

**REPORTS FROM THE 27 FEBRUARY 2026
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE**

PRESIDENT’S REPORT— CATHY COX, PRESIDENT

1. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE** The General Assembly adopted the Amended FY26 Budget earlier this week, with several items of particular interest to GCSU.
 - a. **\$2,000 ONE-TIME FUNDING FOR STAFF** In the original budget proposed by Governor Brian Kemp, state employees and teachers would receive a \$2,000 “one-time salary supplement” by the end of this fiscal year (June 30, 2026). The House and Senate versions of the budget changed that amount, but the final version adopted in a conference committee and passed by both the House and Senate restored the salary supplement to \$2000. They also kept intact a tax refund of \$250 for single taxpayers and \$500 for married couples filing jointly.
 - b. **\$5 MILLION RENOVATION FUNDS FOR A&S** The Board of Regents had approved last fall \$5 million in renovation funds for our Arts & Sciences building, but Gov. Kemp did not include this project in the list of capital projects to be funded in the state budget. The Chancellor authorized us to lobby for it ourselves, and I’m very pleased to report that with the special help of our new governmental affairs director Hank Griffeth, our local legislators Rep. Floyd Griffin and Sen. Rick Williams, and both House Appropriations Chairman Matt Hatchett from Dublin and Sen. Blake Tillery from Vidalia, we were successful in getting the project restored in the Amended Budget. Assuming the budget item is signed into law by the Governor, we should be on track to undertake a major renovation of A&S, to include a complete refurbishment of the auditorium, new flooring, painting, replacement of classroom and public-area furnishings, and lighting updates throughout the building over the coming year.
 - c. **OTHER ITEMS** I will attach Chancellor Perdue’s letter to my report with a full list of items funded for the USG in the Amended FY26 budget, notably an additional \$33 million for MRR funding over the \$65.9 million for MRR in the base budget, which will benefit the continuous maintenance needs of our historic campus; \$5.6 million for the design of a new nursing school at UGA, and more than \$29 million for a new school of optometry at Georgia Southern.
2. **BOARD OF REGENTS/USG UPDATE**
 - a. **MISSION STATEMENT** At its February 10, 2026, meeting, the Board of Regents approved a new mission statement for Georgia College & State University, streamlining the lengthy version we had had in place for many years into one sentence: “Georgia College & State University’s distinctive liberal arts model provides innovate undergraduate and graduate programs that challenge future leaders to do more, learn more and seize more opportunities to make a positive difference in the world.” The new statement becomes effective on March 1, 2026.
 - b. **ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS** The Regents also amended Policy 4.2.1 to require that beginning “[f]or Fall 2026 admission and beyond, standardized test scores are required for all Research 1 and Research 2 institutions, and the USG designated liberal arts institution. All other institutions may require test scores based on the applicant high school grade point average.” Additionally, the amended policy

requires that beginning Fall 2027, scores from the Classical Learning Test (CLT) may be substituted for SAT scores based on the CLT-SAT concordance tables at all test-optional and test-mandatory institutions, with the only exceptions being Georgia Tech and UGA. I will attach a copy of the amended policy to my report.

3. **AMENDED CAMPUS HOUSING POLICY**

- a. Georgia College & State University continues to see record increases in applications since 2022, and during February 2026, applications passed the 9,000 mark for the first time in GCSU history. Our university's reputation for offering a private college experience (small classes and transformative engagement) at a public university price has grown significantly. This increased demand and our personalized approach has now made GCSU a destination of interest for students under the age of 16. This interest is expected to grow in the years to come and necessitated an immediate policy review of campus housing policies.
- b. Based on a variety of factors including the age of consent in Georgia and GCSU's ability to support the needs of students under the age of 16, the Student Life Division recommended and the Executive Cabinet adopted in January the following policy, which became effective immediately, and will apply to Summer 2026 enrollment:

4. **Addendum to GCSU Housing Policy for Students** Students under the age of 16 on August 1 for fall semester, January 1 for spring semester, and June 1 for the Bridge Scholars Program will not be eligible to reside in university housing. These students may enroll at GCSU (including the Honors College) but will not be subject to the mandatory first-year residential requirement. Students under the age of 16 are responsible for their own housing arrangements.

5. **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 6, 2026**.
- 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.
- c. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Information Security Office at iso@gcsu.edu.

6. **SAVE THE DATES**

- a. ***GCSU Wellness Day (QEP)***
Tuesday, March 3, 2026
- b. ***Faculty and Staff Service Recognition Brunch***
Friday, March 6, 2026

- 10:00 a.m. – Magnolia Ballroom
- c. ***Admitted Student Day***
(formerly *SpringFest*)
Saturday, March 7, 2026
 - d. ***GCSU Research Day***
April 15, 2026
Magnolia Ballroom
 - e. ***Celebration of Excellence***
Friday, April 17, 2026
9:00 a.m. – Russell Auditorium
 - f. ***Midnight Breakfast***
Monday, May 4, 2026
9:45 p.m. - The MAX
 - g. ***Spring Graduate & Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies***
Centennial Center
College of Health Sciences Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 2:00 PM
Speaker: Dr. Keisha Callins, COHS Leadership Board; Physician/Professor –
Mercer Medical School
College of Education Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 7:00 PM
Speaker: Holly Witcher, '01 BS Early Childhood Education; Special Education
Teacher, White County, Ga., Schools
College of Business & Technology Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 10:00 AM
Speaker: Dilanka Seimon, '03, BS Economics; Chief Commercial Officer, BKV
Corporation, Houston/Denver
College of Arts & Sciences Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 3:00 PM
Speaker: Dr. Richard Tavernaro, '85 BS Psychology; Film producer, director,
actor; owner of FilmRacing

PROVOST’S REPORT — HOLLEY ROBERTS, PROVOST

1. PROVOST’S OFFICE UPDATES

- a. **IMPLEMENTATION OF BOARD POLICY 8.3.4.1 – VOLUNTARY RESIGNATION BY FACULTY**. The new policy is being reviewed by HR to provide guidance and procedures in the Human Resources Administrative Practice Manual.
- b. **GCSU WELLNESS DAY**, a signature experience of the QEP: Bobcats FIRST, will be held Tuesday, March 3, 2026, for students, faculty, and staff. The Divisions of Academic Affairs and Student Life will be hosting this activity filled day, with Assessment Morning and Wellness Afternoon. Classes are redirected to the activities of the day. Please remember that **no instructional time will be lost**. We look forward to seeing you all at Wellness Day!
- c. **TITLE II RULE UPDATE** Dr. Jim Berger and Brian Watson are collaborating to ensure university compliance of the Department of Justice Title II Rule Update (April 2024)-In April 2024, the Department of Justice (DOJ) issued an updated rule for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which applies to state and local government entities, including public educational institutions. This rule clarifies that web accessibility is a fundamental requirement under the ADA.

