

**REPORTS FROM PRESIDENT COX AND PROVOST ROBERTS
28 FEBRUARY 2028 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, the House and the Senate have as of this week now passed versions of the FY25 “amended” budget (the current fiscal year) but it included very little related to the University System of Georgia other than additional “MRR” funding for maintenance and repair of campus facilities. The Governor recommended \$50 million, the House reduced that to \$30 million, and the Senate reduced that to \$10 million – so a conference committee will have to iron out the final number.
- b. Meanwhile, in the budget for the upcoming FY26 year, the Governor’s proposed budget includes \$1.4 million for the third and final year of the Herty Hall renovation. This sum would cover some of the furniture and equipment we would need for the renovated building. We don’t foresee problems in keeping that amount in the budget and I’ve gotten good feedback from the House Appropriations leadership that they will support it, but we will have to keep working on it to assure that it stays in the budget all the way through the process. All of the funding for the actual renovation work on Herty Hall has been obtained in the previous two legislative sessions, enabling our work to begin with gusto at the end of this semester.

2. BOARD OF REGENTS/USG UPDATE

- a. The Board of Regents met virtually on February 11, 2025, and had a relatively light agenda. As they do almost every month, the Regents receive proposals from USG institutions to approve new degree programs where they have or foresee high student interest, and they propose termination of low-enrolled programs. This month, the Regents voted to terminate programs at Georgia State University, ABAC, and College of Coastal Georgia.
- b. The Regents adopted a revised policy pertaining to how USG campus facilities are used by “unaffiliated outside parties,” namely by political campaigns or similar events, Policy 6.14, which merged the previous 6.14.1 and 6.14.2. The policy, which I will attach to my report, specifies that decisions about use of campus facilities and/or property to unaffiliated outside parties must be made “without regard to the content or viewpoint of the unaffiliated outside party’s planned expressive activity.” However, the policy also says institutions “may allow unaffiliated outside parties to use institution facilities for events that are not contrary to the mission of the institution.”
- c. In any such case, the policy makes clear that outside groups must pay reasonable compensation for use of the facilities and sign a USG-approved license agreement.

- d. Just days after the monthly Board of Regents' Board meeting, the US Department of Education issued a new "Dear Colleague" letter¹ which has been much discussed in the news since then, and which I will also attach to my report. The subject line of the email from the Department of Education said "U.S. Department of Education Directs Schools to End Racial Preferences," and the letter goes on to recount the DOE's perspective that colleges, universities and K-12 schools have improperly used race as a factor in admissions, financial aid, hiring, training and other institutional programming, expresses the view that the US Supreme Court's 2023 opinion in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* applies to more than just admissions decisions and makes the use of race illegal in a much broader swath of activities. The letter concludes by saying the DOE will require compliance with the tenets of the letter within 14 days (today) as a condition of receiving federal funding.
 - e. Chancellor Perdue distributed the "Dear Colleague" letter to all the USG Presidents with a message noting that the letter "does not have the force and effect of law and does not bind the public or create new legal standards." He goes on to say, however, that "it should give you an idea of where the Department of Education is heading."
 - f. The Georgia Senate held a hearing on SB120 this week, which is a bill that would prohibit any public K-12 or postsecondary institution in the state from promoting or advocating for diversity, equity and inclusion (without defining those terms or actions). In response to SB120 (which had not passed the Senate, as of the date of the University Senate meeting) and the "Dear Colleague" letter, Georgia Tech announced during the week that its offices/programs such as Georgia Tech Pride Alliance, LGBTQIA+ Resource Center (LRC), Women's Resource Center, and Black Culture, Innovation & Technology would all be preemptively dissolved and moved under the Arts, Belonging & Community Department.
3. **REQUIRED INFORMATION SECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING**
- a. All faculty, staff, student workers, retirees, and contractors 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 28, 2025**.
 - b. You are encouraged to begin this training early; in case you have problems logging into the KnowBe4 system. USG pulls our campus statistics and utilizes them to determine our cybersecurity insurance rates. Your participation is critical as it aids in keeping our costs as low as possible.
 - i. Type www.knowbe4.com in the URL
 - ii. In the upper right corner, choose Account Login
 - iii. Select United States
 - iv. Enter your GCSU employee account and you will see your required training modules
 - v. Click the **Start** button on each module to view the training.

¹ On the weekend following the February meeting of the University Senate meeting, the US Department of Education issued guidance in support of its February 14, 2025 "Dear Colleague" letter. A copy of the guidance letter is attached to this report, FYI.

