REPORTS FROM PRESIDENT COX AND PROVOST ROBERTS 15 NOVEMBER 2024 MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. **BOARD OF REGENTS UPDATE**

- a. The Board of Regents met on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, in Atlanta for their regular monthly meeting and took several actions of note.
- b. First, with respect to the policies that Board Chairman Reynolds announced at the end of the October meeting, and to which you as Senate members responded with a letter addressing several issues of concern, as did our Student Government Association and I (Dr. Creel circulated those letters to you last week), the policies were all adopted with no apparent changes, and with no questions or discussion from the members of the Board. A copy of the policies is attached to this report with changes highlighted.
- c. Dr. Spirou, as the Interim Chief Academic Officer, did acknowledge that our letters were received, but we received no other acknowledgement or response from the Chancellor, the Board or USG Staff, nor did the Board Chair mention that any feedback was received from any sources before calling for a vote on the policies. We will seek guidance from Dr. Spirou on the various areas that your letter pointed out are ambiguous as we prepare to implement the policies with an effective date of January 1, 2025.
- d. On the recommendation of the Athletics Committee of the Board, the Regents amended Policy 4.5.8 Funding of Intercollegiate Athletic Programs in a manner that doubles the percentage of state Education & General Fund subsidy that can be used to support athletics for the "Power 4" NCAA Division I institutions in the SEC, ACC, Big Ten, or Big 12 conferences meaning only UGA and Georgia Tech within the USG. This change alone will allow Georgia Tech to keep and spend some \$20 million more on athletics and UGA approximately \$47 million more. No other USG institutions benefitted from this change. Other institutions like GCSU were given a reprieve on having to report operating expenses like board-mandated COLA's, post-season expenses, or capital project expenses in their calculations of a formula that restricts them from increasing funding in any year by more than 5% -- but no further flexibility was provided in actually helping these institutions pay for their athletic programs.
- e. On the recommendation of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board, the Regents also amended Policy 4.6.5.2 (Process for Investigating and Resolving Disputed Reports), Subsection 6.7 (Sexual Misconduct Policy), and 6.7.2(A) (Institutional Reports), effective November 12, 2024, to state that Title IX Coordinators will now have a direct reporting structure to the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs in the USG Office, as well as to the President or President's designee on the campus where the Coordinator works, instead of the previous reporting structure to the USG's Director for Equity and Investigations, which position no longer exists. The Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs or their designee will have discretion to oversee the handling of Title IX complaints at the campus level.

- f. Dr. Costas Spirou, Interim Chief Academic Officer, presented the first report to the Regents on the post-tenure review policy that was adopted and implemented over the past two years. He explained the full "life cycle" of a tenure-track faculty position and institutions' extensive investment of time and resources into the recruitment process, professional development, tenure process, and now post-tenure review. (In essence, he was setting the stage to explain that if institutions are doing their jobs throughout this life-cycle, there should not be many faculty who don't succeed in the post-tenure review process.)
- g. The results of data collected from all 26 institutions showed, first, that the System office needs to work on the data collection process and provide more training to institutions about how to input data. The System needs to develop and share best practices for the post-tenure process and work closely with the Provost's offices on these processes in coming years. But with the data collected, they found these results from the first round of post-tenure review:

Institution Type	# Reviewed	# Not Successful	% Not Successful
Research-1	305	6	2%
Comprehensive	207	9	4.50%
State Universities	138	6	4.30%
State Colleges	44	2	4.50%
TOTAL	694	23	3.30%