The update explicitly requires public entities to ensure digital content and services are accessible to individuals with disabilities, adopting the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA as the technical standard for compliance. Importantly, smaller institutions serving fewer than 50,000 individuals have until April 2027 (three years from publication) to achieve full compliance with these requirements.

- d. **ASPIRE MEETING** Georgia College's ASPIRE meeting with the Provost and the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Ashwani Monga, has been rescheduled to March 5, 2026 – discussion items will include the following: Top 5 strategies for student success, potential new academic programs that are under consideration, programs requiring focused attention – low enrolled and low award programs that are categorized at Unsatisfactory Performance and At-Risk Performance.
- e. **DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY** GCSU will welcome Dr. Amit Ghosh on June 1, 2026, as he becomes the next dean of the J. Whitney Bunting College of Business & Technology. Dr. Gosh currently serves as a professor of economics and chair of the Division of International Banking and Finance Studies in the A.R. Sanchez Jr. School of Business at Texas A&M International University. Dr. Ghosh received his Ph.D and master's degree in economics from Claremont Graduate University and holds a master's and bachelor's degrees in economics from the University of Calcutta in India.
- f. **DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION** A national search for the next dean of the John H. Lounsbury College of Education has begun and is supported by the search firm, Academic Search. The search co-chairs are Dr. Indiren Pillay and Dr. Lyndall Muschell. Applications will be received through April 9, 2026. Nominations can be submitted directly to the search firm via GCSUDeanEd@academicsearch.org. The new dean will start on July 1, 2026.
- g. **ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH** A national search has begun for the Assistant Vice President of Graduate Studies and Research, a newly created role in the Office of Academic Affairs. Applications will be accepted through March 9, 2026. Dr. Mark Pelton is the chair of the search committee.
- h. **PUBLIC SYLLABI** All core IMPACTS and education course instructors must have their course syllabus available in Simple Syllabus, based on USG policy, for spring 2026 semester. Fall 2026- Syllabi information about all course sections should be available at the time of registration, which begins March 9, 2026. ALL faculty were asked to submit their syllabi in Simple Syllabus on or before February 23, 2026, at noon for department chair approval. All syllabi should be published to the public prior to March 9, 2026.
- i. **NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS (NISS)** Georgia College, as with all other USG institutions, has engaged with the National Institute for Student Success (NISS) at Georgia State University focused on student success initiatives. The Leadership Update from NISS will occur on March 31, 2026.
- j. **AI POLICY** After an internal audit review, the required University AI policy will require some slight revisions and updates. The Artificial Intelligence Policy Review Committee will continue their work on the revisions.

2. COLLEGES AND LIBRARY

a. COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

- i. **The COAS Dean's Office** hosted alumni awardees, Brittany Curry and Meghan (Pittman) Golden along with current students and faculty during GCSU's homecoming week.
- ii. **COAS and School of Continuing & Professional Studies** present "An Evening with Dr. Karen Berman: Stories of Healing Through Art Presentation & Book Signing of her publication "Stories of the Holocaust", March 25th in A&S Auditorium @ 5pm.
- iii. **Communication**
 1. Congratulations to Department of Communication students who received awards at the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Conference in New York City. Erin Finnegan won Best Station Manager and Madelyn Agostini won Best News Director.
- iv. **History & Geography**
 1. Department of History & Geography will host Dr. William Risch's Book Talk on his latest publication: "Ukraine's Euromaidan" in Chappell 113 on Friday February 27th @ 2:45pm.
- v. **Philosophy, Religion, & Liberal Studies**
 1. Jain Studies program, PALS, hosted the Vegan Fest on February 24th, with a free dinner in the Max.
- vi. **Theatre & Dance**
 1. The Department of Theatre & Dance presents "The Lightning Thief; A Percy Jackson Musical" March 5-7 in Russell Auditorium.

b. COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

- i. **Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship** The federal funding bill passed 2-3-26 and included funding for the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship to support the Bobcat Business Incubator thanks to Senators Warnock and Ossoff. Included was \$360,000 through the Department of Housing and Urban Development for renovations and \$350,000 through the Small Business Administration for programming.
- ii. **Upcoming Dates and Events**
 1. The IT Advisory Board will host the Etiquette Dinner on Thursday, March 5th in the Magnolia Ballroom.
 2. The Atkinson Honors Ceremony will be Thursday, April 9, 2026, from 6pm – 8pm in Magnolia Ballroom.

c. COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

- i. **Middle Grades and Special Education Programs** both earned national recognition with CAEP and their SPA
 1. Special Education – Council for Exceptional Children
 2. Middle Grades – Association for Middle Level Education
- ii. **Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy Grants** funded 12 mini-grants, which supports the accepted projects of 6 faculty members and 27 students (graduate and undergraduate)
- iii. **Conferences**