- vi. 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 5**, we will begin our campus-wide modified summer schedule. The 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 8, 2025**.
 - iv. We will have three state holidays during this time -- Monday, May 26, Thursday, June 19, and Friday, July 4. For the weeks of May 26, June 16, and June 30, in which those holidays fall, we will work a four-day work week from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - v. This modified schedule will begin every summer the Monday following our May Commencement ceremonies and ending two Fridays prior to the start of the Fall semester.
 - 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 2025 graduates. These ceremonies are divided by college and each ceremony includes graduate and undergraduates. Speakers for each ceremony will be announced soon.
 - b. The ceremony dates and times are
 - i. **College of Health Sciences:** Friday, May 9, 2025, at 2:00 PM
 - ii. **College of Education:** Friday, May 9, 2025, at 7:00 PM
 - iii. **College of Business and Technology:** Saturday, May 10, 2025, at 9:00 AM
 - iv. **College of Arts and Sciences:** Saturday, May 10, 2025, at 3:00 PM
6. **SAVE THE DATES**
- a. ***Faculty and Staff Service Recognition Brunch (invitation only)***
Friday, March 7, 2025
10:00 a.m. - Magnolia Ballroom
 - b. ***Flannery at 100 – Celebration of Flannery's 100th Birthday***
March 24- 28, 2025
<https://www.gcsu.edu/oconnor/flannery-at-100>
 - c. ***GCSU Research Day***
Wednesday, April 16, 2025
Magnolia Ballroom
 - d. ***Spring Family Day***
Saturday, April 12, 2025
West Campus
 - e. ***Celebration of Excellence***

Friday, April 18, 2025
9:00 a.m. – Russell Auditorium

f. ***Midnight Breakfast***

Monday, May 5, 2025
9:45 p.m. - The MAX

g. ***Spring Graduate & Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies***

Centennial Center

College of Health Sciences

College of Education

College of Business & Technology

College of Arts & Sciences

Friday, May 9, 2025, at 2:00 PM

Friday, May 9, 2025, at 7:00 PM

Saturday, May 10, 2025, at 9:00 AM

Saturday, May 10, 2025, at 3:00 PM

PROVOST'S REPORT

1. **COLLEGES AND LIBRARY**

a. **COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES**

- i. **The Department of Art** is hosting their Alumni Exhibition from February 20th-March 11.
- ii. **Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences** and Honors College with Tri Beta Honor Society hosted Dr. Shea Morris Lowrey '18, who gave a seminar on her Insights into coronavirus induced inflammation and pathogenesis on Feb 19th.
- iii. **Department of English** Creative Writing Program had a panel on publishing on Feb 20th, with editors and publishers.
- iv. **Department of English** Creative Writing Program hosted visiting writer Matthew Carey Salyer on Feb 24 and will be hosting Dr. James Kimbrell on March 10-11.
- v. **The Department of Music** had a faculty recital on February 24.
- vi. **The Department of Music** is presenting "Jazz Jam Sessions" on March 14 at Allen's Market and on April 15th at Amici Cafe.
- vii. **Department of Psychological Science** will have 30+ posters, paper presentations, and panel discussions at the 71st Annual Meeting of the Southeaster Psychological Association in Atlanta, GA April 9, 2025 - April 12, 2025
- viii. **The Department of Theatre & Dance** presents the musical *Onegin* in the Russell Auditorium March 5-8th at 7:30pm and March 9th at 2pm.
- ix. **The Science Education Center** GCSU Regional Science Fair for Middle and High School students was hosted by the Science Education Center including 132 projects (178 students) from 14 counties surrounding GCSU. 7 faculty members, 2 biology graduate students, 2 scientists from industry, and 1 retired educator served as professional judges. A total of 43 GCSU STEM majors served as student judges and 97 GCSU students volunteered throughout the day.
- x. **The Science Education Center** will host the 8th Annual GCSU State K-5 Science and Engineering Fair on Friday, March 28th.
- xi. **Dr. Kristina Dandy** was elected as a member at large of the executive board of the Southeastern Psychology Association (SEPA).