- h. The Regents also heard an enrollment update from Dr. Angela Bell, Vice Chancellor for Research and Policy Analysis, which indicated that the system has enrolled more than 364,000 students for fall 2024, an increase of 5% or more than 20,000 above fall 2023 enrollment. All 26 of the USG institutions showed an increase in enrollment, a notable improvement since pandemic enrollment challenges.
- i. The Board of Regents elected new officers for the 2025 year. Regent T. Dallas Smith was elected as Chair of the Board (currently vice chair) and Regent David Dove, who was appointed to the Board in April of this year, was elected as Vice-Chair of the Board.
- j. Before adjourning the meeting, Regent Neil Pruitt raised the issue in a general discussion of the nursing crisis in the state and said he thought UGA needed its own nursing school. Numerous Regents joined in to support his idea and urged that the idea be expedited. I am working on a letter to the Chancellor and members of the Board of Regents asking them to consider expanding highly successful existing programs like the GCSU nursing program if they really want to expedite the graduation of more qualified nurses, compared to the cost and time delays of building a new nursing school from scratch.
- 2. <u>WINTER COMMENCEMENT</u> Our Winter Commencement ceremony will be held on Saturday, December 14, at 1:00 p.m. in the Centennial Center. Jehan El-Jourbagy, J.D., Associate Professor of Business Law, will serve as Commencement speaker. Professor El-Jourbagy was the recipient of the 2024 Excellence in Teaching Award. This award recognizes excellence, innovation, and effectiveness in teaching. The recipient of this

award also serves as the university's nominee for the Regent's Teaching Excellence Award.

3. HOMECOMING & ALUMNI WEEKEND & STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS

- a. Homecoming & Alumni Weekend are scheduled to take place together once again on February 21-23, 2025. We launched a "new era of Homecoming" last February as we combined the two events into one fun-filled and jam-packed weekend, and we look forward to doing it again in 2025!
- b. Also taking place that week, and specifically on Friday, February 21, will be the annual State of the University Address. This will take place at 2pm in Russell Auditorium. I look forward to sharing campus updates and reflecting on the impressive accomplishments of the campus over the past year.
- 4. ANNUAL COMPLIANCE TRAINING Annual Compliance Training is required by GCSU Human Resources for all active employees (faculty, staff, full-time & part-time) and student workers hired PRIOR TO November 1, 2023. All must complete the 2024 Required Annual Compliance Training and Ethics Refresher module and the Acknowledgement Quiz. Individuals who drive on university business must also complete the Motor Vehicle Use Program module. The training must be completed by Monday, December 23, 2024. This is a Georgia College & State University Human Resources requirement. If you have any questions, please call Ms. Kelly Beall in Human Resources at extension 8573 or by email at kelly.beall@gcsu.edu.

5. SAVE THE DATE

a. Hanging of the Greens

Thursday, December 5, 2024 5:30 p.m.

Front Campus

b. Tacky Holiday Sweater Party & Contest

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

3:00-4:00 p.m.

Magnolia Ballroom

c. Winter Commencement

Saturday, December 14, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Centennial Center

d. Classes begin for Spring Semester

Monday, January 13, 2024

e. State of the University Address

Friday, February 21, 2 p.m.

Russell Auditorium

f. Homecoming-Alumni Weekend

February 21-23, 2025

Multiple campus venues

PROVOST'S REPORT

- 1. COLLEGES AND LIBRARY
 - a. COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
 - i. Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences

- 1. Dr. Indiren Pillay, Department Chair, will become interim dean in January 2025, while Dr. Kalina Manoylov will also become interim department chair in January 2025.
- 2. Dr. Kalina Manoylov offered a training workshop at GCSU for South Carolina state employees on diatom and algae identification. The Aquatic Sciences Center (ASC) held a water education day for community and engagement at the Deep Roots Festival. And the ASC has partnered with the GCSU Ambassadors to offer a stream clean-up event this week (November 15).
- 3. Numerous department students presented undergraduate research at GURC, the Geological Society of America, the North American Diatom Symposium, and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Translational Control Meeting.

ii. Department of Communication

1. The Department of Communication held Student Media Day on Thursday, November 14 to celebrate the significant birthdays of both WGUR (50th) and *The Colonnade* (100th) with free food and games.