1. Elementary Education Junior Teacher Candidates attended the Georgia Science Teachers Association Conference
 2. Faculty and Teacher Collaboration: Drs. Madison Gannon and Chris Greer presented with teacher candidates at the Georgia Council of Teachers of English Conference
- d. **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**
- i. **Lettie Pate Whithead Scholarship Program** The School of Nursing will receive \$480,000 for the 26-27 school year for the Lettie Pate Whithead scholarship program which provides a full 4-year scholarship for students who will serve in rural areas.
 - ii. **Dr. Scott Butler** has been named a CTL Faculty Fellow.
 - iii. **AI Taskforce and Strategic Planning Steering Committee** COHS has formed an AI Taskforce as well as a Strategic Planning Steering Committee.
- e. **UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**
- i. **FOLIO Integrated Library Systems** USG’s planned transition to the FOLIO Integrated Library Systems will not move forward as previously planned. Patrons may continue to access library resources via our catalog at <https://gil.gcsu.edu>
 - ii. **Database Trials** Over the next month, the library will offer trial access to several databases under consideration for acquisition. To access the trials visit, <https://libguides.gcsu.edu/az.php>
3. **SCHOOLS AND HONORS COLLEGE**
- a. **THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**
- i. **Graduate Retention Efforts** Graduate Student Withdrawals: As of February 17, 2026, the total number of Spring 2026 graduate student withdrawals is 35. The “Come Back Strong” re-enrollment communication plan to encourage students to update their graduate admissions and enroll this summer or fall is in progress. The communication plan includes outreach to spring ’26 withdrawal students and fall ’25 withdrawal students who did not re-enroll spring ’26, or graduate in fall ’25, and were not academically dismissed. The communication plan includes weekly application status checks, tailored emails, and personalized phone calls.
 - ii. **Graduate Research Travel Grants** The application window for the Spring 2026 cycle of Graduate Research Travel Grant applications is closed (12 applications were received from students in Biology, English, and MIS requesting a total of \$7,777). A total of \$3,500 in funding through the Foundation of Excellence Fund is available to award. The Graduate Research Travel Grant Committee will gather soon to review applications and make award decisions.
 - iii. **Grad Connect & Navigate**
 1. The next Grad Connect session will be held on March 11 from 5:30–6:30 p.m. via Zoom. The next Navigate series session is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, from noon–1:00 p.m. on Zoom. The Navigate topic, Beyond the Books: Building Healthy

Daily Habits in Grad School, will be presented by Dr. Mike Martino, Interim Director, Professor of Exercise Science and Exercise Science Program Coordinator. Additional details and registration information for both events are available on the Graduate Opportunities webpage.

2. Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week 2026 is April 13 – 17, 2026. Activities and events are currently being planned and will be announced soon.
3. The Graduate School's Annual Spring Reception will be held on Thursday, April 16 from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. in the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room.

b. **HONORS COLLEGE & NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

i. **Honors College**

1. Fifteen Honors students presented their scholarship and creative work at the Georgia Collegiate Honors Conference, which was held at Kennesaw State University on Feb. 20-21. One GCSU presenter, Katie Cooper, won 2nd place in the Humanities & Arts category of GCHC's paper prize competition.
2. On Monday, March 2 at 5:30 PM in Mayfair Hall, Dr. Bennett Parten—Assistant Professor of History at Georgia Southern University—will discuss his new book *Somewhere Toward Freedom: Sherman's March and the Story of America's Largest Emancipation*. All students, faculty, and staff are welcome. [Please register via GC Connect](#). The event is co-sponsored by the Honors College and the Center for Georgia Studies.

ii. **National Scholarships** Six GCSU students have been promoted to the "semi-finalist" level for Fulbright. This means that their applications have made it through the national screening committee round and will then be forwarded to the host country for finalist selection. Our students who have been promoted to the semi-finalist level are:

1. Jonathan "J.D." Caulley, Belgium English Teaching Assistant Award, Senior, English, French Minor
2. Thomas "Tommy" Creekmore, Czech Republic English Teaching Assistant Award, Senior, English
3. Riley Curtis, Spain English Teaching Assistant Award, Senior, Marketing, Spanish Minor
4. Paola Martinez, Spain English Teaching Award, Senior, Elementary Ed and World Languages – Spanish
5. Bradley Pierce, Spain English Teaching Award, Senior, English and World Languages – Spanish
6. Connor Sivley, Spain Open Study/Research Award, Fall 2025 graduate, Biology, Spanish Minor

c. **SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**

- i. **Afterschool Achievement** awarded \$18,175 from US Department of Agriculture for Child and Adult Care Food Program for High Achievers.

- ii. **Academic Outreach** will be participating in a STEM Expo in Macon, GA and the Atlanta Science Expo. If you would like to participate in GCSU Thirst for Knowledge with stream monitoring more details can be found here: <https://givepul.se/git0n4>. Reach out to Ruth Eilers at ruth.eilers@gcsu.edu to collaborate and get involved.
- iii. **Communities in Schools Milledgeville Baldwin County CIS** Milledgeville/Baldwin County is celebrating Dr. Suess Day/Read Across America in early March with volunteer readers coming to each of our primary and elementary schools. Look for our donation boxes at various businesses around town. Contact Courtney Bentley, courtney.bentley@gcsu.edu to volunteer and get involved.
- iv. **Continuing & Professional Education** All GCSU employees have access to our Ed2Go catalog at a discount. If you're interested in continuing your education in something fun and new, or developing new skills, checkout our catalog here: <https://www.ed2go.com/gcsucorp/>. For more information contact Angie Woodham, Director of Continuing & Professional Education at angie.woodham@gcsu.edu
- v. **Historic Museums** Andalusia is preparing for Flannery O'Connor's 101 birthday celebration. Join us on Saturday, March 21 to celebrate and sing Happy Birthday for Flannery O'Connor. Please contact Cassie Munnell at cassandra.munnell@gcsu.edu or Angela Criscoe at angela.criscoe@gcsu.edu for more information.

4. **OFFICES AND PROGRAMS**

a. **ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

i. **Admissions**

1. As of February 23, the Office of Admissions has received over 9,000 freshman applications — a new record for undergraduate admissions at GCSU. Applications are up 17% compared to the same time last year, and deposits from freshman students have increased by 4%.
2. Midterm grades are due on Wellness Day, Tuesday, March 3, by 9 a.m. Midterms are required for all CoreIMPACTS courses and may also be entered for any other course. For non-core classes, even reporting only those students with unsatisfactory grades is a tremendous help in our retention and student success efforts.
3. Sophomore Explore Day was held on February 11, 2026, with a record setting attendance of 90 students, nearly a 58% rise from 2025. This event continues to be a great opportunity for high school sophomores and their guests to learn about and explore life at GCSU.
4. Admitted Student Day (formerly Springfest) will take place on March 7, 2026, providing admitted students with an opportunity to confirm and celebrate their decision to attend Georgia College.
5. Paws & Celebrate: A Bobcat Reception will be held on March 13, 2026, at Dave & Buster's McDonough and Dave & Buster's Marietta, giving admitted students the opportunity to celebrate

their acceptance with new and current students in a fun, laidback environment, deepening their sense of belonging at GCSU.