- xii. **Professor Matt Forrest** was invited to Carlow University in Pittsburgh PA March 30th- April 2, as part of their visiting artist program.
 - xiii. **Visiting Artist Joseph Guay** gave a public lecture on The Cost of War on Feb 24th.
 - xiv. **Dr. Tina Holmes-Davis** discussed her book *Able Will Suffice* on February 26th.
- b. **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**
- i. **Dr. Cynthia Alby** Omicron Delta Kappa received The Flisch-Harris Award for Leadership in the Cause of a Liberal Education
 - ii. **Drs. Linda Bradley, Alex Berglund, and Hunter Strickland**
 - 1. The new PSC Rule 505-3-.03, which includes requirements for all programs leading to certification in a Teaching (T) field and aligns with HB538 (GA Early Literacy Act) and SB211 (established GA Council on Literacy) also required EPPs to complete Action Plans, describing all EPP and program-level plans to ensure Rule 505-3-.03 standards are fully implemented in all applicable preparation programs by August 2024. On February 12, we received the evaluation and feedback of these phase II Literacy plans.
 - 2. The scale included scores of 1 – indicating major edits and resubmission needed; 2-edits needed 3 – no further action needed Linda, Alex, and Hunter’s work **earned 3** in ALL AREAS they submitted.
 - iii. **Dr. Rui Kang**
 - 1. Recently published two separate articles from her (second) dissertation/Ph.D. as two separate articles:
 - a. Preparing middle and high school preservice teachers for teaching mathematics modeling: Building curriculum vision and trust through curricular and professional noticing in the *Journal of Mathematics Teacher Education*.
 - b. Modeling as a Context for Professional Noticing in *The Mathematics Educator*.
 - 2. Co-authored a book: *Society, culture and STEM: A model for student engagement and teacher collaboration*. Rowman & Littlefield
- c. **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**
- i. **Nursing** There are over 1,000 fall 2025 freshman applicants that have noted they are interested in majoring in nursing.
 - ii. **Public Health** Faculty are currently working on a pre-clinical pathway for medicine, PT, nursing, chiropractic and others via our Public Health degree for 2026.
 - iii. **Dr. Mike Martino and Dr. Jeff Turner** are serving as Co-Directors of the School of Health and Human Performance.
- d. **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY**
- i. **The Department of Information Systems & Computer Science** is having their study abroad kick-off event at the Halle Foundation on

February 28. The Halle Foundation grant covers much of the study abroad costs for the students who will travel to Germany in May.

- ii. **Atkinson Honors** will be held on April 3.
- iii. **Beta Alpha Psi** visited the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts in Atlanta.
- iv. **Bobcat Boardroom & Bobcat Trading Room** The CoBT held a successful open house for the Bobcat Boardroom & Bobcat Trading Room on 2/21. A huge thank you to everyone who helped with the funding and construction for those spaces.
- v. **Economics and Finance** Six economics and finance majors presented research at the Academy of Economics and Finance Conference in Pensacola, FL.
- vi. **The 2nd Executive Forum** is being held on March 3 with Mr. Mike Ciabattoni, the Managing Partner and Co-Founder of CW Holdings, LLC. Please contact Nancy.Finney@gcsu.edu for details.
- vii. **The Student Venture Capital Challenge** is April 16, 1-5pm. For additional information or to enter, please email Nicholas.Creel@gcsu.edu

e. **UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

i. **New & Upcoming Exhibits**

1. ***Pulped: The Shocking History of the Paperback Book*** Learn more about the surprising backstory of the paperback book by visiting our new Rare Book Room exhibit, or viewing the companion digital exhibit, *Pulped: The Shocking History of the Paperback Book*. Pulp fiction, long criticized as lowbrow and immoral, challenged social norms, promoted free expression, and influenced modern publishing, leaving a lasting impact on literature and popular culture, and played a significant role in expanding literacy and making reading accessible to the masses
2. ***Black History Month Popup Exhibit*** The Salvation Project: Preserving Middle Georgia's Black Gospel Music, an initiative in partnership with Baylor University's Black Gospel Archive, to preserve digital audio copies of local and regional Black gospel music, so through digitization, this beautifully vibrant music will be preserved for researchers to study and more importantly, for all to enjoy and love, with a popup exhibit. Currently on display in the library, across from the Special Collections workroom and the Digital Humanities Lab is an original gospel music concert poster, circa 1970, for the 7th Anniversary Cotton Brothers gospel concert, held at the Macon Coliseum, in Macon, Ga. The Cotton Brothers are a prominent Macon, Georgia gospel ensemble with a rich recording legacy.
3. ***Flannery O'Connor at 100*** For the upcoming Flannery O'Connor at 100 celebration, several new opportunities to investigate O'Connor further will be made available at the library. A new exhibit will be installed in the Flannery O'Connor Gallery of Southern Literary Work, located in the Special Collection Galleries

in Heritage Hall, entitled O'Connor: Grotesque, Grace, Redemption, & Landscape. The exhibit examines how O'Connor's grotesque realism, spiritual reckonings, and vivid settings intertwine to create stories of redemption, judgment, and the search for meaning. Additionally, two of Flannery O'Connor's rarely seen paintings will be on display outside of the Special Collections Research Room and Rare Book Room the week of March 24th