iii. Department of English

- 1. The Writing Studies Program with Dr. Emily Pucker and Dr. Roberto Leon hosts a Creative Composition Roundtable Series which meets monthly. Dr. Pucker was a lead organizer for The Georgia and Carolinas College English Association Conference hosted at GCSU in October.
- 2. The GCSU Creative Writing Program's Visiting Writers Series will host authors and GCSU alumni Stephen Hundley (BA) and Denechia Powell-Ingabire (MFA) on November 20.
- 3. Dr. Chika Unigwe was an invited panelist at the International Literature Festival--Berlin.
- 4. Dr Kerry Neville has a poem in the upcoming anthology *Invisible Strings: 113 Poets Respond to the Songs of Taylor Swift* from Penguin RandomHouse, her essay "Lapsed Catholic" appears in *Fourth Genre*, and her memoir *Momma May Be Mad* has been accepted for publication in Fall 2025.

iv. The Departments of Music and Department of Communication

1. Received notification of USG approval for their new Certificate in Audio Production, which will begin in Spring 2025.

v. Department of Music

- 1. Dr. Tina Holmes-Davis recently published a book titled *Able Will Suffice: Universal Design for Learning in Music Education*, GIA Publications. She also published an article in the Journal of Music Education. Dr. Cliff Towner will take the GCSU Jazz Ensemble to Atlanta in January to perform at the *Jenerations Jazz Festival*.
- 2. Dr. Dana Gorzelany-Mostak has recently provided her research on campaign music for various national and international outlets including *Vox*, the *Kansas City Star*, the Chicago Tribune, and

- Connecticut Public Radio. And she presented a workshop on the timely Trax on the Trail Project as part of the GCSU Digital Humanities Collaborative.
- 3. Dr. Laurie Peebles presented "Sights and Sounds of Veteran Identity" as part of her larger collaborative research project at Blackbird Coffee on November 12. The presentation included photos taken by veterans and music chosen and analyzed by veterans.

b. COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

- i. The John H. Lounsbury Distinguished Lecture Series on American Education Thursday, February 6th, 2025 in Peabody Auditorium: Dr. Dana Rickman, President of the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, will serve as the sixth lecturer https://gpee.org/about/staff/
- ii. Searches currently taking place
 - 1. Associate Dean of the College of Education
 - 2. Limited-Term Lecturer in Elementary Education

c. COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

- i. Interim Positions As of November 1, Dr. Josie Doss is serving as the Interim Associate Dean for the College of Health Sciences and Dr. Jennifer Goldsberry as the Interim Director for the School of Nursing.
- **ii. Mobile Health Unit** The new Mobile Health Unit is operational and was deployed to Putnam County for an event this month.

d. College of Business & Technology

- i. The Bobcat Boardroom & Bobcat Trading Room Open House has been rescheduled for Thursday, Feb. 20, from 4:30-5:30pm. Please mark your calendars to attend.
- **ii. Business Executive in Residence** The 2nd Business Executive in Residence, Kevin Neary from Orcawise in Ireland, will be in residence the week of January 27. Orcawise is a Responsible AI Advisory & Services company. Details will be forthcoming about a session open to the university community.
- **iii. Executive Forum** The CoBT is relaunching their former Executive Forum series. The series is a quarterly dinner and presentation by an executive. Paid annual membership is open to the campus and community, but membership numbers are limited. Please contact Nancy Finney if you are interested in joining and for further details.
- iv. Sales Team Competition Congratulations to Michael Champa, President of the Sales Team, as he placed 2nd at the International Collegiate Sales Competition (ICSC), in the Speed Selling category! He competed against 160 top sales students from 80 universities worldwide; this incredible accomplishment speaks to the talent, dedication, and hard work our students bring to the table. Nicole Rubin also qualified to compete. This was Nicole's first sales competition, and she made a positive impression on the employers, thus expanding her network and even being interviewed for positions during the course of the competition.

v. Scholarship Application Party January, 2025, Beta Alpha Psi will host its first ever Scholarship Application Party during the first or second week of the Spring semester. Carr Riggs & Ingram is our sponsor. We hope to encourage accounting majors to bring their laptops to the Den, eat pizza, and apply to university-wide, GSCPA, and firm-funded scholarships. Beta Alpha Psi officers are encouraging other clubs in the CoBT to join the party.