6. Junior Day will be held on April 18, 2026, offering high school juniors the opportunity to learn about the admissions process, engage with various departments and faculty members, and explore campus.
7. New Student Orientations will be held on June 2, June 3 (Bridge Scholars Program), June 4, June 9, June 11, July 21, July 22 (Transfer Orientation), and July 23.
8. The Graduate Admissions Virtual Open House for the College of Education will be held on March 4 at 6 p.m.
9. Graduate Admissions Orientation will be held on May 2 at 8 a.m.

ii. **Financial Aid**

1. The GCSU Financial Aid Office received a record breaking 2,550 Institutional Scholarship applications by the deadline of February 1, 2026. Scholarship applicants who want to be considered for need-based scholarships must submit a 2026-2027 FAFSA to the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships by March 1, 2026. Students selected by the various Scholarship Committees will be notified in April.
2. Summer and Fall 2026 registrations for currently enrolled students will begin on Monday, March 9 and continue throughout the week. Please encourage all students to register as soon as their registration period opens.

iii. **The Career Center**

1. The Spring 2026 Campus & Summer Jobs Fair will be held on March 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Magnolia Ballroom (Student Activities Center). This event offers students the opportunity to explore on-campus employment for the summer and fall semesters, as well as off-campus summer internships and part-time positions.
2. The Spring 2026 Career & Graduate School Fair will take place on March 11 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Centennial Center. Recruiters will be available to discuss full-time and part-time employment, internships, and graduate and professional school programs. Students of all majors and class levels, as well as alumni, are encouraged to attend.
3. The Student Success & Retention Series session, Student Success: Where Are Our Students Going from Here? is scheduled for April 2 at 4 p.m. in the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room. This presentation will highlight First Destination Survey data, providing insight into employment outcomes, industry placement, and graduate or professional school enrollment within one year of graduation.

b. **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

- i. **Leadership Programs** On Thursday and Friday, 26 and 27 February 2026, the GEM Program hosted a Delegation to Savannah and the Golden Isles for a two-day session focused on the diverse economy of Georgia.
- 5. **CENTERS AND INSTITUTES**
 - a. **THE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER** The International Education Center will host its annual Education Abroad pre-departure orientation for all summer 2026 study abroad students on 21 April 2026 and for all study away (domestic travel) students on 22 April 2026.
 - b. **THE WRITING CENTER**
 - i. The Writing Center continues to support student writing across disciplines through individual tutoring appointments, drop-in hours, and online consultations. Students can schedule appointments directly through the Writing Center website.
 - ii. This semester the Writing Center is offering targeted workshops for multiple programs:
 - 1. APA and AI workshop for middle grades Education students
 - 2. APA workshop for Nursing
 - 3. Annotated bibliography workshop for English 1102
 - 4. Research presentation skills workshop for ENGL 4116: Writing for the Public Good
 - iii. The Writing Center also conducts class visits on request. Faculty are welcome to reach out to request visits or workshops tailored to their students' needs.
 - iv. Writing Center Director, Dr. Joy Bracewell, will assume the presidency of the Southeastern Writing Centers Association (SWCA) in February 2026, following her term as Vice President. She is presenting at the 2026 SWCA Conference, *Leading from the Center*, held at the University of North Alabama. She is also a co-editor of *Writing Center Administrators as Campus Leaders*, a forthcoming collected volume scheduled for release in June 2026 from the University Press of Colorado.
 - c. **THE LEARNING CENTER**
 - i. Excel Bootcamps and Algebra Review workshops concluded February 20th
 - ii. Fall Supplemental Instruction Requests total: 62 leaders to support 96 sections. The Learning Center will be able to fund approximately 54 SI Leaders
 - iii. Utilization of the LC drop-in tutoring is lower than prior spring, the tutors have been making class visits to ensure that all students are aware of the peer support
 - iv. Utilization of SI sessions and the Math Lab are on par for prior spring semesters
 - v. Recruiting is underway for new student staff, SI Info sessions are being hosted through this week, and will be matching SI leaders to faculty/courses before Registration
 - vi. The Tutor Leads and Coaches are working on upcoming All-Staff training
 - d. **MENTORED UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ENDEAVORS**

- i. On February 17, 2026, GCSU office of Mentored Undergraduate Research & Creative Endeavors (MURACE) hosted the Posters at the State Capitol event that featured 50 posters from 26 institutions across Georgia (up from 16 institutions in 2025).
 - 1. GCSU was represented by two undergraduate students at Posters at the Georgia State Capitol 2026, one of the most highly selective statewide undergraduate research events in the state (restricted to two projects max per institution).
 - a. Emily Wright, mentored by Dr. Min Kim, Sociology.
 - b. Sarah Carter, mentored by Dr. Arnab Sengupta, Biology.
 - ii. Last call for abstracts for the GCSU's 4th Annual Research Day.
 - 1. The [Submission Portal](#) (click) is now open.
 - a. Submission deadline: March 2, 2026
 - 2. Event date: **April 15, 2026**
 - a. **Classes are reassigned** for all (students, faculty, and staff) to participate.
 - 3. Visit the [GCSU Research Day](#) webpage to learn more
 - iii. Research Day Events
 - 1. Special events begin on April 14th, including the Kickoff Keynote Address, sponsored by the Honors College, which will feature Dr. Scott Huettel, a Neuroscientist from Duke University.
 - 2. Research Day 2026 will showcase student success through mentored projects in research and creative endeavors, as well as projects from **GC Journeys**.
 - 3. All undergraduate and graduate students are welcome to submit their work.
 - 4. For further inquiries, please contact MURACE at murace@gcsu.edu
- e. **CENTER FOR TEACHING & LEARNING**
 - i. *Brightspace Essentials* Training Course for Instructors will be held March 5, 2026, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
 - ii. Peer Feedback on Teaching (PFoT) will be conducted from **March 9 through April 3**.
 - iii. Small Group Instructional Diagnosis (SGID) is being conducted **February 23 through March 6**.
 - iv. Affordable Learning Georgia - Apply for an Affordable Materials Grant: Round 29, Spring 2026 - Spring 2027 - Deadline: **March 23, 2026**
 - v. 2026 USG Teaching & Learning Conference -- **April 16-17, 2026, in Athens, Georgia**
- f. **SANDRA DUNAGAN DEAL CENTER FOR EARLY LANGUAGE AND LITERACY**
 - i. Co-Sponsored the Lounsbury Distinguished Lecture with the College of Education.
 - ii. Dr. Lindee Morgan and Dr. Amanda Rutter represented the Deal Center during Decoding Dyslexia Day at the Capitol.
 - iii. Provided training opportunities for: 29 staff members from Georgia's Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL); provided the first of a

series of trainings for 50 Washington County early childhood educators.; hosted an Implementation Sciences workshop with Dr. Katherine Pickard for 35 attendees.