2. SCHOOLS AND HONORS COLLEGE

a. THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

- i. **Graduate Admissions** will offer an application fee waiver for summer 2025 and fall 2025 enrollment, March 18 – April 1, 2025. The fee waiver will be available for all graduate programs.
- ii. **Graduate Admissions** will offer a virtual Q&A session on March 20, 2025 at 5:30pm for prospective graduate students to learn about GCSU graduate programs and the graduate admissions process.
- iii. **Graduate Enrollment Management** will now be centralized and located on the first floor of Parks Hall. The area will be led by Joel Robinson, Senior Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and Shanda Brand will serve as the Interim Director of Graduate Admissions and Enrollment Management. As of February 18, 2025
 1. Received 571 graduate admissions applications for summer 2025 enrollment, marking an increase of 65 applications compared to 506 applications received on February 18, 2024 for summer 2024 enrollment.
 2. Received 268 graduate admissions applications for fall 2025 enrollment, marking an increase of 70 applications compared to 198 applications received on February 18, 2024 for fall 2024 enrollment.
 3. Received 3 graduate admissions applications for spring 2026 enrollment, marking an increase of 1 application compared to 2 applications received on February 18, 2024 for spring 2025 enrollment.
- iv. **Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week 2025** is April 14 – 18, 2025. **The Graduate Research Showcase** in the institutional repository, Knowledge Box, had 14,109 downloads from 139 countries. In January 2025, the Graduate Research Showcase had 510 full-text downloads
- v. **Graduate Research Travel Grants** The Graduate School received 12 Graduate Research Travel Grants applications from graduate students in the Biology, English, and Health and Human Performance programs, totaling \$10,128 in requested funding. A second round of grants is currently under consideration.

b. HONORS COLLEGE & NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- i. **Honors College** On Feb. 21-22, eighteen GCSU Honors students participated in the Georgia Collegiate Honors Conference at Georgia Tech. They all did an excellent job presenting their scholarship, and Chloe

Melton won first place in the Social Sciences category for her paper on the history of the Body Mass Index. For more information, please refer to [Front Page](#).

ii. National Scholarships

1. 2 GCSU students were selected as semi-finalists for the Fulbright Scholarship
2. 2 GCSU students were selected as finalists for the Critical Language Scholarship

c. SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

- i. **Academic Outreach** Offered a GCSU Thirst for Knowledge stream monitoring and volunteered and judged at the Regional Science Fair held at GCSU.

ii. Adult Learner Services

1. **B.S. in Special Education** The SCPS is working with paraprofessionals interested in earning a B.S. in Special Education. [Visit our site](#) for more information.

- iii. **Afterschool Achievement The YES Program** Lakeview Academy received a stellar monitoring report with one finding.

- iv. **Communities in Schools Milledgeville Baldwin County** Thank you to Exchange Bank for leading the Winter Coat Drive and making it a huge success.

- v. **Continuing & Professional Education is [hiring](#)** for summer camp counselor positions.

1. **Baseball Lessons** CPE will launch individual and small group private baseball lessons in early 2025! These lessons are designed for ages 5 and up. More information will be available soon.
2. **Workshops** A special thanks to Dr. Carrie Cook and Dr. Min Kim, for offering the Grant Writing workshop and Hance Patrick from GC IT for offering the online Cybersecurity workshop. Both workshops were a big success!

vi. Historic Museums

1. **Andalusia Interpretive Center** received a 2025 Travelblazer award from the Georgia Association of the Convention & Visitors Bureaus during the GACVB Annual Conference. The award celebrates tourism attractions that foster innovative partnerships and collaborations while boosting economic development in the state.
2. **The Georgia Association of Museums** met recently on campus for their annual conference.
3. **Flannery O'Connor** is turning **100** years old! Visit [Flannery at 100](#) to celebrate Flannery O'Connor's 100th Birthday! Join us for a screening of the film *Wildcat*. Meet Producers, Mary Rogers & Joe Goodman, Friday, March 28, 8:00 p.m. Russell Auditorium. *This event part of the Flannery at 100 celebrations.*