2. SCHOOLS AND HONORS COLLEGE

a. HONORS COLLEGE & NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- i. Eta Sigma Alpha Induction On Nov. 12, first-year Honors students were inducted into Eta Sigma Alpha (the Honors student association) at a ceremony in Magnolia Ballroom. Honors Assistant Director and National Scholarships Coordinator Anna Whiteside delivered the keynote address.
- ii. Fulbright U.S. Student Program The National Scholarships Office worked with 16 students on completing and submitting their applications for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program this year. This is the largest number of students who have ever submitted applications in a single academic school year.
- iii. Legends of Honors On Nov. 20 at 6:00 p.m., Honors alumnus Dr. David Snow will deliver a Legends of Honors Zoom presentation titled "A Long & Winding Road: Opportunity (and Adventure) in Public Service." <u>To register</u>, please click on the embedded link.
- iv. National Collegiate Honors Conference From Oct. 30 to Nov. 3, Dr. Brian Newsome and Dr. Steve Elliott-Gower accompanied a small group of Honors students to the National Collegiate Honors Conference in Kansas City, MO. Newsome, Elliott-Gower, and each of the students presented scholarship and/or led roundtable discussions on innovations in Honors programming.

b. THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

- i. Administrative Graduate Assistant Request 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.
- **ii.** Career Fair The Graduate School will attend Atlanta Metropolitan State College's Career Fair on November 19.
- iii. Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week The Graduate School will celebrate Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week 2025, April 14 18, 2025.
- iv. Graduate Research Travel Grants No applications were received for the fall 2024 cycle of Graduate Research Travel Grants. The application window for the spring 2025 cycle of Graduate Research Travel Grant will open on January 13, 2025. The application is available on the Graduate Opportunities web page of The Graduate School website.

v. Recruitment Events The Graduate School has participated recruitment events at the following Fall recruitment fairs: GCSU, Kennesaw State University, Wesleyan College, GaETC Conference in Atlanta, and the Bibb County Board of Education Certification Information Session.

c. SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

i. Academic Outreach

- 1. We are working with the High Achievers Program in exploring molecular movement. We have spent time at Lake Laurel offering programs for the Life Enrichment Center members and to high school chemistry students from the homeschool programs.
- 2. Friday, December 6, join us for Adopt a Stream training and monitoring at Champion Creek at Lake Laurel (9 10 a.m.) at Georgia College's East Campus, Tobler Creek at Andalusia Farm (10:30 a.m. 12 p.m.), and Tanyard Creek by College Station (2:30 3:30 p.m.). No experience required. This is a GCSU Thirst for Knowledge event. Register at https://givepul.se/1618ou. Email Ruth Eilers (ruth.eilers@gcsu.edu) to learn more.

ii. Afterschool Achievement

- 1. High Achievers Program (HAP) current partnerships include: GC&SU Health Education, Exchange Bank, GC&SU Outdoor Education, GC&SU Academic Outreach, GC&SU IT-Mr. John Johnson, the GCSU Communications Department, and Tree Top Training, LLC.
- 2. Kenneth Daniels continues to solicit support for guest speakers in the HAP speaker series. Contact him if you are interested: kenneth.daniels@gcsu.edu or contact Mr. Daniels at 478.445.8509

iii. Communities in Schools Milledgeville Baldwin County

- 1. Courtney Bentley has been named as the next Director of Communities in Schools Milledgeville Baldwin County (CISMBC) and will begin this role in January, 2025.
- **2.** CISMBC has increased donations with the latest being \$1,500 from the Georgia Power Foundation
- **3.** The Board of Directors had new members including Frederick Ellington (Central State Hospital), John Jackson (GCSU/BCSD BOE), Ashley Copeland (GCSU GIVE Center), Tatrabian Jackson (CGTC), and Kendric Butts (Baldwin County Commissioners).