- iv. Administrative Office Manager, Kim Scott, carried the Olympic torch on campus during the “Ignite the Flame” games.
- v. Unveiled and hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Deal Center’s Little Free Library in honor of Mrs. Deal’s birthday.
- g. **FLANNERY O’CONNOR INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES**
 - i. An online lecture with architect Karen Gravel on restoring author's houses, with an eye to the GCSU holdings of Andalusia Farm and the Cline-Florencourt mansion on Greene Street will be held March 12, 2026, at 7pm. Email occonnorinstitute@gcsu.edu for the zoom link.
 - ii. We are proud to have received a GA Humanities grant to support our Southern Gothic Film and Lecture series! Kendra Hamilton gave a lecture on "Voodoo, Hoodoo, and the Gullah Geechee People at the Nation's Founding" February 26, 5:30pm in the Museum Education Room in the Ina D. Russell library. Reception and book signing to follow.
 - iii. On March 25 at 7 pm there will be a celebration of Flannery O'Connor's 101st birthday with a screening of John Huston's Wiseblood. Introduction by Bruce Gentry. Outdoors at Andalusia Farm Interpretative Center. Birthday cake and popcorn were provided.
- h. **RURAL STUDIES INSTITUTE**
 - i. Save the date: April 9, 2026. The RSI will be hosting a lunch day symposium from 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm featuring an academic and practitioner discussion on the importance of rural communities entitled “The Significance of Place” featuring Ms. Sherrell Byrd, SOWEGO (Southwest Ga. Rising), Drs. Kathryn Edin and Timothy J. Nelson of Princeton University, and Dr. Steven Conn of Miami University.
 - ii. The RSI is also serving as the GA lead for the Southeast Community Energy Futures Academy (SCEFA). This is a Southeast regional collaborative led by the Brooks Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems at Ga Tech and includes LSU in Louisiana and USA in Alabama. The academy will create educational opportunities on clean energy and emerging energy technologies. RSI is the only educational partner focused on rural education.
 - iii. The RSI will again serve as a host site for a Partnership for Innovation (PIN) internship this summer. The RSI is in the process of selecting a candidate.

STAFF COUNCIL REPORT — KIMBERLY SCOTT, CHAIR

1. **NEW DELEGATES** have been elected for 2026-2027
2. **CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE** nominations are open until March 6.
3. **CASE OF THE MONDAYS** is on March 16 and will be advertised on FrontPage.
4. **EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION** is on May 19, 20, 21 and will be advertised on FrontPage.

5. **ELEVATE U CONFERENCE** will take place at the end of May and beginning of June and will be advertised on FrontPage.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT — SERENA SEMERE, PRESIDENT

1. **OPENING REMARK** The Student Government Association has had a productive semester focused on student engagement, collaboration, and advocacy.
2. **STUDENT SENATORS** We recently appointed three new Student Senators to fill vacant positions and strengthen student representation.
3. **HOMECOMING** During Homecoming Week, SGA coordinated Homecoming Court candidates, facilitated SGA elections, and participated in campus traditions including the Homecoming Parade, Tent City, and in game announcements.
4. **TOWN HALL** SGA also hosted its first Student Town Hall of the academic year in February, where students shared feedback on campus priorities. Key insights, particularly regarding academic affairs, were shared with the Provost and SAPC to ensure student perspectives remain part of ongoing conversations.
5. **DREAMS ACT** At the system level, I collaborated with SGA Presidents from across the University System of Georgia to write a letter to the House Higher Education Committee requesting the reinstatement of the full \$325 million allocation to the DREAMS Act endowment fund, which provides need-based scholarships for students across the state. We recently received confirmation that the full amount has been restored in the budget.
6. **ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM** I also met with representatives from the Alumni Association to discuss developing an alumni mentorship program connecting students with graduates for professional guidance and career development.
7. **STUDENT ACTIVITY BOARD COMMITTEE** Looking ahead, SGA will participate in upcoming Academic Affairs discussions and prepare for SABC allocations to support registered student organizations.
8. **FINAL THOUGHT** SGA remains committed to collaborating with faculty, staff, and administration while continuing to advocate for the needs of the student body.

ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE — ANDREW J. ALLEN, CHAIR

1. **ACADEMIC FEEDBACK POLICY** The APC discussed a revision of the Academic Feedback Policy. A request was made in the committee to query wording before a final decision was made on adopting a new policy.
2. **DISTANCE EDUCATION POLICY: REGULAR AND SUBSTANTIVE FEEDBACK** The committee reviewed two draft policy revisions regarding RSI. The committee requested policy examples from peer institutions before a final decision on the policy.
3. **COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY** The APC informally approved the committee chair to begin discussions with the University Registrar on a formal course withdrawal policy.
4. **BA/BA LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT** Following an inquiry from a non-committee faculty member, the committee held a brief discussion on the university's foreign language requirement for BA degrees.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE — BRAD FOWLER, CHAIR