vii. School of Continuing & Professional Studies

1. **Dr. Kristina Dandy** A special thanks to Dr. Kristina Dandy for leading the members of the Milledgeville Chamber of Commerce on how to apply operant learning principles in the workplace.
2. **Dr. Harold Mock** will present workforce trends to the members of the Milledgeville Chamber of Commerce on March 20th at 9 a.m.
3. **Spring Documentary Film Series**
 - a. In collaboration with the School of Continuing & Professional Studies, The College of Arts & Sciences, the Department of Math, the Department of Sociology, the College of Education, Student Life, and the Provost's Office, we invite faculty, staff, students, and the community to join us for the following documentaries.
 - i. *The Cost of Caring* A documentary about the high incidence of veterinarian suicide rates in the United States and specifically how to help stop this crisis. Participate in a panel discussion with the filmmakers, Marie and Frank Barnas and General Vet practitioner, Dr. Mike Chapman. Tuesday, March 4, 5:30 – 7 p.m., A&S Auditorium.
 - ii. *View Finders* Showcasing beautiful locations, photography, and outdoor adventure. Meet filmmaker, Chris Greer. Wednesday, April 16, 6 – 7 p.m., A&S Auditorium.

3. **OFFICES AND PROGRAMS**

a. **ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

- i. **Applications** As of February 24, freshmen applications are up by 3% compared to last year.
- ii. **Graduate Admissions** will be a centralized office under Enrollment Management beginning March 1 and the team will transition to the first floor of Parks Hall on March 15.
- iii. **Summer and Fall 2025 Registration** for currently enrolled students will begin on Monday, March 10. Please encourage all students to register at their first available registration time and to make use of the registration resources provided by the Registrar's Office and Academic Advising Center. These are distributed repeatedly to students via email in the weeks prior to registration and released via social media.
- iv. **The GCSU Institutional Scholarship Deadline** was February 17, 2025. The Office of Financial Aid received a record breaking 1,965 Scholarship Applications for the 2025-2026 Academic Year. The comprehensive communication plan to advertise this application was a huge success.
- v. **Springfest** On March 1, 2025, we will host Springfest for admitted high school seniors. As of February 24, 357 students registered for the event. Of the registered students, 301 have submitted their confirmation deposit and 262 have submitted both their confirmation and housing deposits.
- vi. **The Student Success and Retention Series “Navigating Campus Resources”** occurred on February 19, in the Pat Peterson Museum

Education Room. The session attracted 70 participants, including 6 faculty members, 3 students, and 61 staff members.

- vii. **The Spring Student Success and Retention Series “Neurodiversity in the Classroom”** will be held on March 12, 2025, from 12 - 1 p.m. in the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room. This event is designed to equip workshop participants with valuable insights on supporting neurodivergent students in the classroom, practicing disability etiquette, and gaining a deeper understanding of the services offered by GCSU’s Student Disability Resource Center.
- viii. **The Career and Graduate School Fair** will be held on Marh 26, 2025 from 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. in the Centennial Center.

b. **LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS**

- i. **Delegation to Savannah and the Golden Isles.** On Thursday and Friday, 27 and 28 February 2025, Georgia College Leadership Programs will host a Delegation to Savannah and the Golden Isles for a two-day session focused on the diverse economy of Georgia. Hosts include the Georgia Ports Authority, City of Savannah, Jekyll Island Authority, and Brunswick Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce.
- ii. **Usery Forum on Leadership featuring the Hon. Steve C. Jones.** The Usery Forum on Leadership will be hosted on Monday, 3 March 2025 at 5 p.m., featuring the Hon. Steve C. Jones. The Hon. Steve C. Jones is a Senior United States District Court Judge, appointed by former President Barack Obama in 2011. In this role, he presides over cases that involve the United States government, the United States Constitution, federal laws, controversies between citizens of different states and other matters. Jones holds a bachelor’s degree in management and juris doctor degree, both from the University of Georgia. The Usery Forum on Leadership honors the legacy of U.S. Secretary of Labor W. J. Usery, Jr., exploring leadership that brings people together in service to the public good. Additional information and registration is open at gcsu.edu/usery.
- iii. **Legislative Briefing Call.** On Thursday, 6 March 2025, Georgia College Leadership Programs will co-host a special Crossover Day Legislative Briefing call with the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. Savannah Taylor ‘22, research director for the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Chamber’s Public Affairs team, will offer a thirty-minute briefing and update on the Georgia Chamber’s 2025 legislative priorities as well as the current work of the Georgia General Assembly.
- iv. **GEM Day at the Capitol.** On Monday, March 10, 2025, students, mentors, and alumni of the Georgia Education Mentorship Program will meet with legislators, observe a floor session in the General Assembly, receive an issues briefing, and participate in a networking lunch at the Georgia State Capitol.
- v. **Save the Date: Leadership Ideas Festival.** Friday, April 11, 2025. The Georgia College Leadership Ideas Festival brings together the brightest minds from across our state for a days-long discussion of creative ideas

and public leadership. We will showcase the exciting and innovative work of Georgia College's faculty, fellows, and students in our commitment to leadership and the public good.

