Applying the QM Rubric (APPQMR) November 1 & 8 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- 2. Designing Your Online Course (DYOC) November 15 & 22 from 9:30 to 12:30 p.m.
- iii. **Liberal Arts in the Profession and Individual Wellbeing** We continue to provide workshops as part of our series *Liberal Arts in the Profession and Individual Wellbeing*. You can register for each of the workshops by visiting our <u>Registration Link</u>.
 - 1. Communication Charting Your Course October 31, 2024 @ 11:00 a.m.
 - 2. *Roadmap Wrap-Up* November 11, 2024 @ 1:00 p.m.
- iv. Additional workshops will include:
 - 1. Hearing U.S. Presidential Candidates in the Digital Age: The Trax on the Trail Project November 13, 2024 @ 11:00 a.m.
 - 2. Empowering All Students Through an Inclusive Syllabus November 20, 2024 @ 11:00 a.m.

c. FLANNERY O'CONNOR INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES

- i. Newsletter https://secure.smore.com/n/czw2h
- ii. **Flannery O'Connor's Centennial** 2025 will mark Flannery O'Connor's centennial, and there will be a big celebration in March. The FOIH is partnering with a variety of entities around campus to produce a robust slate of programming leading up to this, and there will be celebrations and a big gala event in 2025. Check out the updates as they unfold here: https://www.gcsu.edu/oconnor/flannery-at-100
- iii. *Flannery O'Connor Review* Volume 22 of the *Flannery O'Connor Review* is out. Order your copy here: https://www.gcsu.edu/artsandsciences/english/flannery-oconnor-review
- iv. **Flannery O'Connor and Music** On Nov. 5, the FOIH will host a Zoom talk on Flannery O'Connor and Music, with visiting scholars Irwin Streight and Monica Miller. Streight will present on his book, *O'Connor goes to the Grammys*, about O'Connor's influence on musical artists such as Bruce Springsteen, R.E.M., U2, and Lucinda Williams. Monica's talk is entitled "'It Was Punk' Reconsidering Rock and Roll Flannery O'Connor" 7:00 pm, online. Register here:
 - $\underline{https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/6c77d07456884fa1b190dbce55a75d19}$
- v. **Oral History Workshop** On, Dec. 4th Oral History Workshop at Mary Vinson Memorial Library. Dr. Stephanie Opperman will conduct a community workshop with practical tips to help preserve the past, as part of the NEH-funded "Collecting the Past" grant. 5-6 pm.
- vi. **Podcast Workshop** On Nov. 12th the "Writing for Success" grant will host a Podcast equipment give-away ceremony at 5:00 (for educators and

- community partners), and the "Collecting the Past" team will host a Podcast Workshop for students, faculty, community members and educators at 5:30 in the Russell Library Museum Education Room.
- vii. **Scholar-in-Residence** On Nov. 14th Scholar-in-Residence Farrell O'Gorman will present a lecture entitled "Cormac McCarthy and Flannery O'Connor: Links, Likeness, Legacy." In the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room, Russell Library, 5:00 PM.
- viii. "Writing Flannery O'Connor for Kids: Presentation of Children's Books Based on Flannery O'Connor's Life and Work." (Nov. 12th, 2:00 pm, Pat Peterson Museum Education Room, Russell Library). Students interested in careers in writing, publishing, graphic design and illustration will find this especially valuable as we will be interviewing writers and illustrators. Those interested in teaching, early child education, and libraries will find this useful as well. This is the last event of the "Writing for Success" grant, funded by the U.S. Department of Ed, Directed by Jess McQuain, as it is wrapping up its work.

d. THE LEARNING CENTER

i. Recertification The Learning Center is up for CRLA (College Reading and Learning Association) Master Level 3 Recertification due late October.