1. **REGRETS, NO REPORT**

BELONGING AND INCLUSION POLICY COMMITTEE — HEDWIG FRAUNHOFER, CHAIR

1. **DISABILITY SERVICES** During the February 13 meeting, BIPC hosted David Anderson and Rebecca Miles of the Student Disability Resource Center, as well as Riley Kate Miller, SGA Attorney General, as guests.
 - a. **FACULTY AND STAFF TRAINING** Mr. Anderson and Ms. Miles recommended training of GCSU faculty and staff with the help of “Vector” modules (Vector is the provider) already purchased by the University. Provost Roberts has suggested that the Student Resource Center be in charge of rolling out this initiative to academic departments and staff offices in consultation with CETL and Interim Dean of Students Jennifer Graham’s office. BIPC recommends that units choose a certain, limited number of modules most relevant to the department’s or office’s work to watch and discuss in department or unit meetings. If this initiative is successful, more or different modules could be chosen at a later point.
 - b. **COURSE ACCOMMODATIONS** SGA Attorney Riley Kate Miller shared some concerns from students related to disability accommodations in academic courses. David Anderson and Rebecca Miles helped clarify faculty obligations regarding student learning accommodations. Specifically, in response to faculty concerns related to the recording of classes, Ms. Miles advised that all students are required to sign a statement that they will not share the recordings collected through their accommodations. For students without these specific accommodations, the USG does not allow the recording of classes.
 - c. **ADA ACCESSIBILITY** Concerning ADA/physical accessibility of campus buildings, Mr. Anderson referenced the interactive campus map available at <https://libweb.gcsu.edu/campusbird/> that indicates this information.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF UNIVERSITY SENATE — STEPHANIE JETT, CHAIR

1. **COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION** has released its drafted Evidentiary Guidance and opened it up for public comment.
 - a. At ECUS and ECUS-SCC, we discussed that I would put together a few comments to send to Cara Smith by the March 4th deadline.
2. **AI POLICY REVIEW** AIPRC Chair Brad Fowler and I attended the USG AI policy review meeting along with identified stakeholders across the campus a couple of weeks ago.
 - a. We have some minor modifications to make to the policy before April 1st, so we will be seeing it for a vote again in the March meeting.
3. **RESIDENCE LIFE** A new policy was passed prohibiting students under the age of 16 living in University Housing.

FACULTY AFFAIRS POLICY COMMITTEE — JENNIFER FLORY, CHAIR

1. **WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

- a. **PROFESSIONAL LEAVE CREW REPORT** presented by Sabrina Hom. The Professional Leave Crew is reviewing Georgia College's professional leave policy with attention to alignment with USG policy, peer institution practices, and faculty feedback. Key discussion points included comparative data collection, policy alignment regarding return-to-work requirements, acceptable rationales for leave (including teaching enhancement and Scholarship of Teaching and Learning), and consideration of seniority in ranking leave applications. The group also identified the absence of formal evaluation criteria for leave proposals as an area for further review.
 - b. **POST-TENURE REVIEW (PTR): REWARDS AND RECOGNITION CREW** Report presented by Aric Wilhau. The PTR working group developed a preliminary list of potential rewards and recognition mechanisms associated with post-tenure review outcomes, including merit pay increases, waived parking fees, public recognition, and leadership opportunities. Feedback from Associate Provost Mandy Jarriel will be sought before sharing recommendations with the full committee.
 - c. **FACULTY WORKLOAD CREW** Report presented by Jennifer Flory. Faculty workload data has been collected from all colleges (except the library). The working group plans to continue analysis as further information becomes available.
2. **ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION AND EMERGING ISSUES** The committee discussed access to a change log for the Policy and Procedures Manual to better track policy revisions. Lecturer promotion guidelines were also reviewed, confirming six years in rank as the standard eligibility requirement, with promotion possible after three years under exceptional circumstances per BOR policy.
3. **ACTION ITEMS AND NEXT STEPS**
- a. Continue faculty workload data collection across all units.
 - b. Gather additional faculty feedback regarding seniority in professional leave decisions.
 - c. Consult with Academic Affairs on PTR rewards and access to a PPPM change log.
 - d. Tentative March agenda item: review of senior lecturer promotion exceptions.

RESOURCES, PLANNING AND INSTITUTIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE — TALECIA WARREN, CHAIR

1. **NO MEETING, NO REPORT**

STUDENT AFFAIRS POLICY COMMITTEE — AMY PINNEY, CHAIR

1. **THE SERENITY DEN** Our meeting was held at The Serenity Den, which I highly recommend. If you have not been, go.
2. **WELLNESS DAY** Cara Smith discussed Wellness Day, 3/3/2026. It sounds like it's going to be awesome.

3. **EARLY ALERT SYSTEM** Then we heard from Amy Whatley about the Care Team and Early Alert System.
4. **QPR TRAINING** We discussed QPR training and you can find more information here: <https://www.gcsu.edu/wellbeing/trainings>.
5. **UWILL COUNSELING SERVICES** We then got some info on Uwill counseling services. Students can receive free teletherapy through our partner, Uwill. Go to <https://www.gcsu.edu/counseling> for the latest info on Uwill.
6. **SGA UPDATE** We ended with an SGA update on the SGA Town Hall, which Serena will talk about.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS — JOYCE NORRIS-TAYLOR, CHAIR

1. **2026-2027 FACULTY SENATOR ELECTION RESULTS** from elections for the 2026-2027 academic year have been received and are as follows:
 - a. **AT-LARGE**
 - i. Rob Sumowski
 - b. **COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES**
 - i. Nathan Bedsole (Communication)
 - ii. Hedwig Fraunhofer (World Languages and Cultures)
 - iii. Jason Lindsey (Government and Sociology)
 - iv. Charles Ubah (Government and Sociology)
 - c. **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY**
 - i. Aric Wilhau (Management)
 - d. **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**
 - i. Rachel Bray (Middle Grades Education)
 - ii. Natale Toomey (Library Media/Instructional Technology)
 - e. **College of Health Sciences**
 - i. Tormechi Chambliss (Nursing)
 - ii. John Moore (Public Health/Health and Human Performance)
 - iii. Joyce Norris-Taylor (Nursing)
 - iv. Austin Parks (Exercise Science)
 - f. **LIBRARY**
 - i. Sara Jordan (Teaching and Learning Librarian)
2. **2026-2027 COMMITTEE PREFERENCE POLL** will be sent in March.