c. **MENTORED UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ENDEAVORS (MURACE)**

- i. **Posters at the State Capitol** GCSU hosted the Posters at the State Capitol event on February 25. This event will feature 40 posters from 16 institutions across Georgia, including three posters from GCSU.
- ii. **Research Day**
 1. Submissions are due March 3. Promotional posters for RD are currently displayed throughout the campus. MURACE also engages students in submitting their work, by promoting RD through social media and tabling events.
 2. MURACE will compile and create the program schedules for the advisory committee's review before posting them on the website to encourage attendance and participation. This event partnered with the Honors Program, Women and Gender Studies, GC Journeys, and more.
- iii. **National Council on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)** GCSU will have five student presentations and three faculty/mentor-led presentations at the National Council on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), which will take place in Pittsburgh, PA on April 7-9.

d. **MONTESORI ACADEMY**

- i. Enrollment: 98 Students
- ii. Observation site for 80 psychology majors this semester
- iii. Ongoing Denver study for School of Nursing
- iv. Employing 6 Georgia College students

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

i. **Federal Grant Funding**

1. OGSP has been monitoring the many changes with federal agencies. Currently, none of our federal projects have been impacted or cancelled. We are optimistic and waiting patiently as federal agencies conduct their internal reviews and notify us of any changes or restrictions.
2. Most agencies are still accepting proposals, and OGSP will ensure proposals meet agency guidelines.
3. Some review panels have been paused, so there may be longer waiting times before an award decision is made.
4. As always, OGSP staff are available to assist. Please reach out to grants@gcsu.edu with any questions or concerns.

ii. **Annual Financial Conflict of Interest Disclosure (FCOI)**

1. To comply with federal regulations, GCSU has a responsibility to manage, reduce, or eliminate any actual or potential conflicts of interest that may be presented by financial interests of an investigator. The FCOI policy is located [here](#).

2. FCOI certification covering the period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025 is due by March 28, 2025. The notices have been emailed to all GCSU Principal Investigators, Project Directors, and senior key personnel.
- f. **OFFICE OF THE PROVOST & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**
- i. **Announcement of search for Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and Dean of the J. Whitney Bunting College of Business & Technology**
 1. In collaboration with the executive search firm, Buffkin/Baker, Georgia College & State University is launching searches for two essential leaders on our campus: [Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences](#) and [Dean of the J. Whitney Bunting College of Business & Technology](#)
 2. The following individuals will serve as members of the Search Committee for Dean of the [College of Arts & Sciences](#):
 - a. **Search Committee Chair:** [Dr. Kevin Bucholtz](#), Associate Provost for Student Engagement and Academic Excellence
 - b. Matthew Forrest, Interim Chair, Department of Art
 - c. Dr. Katie Simon, Associate Professor of English, Interim Director of the Flannery O'Connor Institute
 - d. Dr. Al Mead, Professor of Biology and Graduate Coordinator
 - e. Dr. Diana Young, Associate Professor of Psychology
 - f. Dr. Libby Murphy, Chair, World Languages and Cultures
 - g. Darla Pike, COAS Advancement Officer
 - h. Steve Skalko – Chair, COAS Leadership Board
 - i. Dr. Carrie Cook, Professor of Criminal Justice
 - j. Dr. Jennifer Goldsberry, Interim Director, School of Nursing and Associate Professor of Nursing
 3. To submit a confidential nomination, please send the name, title, and institution of the prospect to GeorgiaCollegeDeanCOAS@buffkinbaker.com. Questions about the search process should be directed to [Dr. Kevin Bucholtz](#) as Search Committee Chair.
 4. The following individuals will serve as members of the Search Committee for Dean for the [J. Whitney Bunting College of Business & Technology](#):
 - a. **Search Committee Chair:** [Dr. Mandy Jarriel](#), Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Director of The Graduate School
 - b. Dr. Jeannie Pridmore, Chair of Information Systems and Computer Science
 - c. Dr. Chris Clark, Professor of Economics, Interim Associate Dean
 - d. Dr. Mary Rickard, Associate Professor of Marketing
 - e. Seth Walker, Vice President of University Advancement

