

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

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT— CATHY COX, PRESIDENT**

1. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

- a. I reported to you in February on the success we had in the state’s amended FY26 budget (\$5 million in renovation funds for A&S building, \$2K bonus for state employees), but today, with only two days left in the legislative session, we have been dealing with a very different situation. Today, the Georgia Senate passed its version of the FY27 budget and included a surprise cut of \$123 million to the University System of Georgia – which may be the largest proposed cut in the history of the USG outside of the Great Recession.
  - b. The reason for the cut? The Appropriations Chairman said he believed that online instruction costs less than in-person instruction and now that some 30% of the USG’s credit hours are earned through online instruction, he therefore proposed a cut based on a formula he devised that said every 1.1 hour of online instruction should cost the same as 1.0 hours of in-person instruction. Based on that formula – he had sought no data from the USG on actual costs of online instruction compared to in-person instruction – he proposed the cut of more than \$123 million to the system. When that amount is prorated out to each USG institution based on the number of online credit hours of instruction they offered, it means that Georgia College would lose \$1.8 million.
  - c. The range of cuts throughout the USG ranged from the high of \$27 million to Georgia Tech, \$16 million at KSU, \$14 million at Georgia State, and on down the line to ABAC, with the lowest proposed cut of just under \$500,000.
  - d. We’ve been working hard over the past 36 hours to contact legislators and present the impact of this cut. It will surely be debated in a conference committee of the House and Senate and the Governor’s office over the weekend and into next week, when they must pass the final version of the budget before adjournment on Thursday. So – stay tuned for the final result next week. A cut to GCSU of \$1.8 million is not something we have the ability to absorb or cover, so we are hopeful the funds will be restored in the conference committee.
2. **BOARD OF REGENTS/USG UPDATE** The Board of Regents held its annual planning retreat during the month of March, so there is no regular meeting activity on which to report.
3. **PROMOTION AND TENURE** The Provost has shared with me the portfolios of 21 faculty candidates for Promotion and Tenure. Five Faculty have submitted applications for tenure, and as in years past, I will be meeting with all those who are recommended for tenure, as this is such an important stage in the career of a faculty member and in the life of the university. Next week, I have meetings scheduled with those who are eligible for tenure, and I am looking forward to these conversations! So, we will have more to report on all the candidates for promotion and tenure at the April meeting of the Senate.
4. **SAVE THE DATES**
- a. ***GCSU Research Day***  
Wednesday, April 15, 2026

- b. ***Celebration of Excellence***  
Friday, April 17, 2026  
9:00 a.m. – Russell Auditorium
- c. ***Midnight Breakfast***  
Monday, May 4, 2026  
9:45 p.m. - The MAX
- d. ***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  
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. **RESEARCH DAY** GCSU's 4th Annual **Research Day** will be on **April 15th, 2026**. **Classes will be reassigned** so all can join this campus-wide celebration of student success.
  - i. This year, Research Day will feature **286** student projects, presented by both undergraduate and graduate students, a **13%** increase from 2025. Presentations will begin with poster sessions in the morning and continue with concurrent oral presentation sessions throughout the day.
  - ii. Research Day will kick off on April 14th with the Saladin Scholar Award Ceremony & Keynote Address, featuring Dr. Scott Huettel from Duke University
  - iii. Students will also have the chance to participate in various special events on Research Day, including the GC Journeys Showcase, Women's & Gender Symposium, First-Year Writers' Showcase, 3-in-3 Competition, Writing Center Poster Competition, Digital Humanities presentations, and Lunch on front campus.
  - iv. The complete Research Day 2026 schedule and app will be released on the [MURACE website](#) ahead of the event.
  - v. For any questions regarding Research Day, please reach out to [murace@gcsu.edu](mailto:murace@gcsu.edu)
- b. **FRESHMAN CLASS OF 2026 UPDATES** As of March 27, 2026 we have received a record number of applications at 9,680 which is a new record and is 16% more than at this time last year! We currently have 7,100 completed applications, 5,026

admits, 1,684 student deposits, and 1,602 potential freshman who have paid their housing deposit.

- c. **SUMMER ENROLLMENT 2026** As of March 22, 2026, summer enrollment is down overall by approximately 3% in comparison to this time last year, with a 2% decrease in overall credit hour production. The decrease is mainly in graduate enrollment. Fall overall enrollment is showing a modest increase of nearly 3%.
- d. **NEW FACULTY POSITIONS** In collaboration with Budget and Finance, the Provost's office has approved 12 new faculty positions for FY 27 (6 Tenure track, 6 Lecturer) to support student needs in the COAS, COBT, COHS, and COE for fall 2026.
- e. **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION DEAN SEARCH** 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 March 29, 2026. Nominations can be submitted directly to the search firm via GCSUDeanEd@academicsearch.org. The new dean will start on July 1, 2026. Please plan to participate in the activities related to the campus visits that are tentatively scheduled to occur on April 7-8,9-10,20-21,23-24.
- f. **NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS** 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 Presentation from NISS will occur on March 31, 2026.
- g. **NATIONAL FACULTY AWARDS** Congratulations to two national award recognitions for some outstanding faculty: Dr. Arnab Sengupta received a \$120,000 2026 Cottrell Scholar Award and Dr. Tsu-Ming Chiang was named a 2026 CUR Fellow.
- h. **GRADUATE EDUCATION TASK FORCE** Nineteen-member task force whose charge is to work collaboratively and expeditiously to develop a strategic report outlining recommendations for the future direction of graduate education at Georgia College & State University. The task force is chaired by Dr. Mandy Jarriel, Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Director of The Graduate School.