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE (UCC) UPDATE — ANGEL ABNEY, CHAIR

1. **University Curriculum Committee January 30, 2026**
 - a. **Action Items**
 - i. College of Arts & Sciences
 1. Department of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy. Modification of Medical Physics Concentration. The seminar series is being replaced by a standardized exit exam, the GACE. Students will be informed of the exam registration requirements. Effective Fall 2026.
 - a. Donovan Domingue attending as representative.

- b. Unanimously approved.
 - 2. Department of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy. Modification of Physics Major. The seminar series is being replaced by a standardized exit exam, the GACE. Students will be informed of the exam registration requirements. Effective Fall 2026.
 - a. Donovan Domingue attending as representative.
 - b. Unanimously approved.
 - 3. Department of Philosophy, Religion and Liberal Studies. Modification in the Race and Social Justice Concentration. Change the Capstone requirement from a 3-hour course plus a 1-hour reflection paper to a 3-hour course and a 0-credit hour reflection paper. Effective Fall 2026.
 - a. No representative attending.
 - b. Unanimously approved.
 - ii. College of Business & Technology
 - 1. All Departments: Modification in the BBA Degree for All Majors in the COBT. Allow Spanish, French, German and Italian 2001 and 2002 to satisfy the International Business Course requirement. Effective Fall 2026.
 - a. Tanya Goette attending as representative.
 - b. Changes Needed
 - i. Change “Allow Spanish, French, German and Italian 2001 and 2002 to satisfy the International Business Course requirement,” to “Allow Spanish, French, German and Italian 2001 OR 2002 to satisfy the International Business Course requirement.”
 - ii. Remove the restriction on AP credits.
 - iii. Add sentence that will add clarification in the catalog that this is a “World Language” requirement, and courses such as Computer Science, American Sign Language, etc., will not fulfill this course.
 - c. Unanimously approved with the three changes listed above.
 - iii. College of Education
 - 1. No Action Items
 - iv. College of Health Sciences
 - 1. No Action Items
- b. **Information Items**
 - i. College of Arts & Sciences
 - 1. **New Course Proposals**
 - a. Department of History and Geography. HIST 4935: Digital Humanities. Effective Fall 2026.
 - 2. **Modification of Existing Courses**
 - a. Department of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy. Chem 4212L. Physical Chemistry Lab II. Pre-requisite change—

- Remove Chem 4212 as a Co-Req & Add registration restriction to Chemistry Majors. Effective Fall 2026.
- b. Department of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy. Chem 4212. Physical Chemistry Lab II. Pre-requisite change— Remove Chem 4212L as a Co-Req. Effective Fall 2026.
- c. Department of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy. Chem 4211L. Physical Chemistry Lab I. Pre-requisite change— Remove Chem 4211 as a Co-Req. & Add registration restriction to Chemistry Majors. Effective Fall 2026.
- d. Department of Chemistry, Physics, and Astronomy. PHYS 3920. Physics Seminar I. Course Deletion. Effective Fall 2026.
- e. Department of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy. Phys 4920. Physics Senior Seminar. Course Deletion. Effective Fall 2026.
- f. Department of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy. Phys 2920. Sophomore Seminar. Course Deletion. Effective Fall 2026.
- g. Department of History & Geography. Hist 4530. Age of Jefferson, 1787-1826. Course Title Change to Power and Liberty in the US. 1787-1824.
- h. Department of History & Geography. Hist 4550. Age of Jackson. Course Title Change to Shouts of Equality in the US. 1825-1848.
- ii. College of Education
 - 1. **New Course Proposals—None**
 - 2. **Modification of Existing Courses—None**
- iii. College of Business & Technology
 - 1. **New Course Proposals—None**
 - 2. **Modification of Existing Courses**
 - a. Department of Economics & Finance. FINC 3132: Business Finance 2. Pre-Requisite Change. Change from FINC 3131 to C or better in FINC 3131. Effective Fall 2026
 - b. Department of Accounting & Business Law. ACCT 4135: Auditing. Course Description Change. Effective Fall 2026.
 - c. Department of Accounting & Business Law. BUAD 2172: Business Ethics. Catalog Description Change. Effective Fall 2026.
 - d. Department of Accounting & Business Law. ACCT 3103: Intermediate Accounting III. Catalog Description Change. Effective Fall 2026.
 - e. Department of Accounting & Business Law. ACCT 3101: Intermediate Accounting I. Pre-Requisite/Co-Requisite Change. Remove Co-Requisite ACCT 3000. Effective Fall 2026.

- f. Department of Accounting & Business Law. LENB 3135: Legal Environment of Business. Catalog Description Change. Effective Fall 2026.College of Education:
 - iv. College of Health Sciences
 - 1. **New Program Proposals**
 - a. School of Health & Human Performance: New Program: Exercise Science and Public Health Double Bobcats Pathway Curriculum Proposal in Athletic Training.
 - 2. **New Course Proposals—None**
 - 3. **Modification of Existing Courses—None**
2. **GRADUATE COUNCIL January 16, 2026**
- a. **Action Items**
 - i. **College of Arts & Sciences**
 - 1. None
 - ii. **College of Business & Technology**
 - 1. Master of Accountancy
 - a. Add ACCT 5130 - VITA as accounting elective for the MACC Students.
 - b. Add ACCT 6350 as accounting elective for the MACC students.
 - c. Dr. Scott Cox provided an update regarding the action item to add two new courses that have already been approved by the college.
 - d. He proposed updating the program’s optional electives list so that these two approved courses can be included as additional elective options, giving students two more choices within the elective pool for those students.
 - e. Motion KD
 - f. Second MM
 - g. Vote: unanimous
 - iii. **College of Education**
 - 1. Professional Learning and Innovation
 - a. EDTL 7100 / 7100-Practicum. Proposed change: Change EDTL 7100 – Leading Collaborative Cultures from a 3-hour course to a 4-hour course and eliminate the 1-hour EDTL 7100-Practicum course.
 - b. Dr. Janet Turner provided additional clarification regarding the COE action item. She explained that EDTL 7100, taken by the summer-start cohort of practicing teachers, currently includes both:
 - i. a 3-credit theory course, and
 - ii. a separate 1-credit practicum (EDTL 7100 Practicum).
 - c. Because these students are full-time teachers and the course occurs during the summer, they struggle to complete a

meaningful practicum experience within that one-hour requirement.