iv. Continuing & Professional Education

- 1. Yandchia Higdon has been hired as a Program Coordinator. Yandchia is a Mercer University alum and Macon, Georgia native. She has extensive background and passion for higher education. She will focus on workforce development and the Employer Education Partnership program.
- 2. Join us in Rome & the Amalfi Coast (Dec. 5 Dec. 14, 2025)
 Registration is open
- **3.** Georgia Film Academy Spring registration is now open. Classes run January 13- May 1.

v. Historic Museums

- 1. The Mansion will be closed from Monday, November 11 Friday, November 15 for decorating. We will open for Christmas tours on Saturday, November 16.
- Registration is now open for the Mansion's Christmas
 Candlelight Tours on our website. Dates are Saturday, December 7 and Saturday, December 21 at 6 pm, 7 pm, and 8 pm.
- **3.** Registration is also open for the Mansion's Santa Photo Night on Friday, December 13, beginning at 6 pm.

vi. YES at Oak Hill Middle School and Lakeview Academy

- 1. On October 25th, the HAP collaborated with the YES Program at OHMS to put on a "2024 Lights on Afterschool" event to celebrate the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs and out-of-school Programs and their significant roles in the lives of children, families, and communities.
- **2.** Both YES programs have provided academic and enrichment services to over 250 3rd-8th grade youth in Baldwin county. Learn more in the LVA newsletter and the OHMS newsletter.

vii. Office of Adult Learner Services

1. In partnership with the College of Education, we are launching a Bachelor of Science in Special Education program designed specifically for working paraprofessionals seeking teacher certification. Our recent virtual information session demonstrated strong market demand, attracting 235 registrations with 70 active participants engaging in program discussions. Under Dr. Stacie Pettit's leadership, Program Directors Dr. Mike Newton and Dr. Steve Wills are guiding the program's development and implementation. The program, scheduled to launch in Summer 2025, represents our commitment to expanding educational access while addressing critical workforce needs in special education.

3. OFFICES AND PROGRAMS

a. ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

- **i. Fall Final Grades** are due by 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 18. The Registrar will send entry instructions to all faculty prior to the deadline.
- ii. Financial Aid During Fall Break, the Financial Aid team held their annual fall retreat to plan new initiatives and to ensure that all staff members are up to date on processes for the 2025-2026 academic year.
- **iii. The Office of Admissions** received a record number of applications during the Early Action period which ended on October 15th. The admissions team holistically reviewed 3,462 completed applications and offered admissions 2,702 outstanding students. Early Action decisions were released on November 13th at 5:00 p.m.
- iv. Winter Commencement will take place on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 1 p.m. Participating faculty should line up no later than 12:15 p.m. at the Centennial Center first-floor swimming pool corner entrance. Three hundred and fifty students from all colleges are eligible to participate in

this combined graduate/undergraduate ceremony. Professor Jehan El-Jourbagy will be the faculty speaker.

b. OFFICE OF GRANTS AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

- i. Director Search Effective November 1st, Kadian Leslie, Director of Grants & Sponsored Projects, submitted her resignation from GCSU. We are thankful for her leadership and wish Kadian success in her future endeavors. The Provost Office is working with HR to post the position and start the search for a new director.
- **ii. Proposal Checklist** Based on the sponsor guidelines, OGSP will create a proposal checklist and timeline to ensure sufficient time is available to develop the proposal, conduct a review and provide feedback, and secure internal approvals prior to the proposal due date.
- iii. Reduced Staffing We ask that you be mindful of the reduced staffing in the Office of Grants & Sponsored Projects (OGSP) and plan accordingly for any upcoming grant submission deadlines. Please email your intent to apply, including a link to the grant guidelines, to grants@gcsu.edu as soon as possible.

c. Student Engagement and Academic Excellence

- i. Coordinator for Undergraduate Research A coordinator for undergraduate research has been hired, and will be starting in January 2025, to help faculty and students with MURACE-related activities.
- ii. Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference On Saturday, November 9, 2024, 36 GCSU undergraduate students presented their research at the Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference at Emory-Oxford.
- **iii. Posters at the Capitol** The 2025 Posters at the Capitol will take place on Tuesday, February 25, 2025. Formal announcements about submissions will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.
- iv. Travel with Students If you have any questions about funding for academic-related travel with students, please reach out to Dr. Kevin Bucholtz, Associate Provost for Academic Excellence and Student Engagement.