## 2. **COLLEGES AND LIBRARY**

### a. **COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES**

#### i. **Biological & Environmental Sciences**

- 1. 34 undergraduate and graduate students will be presenting their research at Georgia Academy of Sciences, March 27-28 at Georgia Gwinnett College. Several additional students are presenting at the Association of Southeastern Biologists Annual Meeting in Mobile AL, 25-28 March.

#### ii. **Chemistry, Physics, & Astronomy**

- 1. Six chemistry majors presented their undergraduate research at PITTCO, the world's largest analytical chemistry conference. The students were mentored in their research by Drs. Lisse, McGill and Rosado.

#### iii. **Psychological Science**

1. 48 undergraduate Psychology students are presenting their undergraduate research at the Southeastern Psychological Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans from 25-28 March.
  - b. **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**
    - i. **Scholarships** Lettie Pate Whithead Foundation has awarded GCSU School of Nursing \$480,000 for the '26-'27 academic year for undergraduate nursing scholarships
    - ii. **Recruitment** Emory Hospital-Warner Robins was on site March 23<sup>rd</sup> for a nurse recruiting event
  - c. **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**
    - i. **Department of Teacher Education**
      1. Will have 99 juniors beginning fall 2026 (for context, 100 is capacity)
    - ii. The Kilpatrick Project: Phase I
      1. The last major renovations in Kilpatrick were in 2012
      2. Renovations are taking place with the expectation that work will be completed in August
        - a. Renovations to outdoor entrance for ADA accessibility
        - b. Transforming “computer lab” to a Technology Enhanced Active Learning (TEAL) room
  - d. **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY**
    - i. **The Atkinson Honors** event will be held on April 9, 2026
3. **SCHOOLS AND HONORS COLLEGE**
    - a. **THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**
      - i. **Grad Connect & Navigate** The next Grad Connect at Noon virtual chat session will be held on April 1 from noon–12:50 p.m. via Zoom.
      - ii. **Navigate**, a virtual series for graduate and professional student success, included a session on Wednesday, March 25 on the topic, You Belong Here: A Toolkit for First Generation Grad Students, presented by Christina Wolfe, Program & Partnerships Coordinator. Each Navigate session is recorded and uploaded to the School of Continuing and Professional Studies YouTube channel for convenient access and later viewing.
      - iii. **Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week 2026** is April 13 – 17, 2026. Activities and events planned include free professional headshots, a professional development opportunity, a giveaway, and The Graduate School’s Annual Spring Reception which will be held on Thursday, April 16 from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. in the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room.
      - iv. **Graduate Research Travel Grants** The Graduate Research Travel Grant Program received twelve Graduate Research Travel Grant applications in the spring cycle from graduate students requesting a total of \$8,755. Applications were received from students in the Biology, English, and Management Information System graduate programs. A total of \$5,245 was allocated to the Graduate Research Travel Grant spring cycle applicants.

- v. **Research Day Graduate Research Submissions:** The total number of graduate student submissions for Research Day 2026 is 33. Students from several academic programs are participating, including Athletic Training (1), Biology (13), English/Creative Writing (8), Curriculum & Instruction (2), DNP (1), Health and Human Performance (3), Management Information Systems (1), Music Education (1), Public Health (1), and Special Education (2). Students are participating in three presentation formats: online (4), oral (in-person): 17, and poster (in-person): 12.
- b. **MONTESSORI ACADEMY**
  - i. **Currently Serving** 30 Georgia College employee families and 21 Baldwin County Board of Education families
  - ii. **Total Student Enrollment** 108, 8 classrooms ranging in age from 6 weeks to 4-years-old with a 78 student waitlist.
  - iii. **Year-Over-Year Retention Rate** 99%
- c. **HONORS COLLEGE & NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS**
  - i. **Research Day Kickoff** Please join MURACE and the John E. Sallstrom Honors College for the [2026 Research Day Kickoff Keynote Address & Saladin Scholars Awards Ceremony](#) on Tuesday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m. in Magnolia Ballroom. Dr. Scott Huettel, Senior Associate Dean for Research & Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at Duke University, will deliver a keynote address titled “Science, Stories, and Skepticism: How Our Brain Shapes What We Know.” The Honors College will recognize 2026 recipients of Saladin Scholarships, which fund transformative experiences like study abroad, internships, and undergraduate research. And the event will conclude with a dessert reception. Please register via the embedded link above.
- d. **SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**
  - i. **Executive Director’s Office** Christina Wolfe will serve as the Programs & Partnerships Coordinator in the Office of the Executive Director in the School of Continuing & Professional Studies.
  - ii. **The Communication across Generations** event will be held Wednesday, April 1 at 5:00 p.m. in A&S Auditorium.
  - iii. **Stories of the Holocaust** Enjoyed a collaborative effort with the College of Arts & Sciences to feature Dr. Karen Berman’s Stories of the Holocaust.
  - iv. **Afterschool Achievement** The YES program is looking to partner with other GCSU entities. If interested, please contact Sequena Stanton, Director of Afterschool Achievement at [sequena.stanton@gcsu.edu](mailto:sequena.stanton@gcsu.edu) or call 478.445.5613.
  - v. The **High Achievers Program** is looking to partner with other GCSU entities. If interested, please contact Program Coordinator, Mr. Kenneth Daniels at [kenneth.daniels@gcsu.edu](mailto:kenneth.daniels@gcsu.edu) or 478.445.8509.
  - vi. **Academic Outreach** All are invited to join on April 3 at 2:15pm for the water quality monitoring session. For more details click here: <https://givepul.se/git0n4>. Contact Ruth Eilers at [ruth.eilers@gcsu.edu](mailto:ruth.eilers@gcsu.edu) to collaborate and get involved.