- d. She also noted that students do complete practicum hours later in the program, so the need for this early standalone practicum is minimal.
- e. To better align with program structure and student realities, the proposal is to:
 - i. Convert EDTL 7100 – Leading Collaborative Cultures from a 3-hour course to a 4-hour course,
 - ii. Eliminate the 1-hour EDTL 7100 Practicum, and
 - iii. Shift the early practicum expectation to theory-only content within the main course, since practical application requirements occur later in the program.
- f. Motion TD
- g. Second JD
- h. Vote: unanimous

iv. **College of Health Sciences**

1. MSN, Graduate Certificates, DNP

- a. Change in Graduate Admissions requirements.
- b. Josie Doss provided updates, discussion and clarification regarding the recent update to the Graduate Nursing Admissions Policy for BSN-to-DNP applicants. She explained that applicants may not yet hold an RN license at the time they apply—particularly if they have just graduated from their BSN program.
- c. To address this, the updated policy now allows applicants to still apply for the program and that nursing has a process in place to capture this information.
 - i. They will obtain their RN license in order to continue in the program after the first semester, and
 - ii. They understand they must have one year of RN experience as part of the progression requirements.
- d. This policy change ensures that newly graduated BSN students are not excluded from applying, do not necessarily need a separate application, but we do need to still maintaining the professional standards required for advancement within the DNP program and ensure that requirement are met in order to progress in the graduate programs.
- e. Motion DC
- f. Second KD
- g. Vote: unanimous

b. **Information Items**

- i. DNP: NRS 9300/L – Change from 4-0-4 (0 clinical hours) to 3-4-4 (60 clinical hours)

- ii. DNP: NRS 9400/L – Change from 4-0-4 (0 clinical hours) to 3-4-4 (60 clinical hours)
- iii. DNP: NRS 9320/L: Change from 1-6-3 (90 clinical hours) to 1-8-3 (120 clinical hours)
- iv. DNP: NRS 9310/L: Change from 1-6-3 (90 clinical hours) to 1-8-3 (120 clinical hours)
- v. Dr. Doss also provided updates related to the graduate nursing informational changes as listed above, and she addressed questions from the group to ensure full understanding of the revised changes. Her explanations clarified the rationale behind the updates.

c. New Business

- i. Maximum allowable credit overlap between graduate programs.
- ii. Government and Sociology are working on developing a dual MPA/MSJ degree. This request highlighted that, institutionally, we do not currently have a defined standard for how many credits may be shared across two master’s programs. After reviewing USG academic policy and discussing this with Kay, it appears that no such guidance exists.
- iii. While our informal practice at GC has typically allowed approximately 9 hours of overlap, other USG institutions, such as Kennesaw State, permit significantly more (up to 18 hours).
- iv. Discussion:
 - 1. Dr. Dandy presented and led the following discussion:
 - 2. Summary of Discussion Items:
 - a. MPA/MSJ Overlap Review and discussion (KD)
 - b. KD noted that dual programs typically allow 9–18 hours of shared coursework, but there is no formal guidance beyond the requirement.
 - i. would like to examine other dual degree programs to understand how much overlap they currently allow to help guide our program development.
 - ii. Shared vs. Individual Degree Requirements (Kay Anderson added)
 - c. Proposals must clearly outline which courses are shared between dual degrees and which courses are uniquely required for each individual degree.
 - d. Credit Hour Justification (Mandy Jarriel)
 - i. Explained that programs may exceed standard credit hour limits only if a justification is provided. The rationale must be included when creating or amending a program.
 - e. Academic Policy Oversight:
 - i. The group discussed whether certain matters—such as shared credit curricular policies—should be reviewed by the Senate, depending on whether they fall under the Senate’s jurisdiction.
 - ii. Follow up is needed.

- f. Limits on Dual-Degree Overlap (KD)
 - i. Dr. Dandy finished by emphasizing she wants to ensure any overlap is appropriately structured and noted that ongoing conversation maybe needed about capping dual-degree overlap at possibly 9 hours to maintain program rigor and consistency.
 - ii. More discussion to come.
- g. This topic led to further discussion started by Kay Anderson reiterated possibly long-term concerns about the Double Bobcat model, noting that students can currently apply 12–18 undergraduate hours toward a graduate degree.
 - i. She emphasized the need to establish clear limits so that bachelor’s coursework does not overly fulfill master’s requirements, which could eventually impact expectations at the doctoral level as well.
 - ii. It was further added that this accelerated progress is also affecting graduate enrollment numbers. Students are completing master’s degrees so quickly after finishing their bachelor’s degrees that the university is not seeing an increase in graduate enrollment, despite their rapid completion.
 - iii. The discussion also highlighted that as new programs are developed, the institution must consider and plan for the faculty resources and requirements needed to support them.
 - iv. Additional information is forthcoming as conversations continue.

d. Update from Each College

- i. College of Arts & Sciences
- ii. College of Business & Technology
 - 1. Each college provided an update, and all agreed that strategic questions are being asked and that efforts are underway to explore new approaches for increasing graduate enrollment across the institution.
- iii. College of Education
 - 1. The College of Education echoed the broader institutional focus on asking strategic questions and identifying opportunities to grow graduate enrollment. In addition, they reported that they are actively **engaging with local school districts to better understand workforce and program needs**—including areas such as **guidance counseling** and **psychology-related roles**—to help shape future program development and ensure offerings remain aligned with district demands and professional expectations.
- iv. College of Health Sciences

1. COHS shared that they are exploring the development of a **Public Health Clinical Pathway** in collaboration with SHHP and Nursing. The intent is to create a structured route that encourages students to remain within GCSU programs and potentially pursue a **second degree in Nursing**, strengthening progression and retention across health-related fields.
2. They also reported ongoing consideration of a **Doctor of Athletic Training (DAT)** program. Two faculty members currently completing their doctorates at Ohio University will soon be fully credentialed, and COHS believes they have sufficient faculty capacity to support this possible addition. The proposed DAT would be delivered **100% online**, making it broadly accessible and consistent with current professional trends.
3. **GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE January 23, 2026**
 - a. **No Quorum, No Business Conducted**

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA FACULTY COUNCIL UPDATE — ROB SUMOWSKI, GCSU REPRESENTATIVE

1. **NO REPORT**