- f. Angela Criscoe, Executive Director of the School of Continuing and Professional Studies
 - g. Jonathan Pope, COBT Leadership Board Member
 - h. Susan Whittle, Administrative Assistant, Department of Accounting & Business Law
 - i. Dr. Nicholas Creel, Associate Professor of Business Law, Presiding Officer of University Senate, and Co-Director of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship
 - j. Dr. Scott Manley, Chair of Department of Management, Marketing, and Logistics
5. To submit a confidential nomination, please send the name, title, and institution of the prospect to GeorgiaCollegeDeanCOBT@buffkinbaker.com. Questions about the search process should be directed to [Dr. Mandy Jarriel](#) as Search Committee Chair.

6. **Anticipated Search Timeline**

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|-------------------------------|--|
| February 2025 | Listening sessions Search Committee charge Finalize and post advertisement |
| Mid-February – Mid March 2025 | Active sourcing and recruitment of prospective candidates |
| Mid-March 2025 | Committee will review candidates |
| Week of March 31, 2025 | Review meetings to select candidates for first round interviews |
| Week of April 7, 2025 | Virtual interviews with candidates |
| April 17, 18, and 21-25 | On-campus interviews for finalists |
| Late April/Early May 2025 | Announcement of both Deans for a start date of July 1, 2025 |

7. Thank you for sharing this information within your campus units and amongst your academic network to further our efforts to fill these pivotal roles.
- ii. **GCSU Modified Operations Policy** Academic Affairs in collaboration with Human Resources is working on a draft GCSU Modified Operations Policy to provide guidance on university closures or moves to virtual learning and remote work. The policy draft will be provided to ECUS.
 - iii. **ASPIRE Meeting** The Academic Affairs division of the University System Office (USO) held ASPIRE meetings with all institutional Provosts. The GCSU meeting was held on Tuesday, February 18th. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss student success strategies, academic programs proposals, and low award and at-risk programs. GCSU will have a follow up meeting to discuss Low Award Programs on Friday, March 14, 2025 with USO staff.
- g. **REGISTRAR’S OFFICE**

- i. **Midterm grades for all Core IMPACTS courses (formerly Area A-E) are due by Tuesday, March 4, at 9:00 a.m.** This includes 1Y and 2Y courses. We also strongly encourage you to enter midterm grades for all other courses. This helps academic advisors and other campus staff members identify students who are struggling and may need assistance. **For non-core classes, even reporting just those students with unsatisfactory grades is a tremendous help in our retention and student success efforts.**
- ii. Please provide midterm grades from the following options.
 1. SF (Satisfactory): Students performing in the A-C range at midterm.
 2. UA (Unsatisfactory Attendance): Students performing in the D-F range at midterm primarily as a result of poor attendance habits. Faculty do not have to be taking regular attendance to provide this feedback.
 3. UG (Unsatisfactory Grades): Students performing in the D-F range at midterm primarily as a result of poor performance on assignments, quizzes, tests, and/or other graded work.
 4. UP (Unsatisfactory Participation): Students performing in the D-F range at midterm primarily as a result of poor in-class participation.
 5. UM (Unsatisfactory Multiple Concerns): Students performing in the D-F range at midterm due to a combination of factors, including, but not necessarily limited to, poor attendance, poor grades, or poor participation.
- iii. To submit your midterm grades:
 1. Log in to MyGCSU and select PAWS.
 2. Click on the FACULTY SERVICES tile.
 3. Select FACULTY GRADE ENTRY.
 4. On the grade entry page, click on the Midterm Grades tab.
 5. It often helps to use the search field in the upper-right-hand corner of the screen to limit your course list. Use "Spring 2025" for best results.
 6. Select the course section for which you are reporting mid-term grades.
 7. Select the appropriate grade in the drop-down menu box for each student.
 8. You do not have to enter the last date of attendance or hours attended.
 9. Select SAVE when finished, or every few minutes if the entire process will take more than 30 minutes. The submit button is at the bottom right side of the screen. You may have to scroll to see it depending on the settings on your monitor.
 10. Repeat the last four steps for each subsequent course section for which you are reporting midterm grades. When you have

completed your session, scroll to the top of the screen and click EXIT.

11. You must be the primary instructor for the class in order to enter grades. If you cannot access the course, contact your department admin to make the adjustment.

h. **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

- i. **Carnegie Classification in Community Engagement** Kevin Bucholtz, Cara Smith and Ashley Copeland are preparing the reclassification application for the Carnegie Classification in Community Engagement which is due April 1.