- vii. **Communities in Schools Milledgeville Baldwin County** A uniform drive will be held through March. In partnership with the Leadership Baldwin Class of 2026, CIS Milledgeville/Baldwin County is hosting a community wide uniform drive to collect new and gently used uniforms for students in need in Baldwin County. Black, navy, or khaki pants and any color polo-style shirts will be accepted. Look for donation boxes at various businesses around town. Contact Courtney Bentley, [courtney.bentley@gcsu.edu](mailto:courtney.bentley@gcsu.edu), to volunteer and get involved.
- viii. **Continuing & Professional Education**
  - 1. **Bobcat Explorers** is a reimagined summer experience. This year the experience combines traditional summer camp elements, such as swim time and daily recreation, with specialty content taught by qualified instructors, coaches and university experts. [Register now](#) to reserve your space!
  - 2. **The Depot Meeting Space** is now available to be reserved. Visit [CPE's website](#) for information and the reservation form.
  - 3. **Ed2Go** All GCSU employees have access to Ed2Go catalog at a discount. If interested please see the catalog here: <https://www.ed2go.com/gcsucorp/>. For more information contact Angie Woodham, Director of Continuing & Professional Education at [angie.woodham@gcsu.edu](mailto:angie.woodham@gcsu.edu)
- ix. **Historic Museums**
  - 1. **A Welcome Reception** for Dr. John Handley, the new Executive Director of Historic Museums, will be held for the GCSU community at the Old Governor's Mansion's Education building on Monday, March 30 at 3:30 p.m.
  - 2. **Music at the Mansion:** A spring concert in partnership with the GCSU Music Department is scheduled for April 18 at 6pm on the lawn at the Mansion. Guests are encouraged to bring blankets/chairs and enjoy an evening of music and history. Admission is free; donations are encouraged.
  - 3. **Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion** is scheduled to welcome over 300 students in the next two months. Please contact John Handley at [john.handley@gcsu.edu](mailto:john.handley@gcsu.edu) or Suzy Parker at [suzanna\\_parker@gcsu.edu](mailto:suzanna_parker@gcsu.edu) if you have requests for the Old Governor's Mansion or Sallie Ellis Davis House.
  - 4. **Andalusia** Andalusia welcomed Dr. Michelle Moyer and her students in designing and installing Prothonotary Warbler nest boxes on the grounds. Dr. Moyer and her ornithology students will study the shrinking warbler population and study how different habitat conditions affect nesting success, and also track where these remarkable bird travel during the non-breeding season. Please contact Cassie Munnell at [cassandra.munnell@gcsu.edu](mailto:cassandra.munnell@gcsu.edu) or John Handley at [john.handley@gcsu.edu](mailto:john.handley@gcsu.edu) if you have requests for Andalusia.

#### 4. OFFICES AND PROGRAMS

a. **ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

- i. **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 and professional school enrollment within one year of graduation.
- ii. **The Office of Financial Aid** will host FAFSA nights with Washington County and Jones County High Schools this spring. The Financial Aid team will help high school seniors, and their families complete the 2026-2027 FAFSAs at these events.
- iii. **Graduate Student Orientation** is scheduled for May 2, 2026, at 8 a.m.
- iv. **Admitted Student Day** held on March 7 welcomed 458 students—a 25% increase from last year—to celebrate their decision to attend GCSU.
- v. **Paws & Celebrate: A Bobcat Reception** was held on March 13 at Dave & Buster’s McDonough and Dave & Buster’s Marietta with 80 new students in attendance. Attendees reported positive experiences and stronger connections with future classmates.
- vi. **Junior Day**, the preview day for high school juniors, will be held on April 18 and it is anticipated that that it will be a record turnout this year.
- vii. **Registration for Freshmen Orientations** is now open. The dates are June 2, June 3 (Bridge Scholars Program), June 4, June 9, June 11, July 21, July 22 (Transfer Orientation), and July 23.

b. **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

i. **UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**

1. The **2026 MURACE Summer Research Scholarship** award amount is dependent upon project length, with students able to select from three different summer research sessions.
  - a. For both 7-week sessions, the award amount is \$3,000 for each student recipient and \$1,000 for mentors (before taxes and mandated deductions).
  - b. For the 10-week session, the award amount is \$4,000 for each student recipient and \$1,500 for mentors (before taxes and mandated deductions).
  - c. **Student Application Deadline:** April 22nd, 2026
  - d. **Faculty Mentor Agreement & Approval Form Deadline:** April 24th, 2026
  - e. Please visit the [MURACE Summer Research Funding webpage](#) for further details and funding eligibility/stipulations.
  - f. For any questions regarding Summer Research Funding, please reach out to [murace@gcsu.edu](mailto:murace@gcsu.edu)

c. **THE WRITING CENTER**

- i. **Student Support:** Continuing spring semester tutoring (individual in person appointments, drop-in hours, online consultations, asynchronous feedback).