4. **CENTERS AND INSTITUTES**

a. CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

- i. GeorgiaVIEW/D2L Changes to appearance and layout coming to GeorgiaVIEW/D2L launches on December 18. More details will be forthcoming
- ii. SRIS opens to students on November 19.
- iii. Workshop Empowering All Students Through an Inclusive Syllabus November 20, 2024

b. THE FLANNERY O'CONNOR INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES

i. Department of Education Grant Our U.S. Department of Education Grant (\$389,000) is wrapping up. We are gifting a podcasting bundle to each of our participating partners: Midway Hills Academy; Lakeview Academy; Mary Vinson Memorial Library; Allied Arts; and the Baldwin High School Podcasting Club.

- ii. National Endowment for the Humanities Grant Our NEH grant Collecting the Past, in collaboration with Ina Dillard Russell Library, gives a beginner-friendly session on podcasting Nov. 12.
- iii. Newsletter The FOIH continues regular programming with a robust schedule of talks. See our November Newsletter for details: https://secure.smore.com/n/vtrxa
- iv. Talk On November 7 we hosted a very successful zoom talk with visiting scholars Irwin Streight and Monica Miller on the topic of O'Connor and Music. A lively Q and A ensued!
- v. Scholar-in-Residence Farrell O'Gorman held a lecture entitled "Cormac McCarthy and Flannery O'Connor: Links, Likeness, Legacy," Nov. 14, 6 pm in Library 211, the Museum Education Room.

c. THE LEARNING CENTER

- **i.** Excel Bootcamp Requests are out this week to faculty wanting this support for their students to learn basic Excel skills.
- **ii. Services** Utilization for all of services in the Learning Center have increased approximately 20% comparing Fall 23 to Fall 24 to date.
- **iii. Supplemental Instruction** requests for spring semester total 68 Leaders to support 94 sections of enrolled students. 60 Leaders have been matched for those requests and hope to fill the openings. This represents 3,443 seats.

d. Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy

- i. Baldwin County Reading Clinic The reading clinic for Lakeview Primary is up and running, serving approximately 75 elementary students. Twelve GCSU students that the Deal Center trained as tutors are doing very well.
- ii. Contract with Dr. Paige Pullen The Deal Center is partnering with Dr. Pullen to support a number of statewide initiatives aligned with our strategic plan. Dr. Pullen has been the Chief Academic Officer and Research Professor at the Lastinger Center for Learning at the University of Florida.
- **iii. Georgia Literacy Coaches Network** The Deal Center is collaborating with GaDOE to provide monthly web meeting to support literacy coaches around the state in their learning and implementing their work.
- iv. Georgia School Board Association The Deal Center has been approved to present 'The Science of Reading for School Board Members' at their December conference. In addition, we are partnering with GSBA to provide this as an approved training to local boards of education statewide.
- v. Literacy Screener Advisory Group Report to recommend selected universal reading screeners to the state is being prepared and will be submitted to the State Board of Education for consideration at their December meeting.
- vi. Research Grant Application Closes on November 18th. The Deal Center held a webinar for applicants to provide an orientation to the grant as well as an introduction to implementation science.

- vii. Submission of Conference Abstracts Society for Research in Child Development and International Society for Autism Research (both of these from Dr. Morgan's work at Emory) and South-Eastern Psychological Association (Baldwin FERST Readers See below)
- viii. Summit 2025 planning has begun with Summit dates set for July 8-9, 2025.