4. **CENTERS AND INSTITUTES**

a. **CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING**

- i. **University Level Teaching and Service Award Nominations** need to be submitted to the CTL office (ctl@gcsu.edu) by March 1.
- ii. **SRIS** Department Administrative Assistants should mark courses not to be surveyed by SRIS in Banner by March 14.
- iii. **CTL Needs Assessment Survey** is now open. Be sure to complete it by Friday, March 7th.

b. **FLANNERY O'CONNOR INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES**

- i. **The FOIH February Newsletter** can be found here:
<https://secure.smores.com/n/abdcv-flannery-o-connor-institute>
- ii. **Flannery O'Connor Centennial Celebration**, March 25-29. The events including an Art Opening, art lecture with O'Connor Scholar Robert Donahoo, a screening of Ethan Hawke's film *Wildcat*, with an introduction by the producers, a concert with Sean Mullins, a song-writing workshop with Sally Jaye, and a family-friendly music festival featuring Colin Cutler. Birthday cake and free tours at Andalusia. See the schedule and sign up for the ticketed events here:
<https://www.gcsu.edu/oconnor/flannery-at-100>
- iii. **Travel Stipends** With the support of the Mary Flannery Trust, we have partnered with University Advancement to provide travel stipends to six scholars traveling to Milledgeville for the Centennial Celebrations.
- iv. **Book Club** The FOIH hosts a monthly Zoom book club with Bruce Gentry. Join us to discuss Brad Gooch's biography of Flannery O'Connor, Thursday March 20. Come even if you don't have time to read the book. Sign up for the Zoom Link here:
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/6af9e5bae9ec41ba85f7f110e851e71f>
- v. **Visiting Scholar** March 4, 6:00 pm in the Museum Education Room of the Russel Library. Scholar Carol Schloss will talk about her new book, *The Andalusia Chronicles*, forthcoming from UGA Press. Schloss did research in the GCSU Special Collections and at Andalusia Farm, has been an NEH Summer Institute lecturer, and is the recipient of a past NEH fellowship to study O'Connor in Milledgeville. Her book presents new research on Flannery O'Connor and her relationship with her mother, Regina Cline O'Connor.

c. **THE LEARNING CENTER**

- i. **Training Conference** Hosted an all-staff training conference the end of January; with 122 staff in attendance and included a few faculty and staff guests facilitating sessions: Drs. Alby, Risvold, Ms. Jamie Gray.
 - ii. **Excel Bootcamps** have served approximately 300 students this spring and have 1 more week of workshops
 - iii. **Algebra Review Workshops** concluded last week with 125 participants from Pre-Calculus, Physics, Chemistry and Calculus 1 courses.
 - iv. **Supplemental Instruction** Student candidates are currently interviewing for the 64 SI Leader openings for fall 25, and if all are filled, the SI support will be available for ~3500 seats/students
- d. **SANDRA DUNAGAN DEAL CENTER FOR EARLY LANGUAGE AND LITERACY**
 - i. **Dr. Lindee Morgan** At the end of January, Dr. Morgan presented the opening keynote “The Science of Reading and Instruction for All Learners” at the 32nd Annual Florida Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities Conference in Orlando, FL.
 - ii. **The Deal Center’s Virtual Learning Series** The Science of Reading Meets the Science of Learning – Making it Work kicked off in February and will continue into April.
 - iii. **Literacy Coach Network** In collaboration with the Georgia Department of Education, the Deal Center kicked off the Literacy Coach Network as a monthly, web-based support structure for state literacy coaches. The first meeting included more than 100 participants.
 - iv. **Community Coalition Grant Initiative** Grant RFA opened on 2/17 with an applicant webinar to be held on 3/3/24. The Deal Center will award a total of \$150K in funds for projects that use the Get Georgia Reading Campaign's pillars to promote collaboration across different sectors with the aim of supporting healthy development of children in Georgia from birth to age five.
- e. **WRITING CENTER**
 - i. **High-Impact Practices Institute** In collaboration with the Writing Studies faculty and the Center for Teaching and Learning, the Writing Center is pleased to announce that, with support from GC Journeys, Dr. Chris Anson will be headlining the High-Impact Practices Institute in May. His interactive session will emphasize the role of writing in student learning and engagement across disciplines. Dr. Anson is a Distinguished University Professor at North Carolina State University and a leading scholar in writing studies, with extensive experience in faculty development and Writing Across the Curriculum programs. His full bio and CV can be found [here](#).