- ii. **Workshops & Programming:** Workshops completed for Education, Nursing, and English courses as planned. Upcoming: Pizza & Tutoring Night event in April.
  - iii. **Research Day:** Coordinating GCSU Research Day poster competition (prizes sponsored by GCSU Bookstore).
  - iv. **Writing-Enriched Curriculum:** Ongoing collaboration with College of Education.
  - v. **Professional Leadership:** Southeastern Writing Centers Assoc. presidency began February 2026. Co-editing *Writing Center Administrators as Campus Leaders* (University Press of Colorado/Utah, June 2026).
- d. **THE LEARNING CENTER**
- i. **52 Supplemental Instruction Leaders (SI) and PASS Leaders** have been matched to provide academic support to approximately 94 sections of math, chem, bio, econ, kinesiology, psych, physics, and finance courses.
  - ii. **Excel Bootcamps** Nearly 800 students participated in fall or spring Excel Bootcamps.
  - iii. **Algebra Review Workshops** Over 230 students participated in the Algebra Review Workshops.
  - iv. **Staff Training** An ‘all LC staff’ training for the Learning Center will be held on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and conclude with recognitions and awards.
  - v. **Summer Tutoring** TBD with the goal of providing online support with a few dedicated tutors.
5. **CENTERS AND INSTITUTES**
- a. **CENTER FOR TEACHING & LEARNING**
    - i. **The Impact Your Teacher Effectiveness Ratings through the Objective Selection Form (OSF)** opens March 18<sup>th</sup> and closes May 6<sup>th</sup>. The SRIS is available to students April 15 through May 6.
    - ii. **Peer Feedback on Teaching (PFoT)** is now taking place from March 9 through April 3.
    - iii. **The 2026 USG Teaching & Learning Conference** will be held April 16-17, 2026 in Athens, Georgia.
  - b. **SANDRA DUNAGAN DEAL CENTER FOR EARLY LANGUAGE AND LITERACY**
    - i. **Georgia Competency Task Force** Led by the Deal Center, the Georgia Competency Task Force (funded by the Georgia Council on Literacy) completed its work to draft standards and competencies for literacy coaches. Pending passage of HB 1193, these will now be used by the PSC to create Georgia’s Literacy Coach Endorsement.
    - ii. **Dr. Stephanie Stollar** Hosted national expert Dr. Stephanie Stollar at GCSU, where she challenged over 200 attendees to update and rethink their educational systems through MTSS.
    - iii. **Georgia Preschool Conference** Presented tools and strategies to support emergent writing in the early years at the Georgia Preschool Conference in Atlanta.

- iv. **Second Language Development Training** Provided a second language development training for 50 early childhood educators in Washington County.
- v. **Community Coalitions Grant** Accepted 46 applications for the 2026 Community Coalitions Grant competition. Awardees will be announced in April.
- c. **FLANNERY O’CONNOR INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES**
  - i. **Newsletter** The March newsletter can be viewed here: <https://app.smore.com/n/0fgcm-flannery-o-connor-institute>
  - ii. **O’Connor in the Archives** The final lecture in a 4-part O’Connor in the Archives series will be entitled “Flannery O’Connor and Pulp Fiction,” with MA English Graduate Student Charlotte Aexel. Online, Thursday April 16 at 7:00 pm. Email [oconnorinstitute@gcsu.edu](mailto:oconnorinstitute@gcsu.edu) for the link.
  - iii. **Southern Gothic Film Series** The last screening in the Southern Gothic Film Series will be the Cohen Brothers’ *O Brother Where Art Thou* outdoors at Andalusia Farm, Wednesday April 22 at 8:00 pm. Free and open to the public. Bring chairs and blankets and picnics. Popcorn and beverages served.

**STAFF COUNCIL REPORT — KIMBERLY SCOTT, CHAIR**

- 1. **2026-2027 UNIVERSITY SENATE REPRESENTATION**
  - 1. BIPC
    - 1. Staff Council Appointee: Kim Scott
  - 2. RPIPC
    - 1. Selected Staff Senator: Kelly Prior
    - 2. Selected Staff Senator: Christine Amezquita
    - 3. Selected Staff Senator: Lonnie Howell
  - 3. SAPC
    - 1. Selected Staff Senator: Desaree Henriquez
    - 2. Staff Council Appointee: Maria Gordon
- 2. **OFFICER ELECTIONS** We will elect our FY 27 officers in April.
- 3. **EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAYS** are May 19, 20, 21. Dates and activity advertisement coming soon.
- 4. **ELEVATE U CONFERENCE** will be held May 28th in Peabody Auditorium. This is our Staff Development Conference and registration will open in the next several weeks.

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT — SERENA SEMERE, PRESIDENT**

- 1. No written report.

**ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE — ANDREW J. ALLEN, CHAIR**

- 1. **ACADEMIC FEEDBACK POLICY** The APC voted to adopt a revision to the Academic Feedback Policy to align with USG language and articulate our institutional commitment to timely, useful feedback.

- a. “At the beginning of each course, faculty must clearly define for students the basis on which grades will be determined through written notification in the syllabus. In addition, they must provide timely academic feedback as the course progresses. This could include the following:
    - i. Prior to midpoint of the total grading period, all assigned and “turned in” graded class assignments and examinations should be graded and available to the student.
    - ii. The instructor and student should make every effort to be available during instructor’s office hours for discussion of the student’s academic standing prior to the midpoint of the total grading period (particularly for classes that use subjective grading).”
2. **DISTANCE EDUCATION POLICY: REGULAR AND SUBSTANTIVE FEEDBACK** The APC voted to adopt a proposed addendum to the Distance Education Policy. The approved addendum is as follows:
- a. “Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI)
  - b. The U.S. Department of Education mandates that all online courses and programs include regular and substantive interaction between students and their instructors.
  - c. **Regular Interaction:**
    - i. In learning environments of any kind, regular and substantive interactions must be:
    - ii. With an instructor as defined by the institution’s accreditor.
    - iii. Initiated by the instructor.
    - iv. Scheduled and predictable.
    - v. Academic in nature and relevant to the course
  - d. **Substantive Interaction:**
    - i. Substantive interaction is defined as engaging students in teaching, learning, and assessment, and must include at least two of the following:
    - ii. Provide direct instruction
    - iii. Assessing or providing feedback on a student’s coursework
    - iv. Providing information or responding to questions about the content of a course or competency
    - v. Facilitating a group discussion regarding the content of a course or competency”
3. **COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY** The APC voted to approve an amended Course Withdrawal Policy.
- a. “A student may drop courses from their schedule with no penalty through the last day to drop without penalty as published in the Academic Calendar for each term or part of term. Students with an advisor hold must obtain approval from their academic advisor to drop a class; no additional approvals are required during this period. Courses dropped during this period do not receive a W grade, do not count in the student’s attempted hours and do not appear on the academic transcript. Students will not be charged tuition and fees for courses dropped during this period as long as they remain enrolled in other courses for that term or part of term.
  - b. After the last day to drop a course with no fee penalty and with no W, but on or before the last day of class of each term or part of term, students may drop

courses online via MyGCSU/PAWS or by submitting an Add/Drop Card (Course Change Card) to the Registrar's Office. Approval of the academic advisor (if an advisor hold exists) is required. No other approvals are required. Students will receive a W grade for courses dropped during this time period. Courses dropped during this time will count in the student's attempted hours, which will affect the student's financial aid and HOPE eligibility. They will also appear on the academic transcript. No refunds will be issued for individual courses dropped during this period. Students may not drop courses during this period if they have previously been assigned a grade of F for excessive absences by their instructor or have been assigned an F for disciplinary reasons.”

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE — BRAD FOWLER, CHAIR**

1. No written report.

**BELONGING AND INCLUSION POLICY COMMITTEE — HEDWIG FRAUNHOFER, CHAIR**

1. **DIVERSITY TRAINING** In its March 6, 2026 meeting, BIPC continued its discussion of the implementation of the employee training previously recommended by the GCSU Student Disability Resource Center. Since implementation in department meetings will require the active cooperation of department chairs, BIPC member Nancy Mizelle will, with the help of Mike Martino, design a survey that will go out to Department Chairs to assess the latter group's ideas and concerns. Since BIPC's discussion of this issue is an advisory issue that will most likely not require any formal policy recommendations, Chair Hedy Fraunhofer sent an advisory memo to the SDRC informing the Student Resource Center of BIPC's recommendations and ongoing developments concerning this issue. We recommend that the SDRC send the list of available Vector training modules to Nancy Mizelle and Mike Martino so that they can share it with the Council of Chairs. CTL Director Jim Berger has recommended implementation in Fall 2026 (which could coincide with Disability Awareness Month in October), since CTL is busy with implementing the new WebContent Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1 Level AA) this April.
2. **CIVILITY AND COLLABORATIVE EFFECTIVENESS POLICY** BIPC then moved on to a longer discussion of a proposal by BIPC member and GCSU Humans Resources Director Eric Johansen for a new university-wide Civility and Collaborative Effectiveness Policy. As part of his presentation, Eric referenced other universities and university systems nation-wide that already have similar policies on the books. BIPC discussed at length potential benefits of such a policy, as well as concerns, such as cultural prescriptiveness. As part of this discussion, BIPC noted that GCSU does not currently have an anti-bullying policy. Committee members decided to continue this discussion during their next meeting in April.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF UNIVERSITY SENATE — STEPHANIE JETT, CHAIR**

1. No written report.

## **FACULTY AFFAIRS POLICY COMMITTEE — JENNIFER FLORY, CHAIR**

1. **POST-TENURE REVIEW RECOGNITION** Final suggestions were reviewed by the relevant administrator; the list has been sent to Academic Affairs **as is**.
2. **PROFESSIONAL LEAVE POLICY** Reviewed proposed edits; passed motion; identified three areas:
  - a. **Change 1** Add purpose language to include “**professional development as teachers and scholars.**”
  - b. **Change 2** Clarify return-to-service obligations (1 year after a 1-semester leave; 2 years after a 2-semester leave).
  - c. **Change 3** Consider striking the older “**seniority**” reference (which we vetted with ECUS before any action).
3. **FACULTY WORKLOAD** Circulated an options document for feedback; discussed campus impacts (costs, staffing/adjunct needs, curricular effects) and the timing sensitivity given AACSB review next year in the College of Business. Feedback period active; concerns logged about costs, adjunct reliance if loads change, and accreditation timing; WLE concept recognized as promising but implementation-intensive.
4. **FACULTY REVIEW POLICY** A member flagged an online inconsistency in the faculty review policy; FAPC chair will examine and route appropriately.
5. **ANNUAL EVALUATION OF FACULTY PERFORMANCE** Confirmed that numerical scores are reported by the Provost’s Office to USG and that Deans round values when reporting.

## **RESOURCES, PLANNING AND INSTITUTIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE — SHANTEE HENRY FOR TALECIA WARREN, CHAIR**

1. **AI POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE** Summer 2025 charged with developing a university AI policy that aligns with USG recommendations. After many revisions, an internal audit, and incorporation of audit suggestions, the committee is in the final stages of putting the finishing touches to the policy. Brad Fowler has done a tremendous job leading this charge and expects to present the policy for approval at the April Senate meeting.
2. **CAMPUS CORNER EXPANSION** A request was made to the committee for the expansion of Campus Corner to West Campus. This request was forwarded to Student Services.
3. **JOURNAL PUBLICATION COSTS** A request was made to the committee to explore opportunities for faculty who are seeking publication to receive funds to cover the cost of publishing. It was reported that fees of \$100 to the \$1000’s are required by some journals and this has been a cost assumed by the author/faculty. After discussion of possible avenues, the committee decided that this should be routed to Academic Affairs.
4. **CAMPUS CAT POLICY** RPIPC was asked for a potential policy to address stray cats on campus. The GCSU Feline Alliance requested assistance with capturing, spay/neutering, and then releasing the cats. The Alliance also asked to attend the next RPIPC meeting. Considering the legal aspects of this request, the committee decided to route this request to Dan Nadler and advise the GCSU Feline Alliance do the same.

## **STUDENT AFFAIRS POLICY COMMITTEE — AMY PINNEY, CHAIR**

1. **UWILL** We continued our discussion of student wellness and mental health and reviewed UWill. The explanation on the counseling page is comprehensive: <https://www.gcsu.edu/counseling> .
2. **WELLNESS DAY** We then had a robust discussion of Wellness Day. This discussion included perspectives from faculty, staff, and students. There will be several more debriefing sessions throughout the university over the coming months.
3. **SGA** We got a report from SGA, which I'll leave to President Semere to cover.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS — JOYCE NORRIS-TAYLOR, CHAIR**

1. **AT LARGE SENATOR POSITION** Jamie Downing is going on professional leave and will not be able to serve in the at-large senator position. Amelia Malcom has agreed to serve as she was the runner-up in that election.
2. **2026-2027 COMMITTEE PREFERENCE SURVEY** The Qualtrics survey for committee preference has been sent out. A reminder with a link to the survey is attached to the Agenda.

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

1. **UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE February 27, 2026**
  - a. **Action Items**
    - i. College of Arts & Sciences
      1. A&S: Department of Music. Modification of Bachelor of Arts (Music) Degree Requirements. Bring Music History Curriculum into alignment with best practices in music history pedagogy. Effective Fall 2027.
        - a. No representative attending.
        - b. Unanimously approved.
      2. A&S: Department of Music. Modification of Bachelor of Arts (Music Therapy) Degree Requirements. Bring Music History Curriculum into alignment with Music Therapy Board Certification Standards and the American Music Therapy Association Education Standards. Effective Fall 2027.
        - a. No representative attending.
        - b. Unanimously approved.
    - ii. College of Business & Technology
      1. No Action Items
    - 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 Biological & Environmental Sciences. BIOL 4620: Biogeochemistry. Effective Spring 2027.

- b. Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences.  
BIOL 4640: Agroecology. Effective Fall 2026.
- c. Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences.  
ENSC 4640: Agroecology. Effective Fall 2026.
- 2. **Modification of Existing Courses**
  - a. Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences.  
BIOL 3000. Junior Seminar. Pre-Requisite Change: Add C or better in BIOL 2100 or BIOL 2800. Effective Fall 2026.
  - b. Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences.  
BIOL 4315. Capstone Bioethics. Pre-Requisite Change: Add C or better in BIOL 3000. Effective Fall 2026.
  - c. Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences.  
BIOL 4890. Capstone: Mtds Biodivers Study. Pre-Requisite Change: Add C or better in BIOL 3000. Effective Fall 2026.
  - d. Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences.  
BIOL 4910. Origins: Scientific Views. Pre-Requisite Change: Add C or better in BIOL 3000. Effective Fall 2026.
  - e. Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences.  
BIOL 4920. Origins: Phil/Poli Controversy. Pre-Requisite Change: Add C or better in BIOL 3000. Effective Fall 2026.
  - f. Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences.  
BIOL 4952. Special Topics Capstone. Pre-Requisite Change: Add C or better in BIOL 3000. Effective Fall 2026. Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences.  
BIOL 4953. Special Topics Capstone with Lab. Pre-Requisite Change: Add C or better in BIOL 3000. Effective Fall 2026.
  - g. Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences.  
BIOL 4961. Internship Capstone. Pre-Requisite Change: Add C or better in BIOL 3000. Effective Fall 2026.
  - h. Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences.  
BIOL 4996. Capstone Research. Pre-Requisite Change: Add C or better in BIOL 3000. Effective Fall 2026.
- 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 Information Systems & Computer Science.  
CSCI 1301: Computer Science. Catalog Description Change. Effective Fall 2026.

- b. Department of Information Systems & Computer Science. CSCI 1302: Computer Science. Catalog Description Change. Effective Fall 2026.
  - c. Department of Information Systems & Computer Science. CSCI 3341: Operating Systems. Pre-Requisite Change: C or better in CSCI 3410 and CSCI 3211. Effective Fall 2026.
  - d. Department of Information Systems & Computer Science. CSCI 3343: Computer Systems Security. Catalog Description Change. Effective Fall 2026.
  - e. Department of Information Systems & Computer Science. CSCI 3711: Data Analysis. Course Title Change: New Title is Data Mining & Analysis, Catalog Description Change & Pre-requisite Change: C or better in CSCI 3410 or permission of instructor. Effective Fall 2026.
  - f. Department of Information Systems & Computer Science. CSCI 4320: Software Engineering. Catalog Description Change and Pre-Requisite Change: C or better in CSCI 3410 and pre-or co-req. CSCI 4710. Effective Fall 2026.
  - g. Department of Information Systems & Computer Science. CSCI 4711: Machine Learning. Pre-requisite Change: C or higher in CSCI 3711. Effective Fall 2026.
  - h. Department of Information Systems & Computer Science. CSCI 4820: Artificial Intelligence. Pre-Requisite Change: C or better in CSCI 3711 or CSCI 4520. Effective Fall 2026.
  - i. Department of Information Systems & Computer Science. CSCI 4920: Senior Seminar. Catalog Description & Pre-requisite Change: C or better in CSCI 4320 and Senior status. Effective Fall 2026.
- iv. College of Health Science:
- 1. **New Course Proposals—None**
  - 2. **Modification of Existing Courses—None**
  - 3. **New Business**
    - a. Article II: Membership and Meetings of the UCC section of the University Curriculum Committee Bylaws (last revised December 1, 2023) will be revisited in the March and April meetings.

2. **GRADUATE COUNCIL February 13, 2026**

a. **Action Items**

- i. **College of Arts & Sciences**
  - 1. None
- ii. **College of Business & Technology**
  - 1. None
- iii. **College of Education**
  - 1. Professional Learning & Innovation:

- a. Change of program name: Library Media to School Librarianship; The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) assembled a task force (2024) to review and revise the rule and standards for Library Media EPPs. The resulting revised rule and standards (see attached) also included a change of program name from Library Media to School Librarian. This program name change is proposed to align with the GaPSC update.
- b. Dr. Doykin from College of Education reported that the program name is being changed as required by the State. A few course titles may also need updates, and a proposal will be submitted for those changes in the future. Otherwise, the revisions are primarily compliance-driven.
- c. The motion was made by JD and seconded by TG. Vote was unanimous.

iv. **College of Health Sciences**

- 1. None

b. **Information Items**

i. SON, DNP

- 1. RE: DNP Course Modifications
- 2. This memorandum summarizes proposed DNP program catalog revisions, which include the removal of courses that are no longer utilized and updates to course descriptions and pre/co-requisites to ensure appropriate curriculum sequencing and full alignment with the current programs of study. These revisions do not alter the existing program of study, course alignments, or degree requirements.
- 3. Modified Courses: NRS 8300, 8410, 9300, 9310, 9320, 9400
- 4. Deleted Courses: NRS 8520, 8530, 8540, 9100
- 5. Updated Course Descriptions: Emphasize progression and integration across sequenced courses, particularly in Evidence-Based Practice (NRS 8300, 9300, 9400) and Translational and Clinical Research (NRS 9310, 9320).
- 6. These revisions are proposed for implementation in Summer 2026 and support program integrity, accreditation compliance, and optimal student outcomes.

c. **Update from Each College**

i. **College of Arts & Sciences**

- 1. Some proposals are expected to come forward, including a pilot for 8-week session models to evaluate how the format performs and whether it may increase competitiveness.
- 2. Kay A. noted that this change would have broader implications, including considerations around Double Bobcats, financial aid, and other operational areas.
- 3. Program length changes are also part of the discussion, with more conversations to come as details develop.

4. More information will be shared as the proposals move forward.
- ii. **College of Business & Technology**
  1. COBT faculty are proposing modifications to the Double Bobcat pathway for MMIS, including expanding course options and increasing flexibility in the choices available to students.
  2. Another item under discussion is the development of a dual MAC and MMIS program.
  3. Further conversation is needed because the two programs differ in delivery format—some courses are fully online while others are offered on campus.
  4. This may result in students beginning with face-to-face coursework and transitioning to online courses as they complete the program.
  5. The proposed dual program would total 45 credit hours across both degrees.
  6. More details and discussion will follow as the proposal develops.
- iii. **College of Education**
  1. Efforts are underway to **grow graduate programs**, including collaboration with the recruitment team to explore strategies for increasing student enrollment.
  2. This includes evaluating opportunities for new programs, innovative ideas, and **different instructional modalities** to broaden appeal and access.
  3. A meeting with the **Montori School** is scheduled, where additional possibilities for program development and recruitment partnerships will be discussed.
  4. More updates will be shared as these conversations progress.
- iv. **College of Health Sciences**
  1. Overall updates from the College of Health Sciences were provided by Dr. Doss and Dr. Martino from SHHP.
- d. **Other Items Discussed**
  - i. **Graduate Academic Task Force**
    1. The Graduate Academic Task Force held its first meeting on 2/13. Please help if anyone reaches out requesting data, background information, or supporting documents. This information will help shape and guide the initial focus areas for the new Vice President of Graduate & Research once they begin.
  - ii. **VP of Graduate & Research Position**
    1. The Vice President of Graduate & Research position is open
    2. Target start date is July 1.
  - iii. **Graduate Student Needs**
    1. Graduate students are seeking more professional development opportunities.
    2. Plan to collaborate with Angela to expand offers related to School of Continuing and Professional Studies.
    3. Grad Connect will continue to serve as a platform or initiative to support these efforts.

- iv. **Graduate Student Travel Grants**
    - 1. Spring typically sees higher volume, but applications are currently lower than expected.
    - 2. Students should be encouraged to apply.
    - 3. Application deadline is Sunday. (Hopefully some late applications are coming in this weekend).
  - v. **MS in Applied AI Proposal Update**
    - 1. Another meeting was held with **USG** regarding the proposed Master of Science in Applied AI.
    - 2. USG has implemented a **new review process** for academic program proposals:
    - 3. Review team must justify the proposal to the **USG Cabinet**.
    - 4. If approved, it then goes to the **Board of Regents**.
    - 5. Concerns raised at the USG level include:
      - a. The program's strong **AI/technology focus**.
      - b. How GCSU's **liberal arts mission** supports and aligns with this expertise.
    - 6. **Dr. Roberts** met with USG yesterday and provided evidence demonstrating how the proposal aligns with and supports GCSU's liberal arts mission.
    - 7. More information will be shared at future meetings, and updates will be given as developments occur.
  - vi. **Dr. Lyndall Muschell and Dr. Mandy Jarriel** will be attending an upcoming USG meeting to review potential **graduate leadership programs (core)**. The proposed structure includes **three different tracks**. The program will still need to proceed through the full governance process and all required approval steps. The anticipated launch date is **Fall 2027**.
    - 1. More information will be shared as the proposal advances.
3. **GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE (GEC) February 20, 2026**
- a. **Election of Secretary**
    - i. S. Jordan elected as secretary
  - b. **Core-Related Course Proposals**
    - i. DATA1501 has been approved by USG to be added as part of the CORE-STEM
  - c. **GC1Y/2Y Proposals**
    - i. New section proposals
      - 1. GC1Y: Critical Thinking: Paris, the Crazy Years – approved
      - 2. GC2Y: Global Perspectives: Mo'RISK (Mo'Reward) – approved
    - ii. Section Modifications:
      - 1. Modify the title of GC2Y "Theatre for Social Change" to "Theatre and the Public Sphere" (approved via email on 2/6/26)
      - 2. Modify the section description to: Theatre and the Public Sphere examines how theatre has historically provided a space for communities to express ideas, debate issues, and reflect on shared experiences. Open to all students, regardless of prior theatre experience, this course combines performance

analysis, historical research, and creative exercises to explore how theatre connects to public conversations across time and cultures. Through studying archival stories, oral histories, plays from around the world, documentaries, and community narratives, students will investigate how theatre functions as a mirror of society — a place where stories, traditions, and questions about identity, belonging, and change are explored. Working individually and collaboratively, students will engage in research, creative group exercises, and improvisational projects that link performance to public dialogue. The course encourages students to think critically about how theatre shapes the way communities understand themselves and each other, both locally and globally. (approved via email on 2/6/26)

d. **Old Business**

- i. Development of GC Learning Outcomes for Areas P, A and S- C. Smith will update at March GEC Meeting
- ii. Potential development of GCxY “non-sections” for late Fall 2022- Group is optimistic about courses working and will meet again before March GEC meeting. S. Jordan will provide update then. After course shell completed, GEC will discuss course logistics.
- iii. Discussion of developing pilot process for review of existing GCxY sections- Agreement in room that review should come from peer faculty teaching GCxY. Discussion on best procedures and logistics: specifically using form of preexisting reviews (PreTenure) as base, timeline for review, and logistics. C. Smith will develop a draft procedures for review at March meeting. Plan to have volunteers pilot in late spring.