

**REPORTS FROM THE 18 SEP 2026
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE**

PRESIDENT’S REPORT— CATHY COX, PRESIDENT

1. UPDATES FROM THE AUGUST & SEPTEMBER BOARD OF REGENTS MEETINGS

a. AUGUST MEETING

- i. The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia convened for its scheduled meeting on August 13, 2026, in Atlanta, Georgia.
- ii. The Board heard the annual presentation on the costs versus revenues of the USG’s healthcare plan for employees, noting that claims were projected to rise 9.8% for 2026 compared to national trends of a 9% increase. The increases to the USG plan were attributed particularly to rapidly rising pharmaceutical costs, especially specialty drugs. This led to an explanation of the decision to partner with the regular state employees’ system for bidding out a new pharmacy benefits manager, and effective January 1, Express Scripts will be the new Pharmacy Benefits Manager for the USG in place of CVS Caremark.
- iii. The Board also heard that costs were projected to increase by 10.6% in 2027, and were told those increased costs would be split between employees and institutions. [An announcement on the 2027 changes is available here](#) along with a [summary of the approved plan design changes and premiums](#)
- iv. The Board also accepted the recommendation to continue coverage of GLP-1 medications only for employees with Type 2 Diabetes and to continue monitoring new clinical indications for usage of these drugs and direct-to-consumer discounts and federal negotiations that might make the drugs affordable under the plan in the future.
- v. The Board approved a proposed FY28 budget and capital projects so that it could be submitted to the Governor’s office for inclusion in the next legislative session’s budget deliberations, but the Board did not include our request to renovate the Old Courthouse on the capital project list.
- vi. Upon recommendation of the Academic Affairs Committee, the Board adopted revisions to the following BOR policies, copies of which are attached:
 1. Policy 03.08.01 General (identifying a new degree category of “Bachelor of Applied Science” which consists of 90-120 credit hours, while all other bachelor’s degrees consist of 120 hours)
 2. Policy 03.08.04 Bachelor Degrees (adding language that the new “Bachelor of Applied Science” degree is designed to address workforce needs in “specialized disciplines” with 90-120 credit hours)

b. SEPTEMBER MEETING

- i. The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia convened for its scheduled meeting on September 16, 2026, virtually. During this meeting, the Board voted to appoint Mr. Thomas A. Fanning as the sole

finalist for the position of Chancellor for the USG, and will convene again on October 1 to vote on his selection as Chancellor. You can read the press release on this announcement [here](#).

- ii. Chancellor Sonny Perdue also announced several other new USG staff members during the meeting, including the promotion of a new Vice Chancellor for Communications, Christina Torres, new governmental affairs leadership (Merritt Wall and Sam Dindoffer) and Carla Cook as the Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Safety and Security and USG Chief of Police Chief of Security while a search for a permanent chief is underway.
- iii. The Board voted to allow Valdosta State University to move into our athletic conference, the Peach Belt Conference, and to allow Georgia Gwinnett College to begin an exploration of a move from NAIA athletics into NCAA Division II and the Peach Belt Conference beginning in 2028. Both institutions will be good fits and competitive partners for our GCSU Bobcats in coming seasons.
- iv. In Academic Affairs, the Board approved a new BS in Health Science degree at ABAC and a new BS in Public Health at Augusta University, and terminated a BFA in Dance at UGA, a BA in Art History at Kennesaw State University, and three degree programs at Georgia Southwestern State University: BA in Political Science, BA in Psychology, and Med in Middle Grades Language Arts.

2. **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

- a. Georgia College's economic impact jumped to \$360 million in FY25 from \$333 million in the previous year, according to the recently released study compiled for the USG by the Selig Center for Economic Growth at UGA (full report available [here](#)).
 - b. The USG's total economic impact of all 26 institutions on their host communities was \$25.1 billion in FY 2025. The statewide economic impact of the University System of Georgia's institutions in fiscal year 2025 includes \$16.3 billion in direct spending by students and by all USG institutions on personnel and operating costs, alongside an additional \$8.8 billion generated in local communities as those dollars ripple through the broader economy. The study found that USG generated 170,096 jobs, and for each job a USG institution creates on its campus, two additional jobs are created in the local community. This data shows that USG and its institutions create an employment impact equivalent to the top five employers in Georgia combined.
3. **U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT RANKINGS** The annual U.S. News & World Report rankings will be released next week and I'm very happy to tell you that based on the embargoed information we have received, the news is going to be good! ☺ Once you crack the top five in any ranking, it is not only hard to hang on to that standing, but exceedingly difficult to improve. Stay tuned!
4. **UNIVERSITY BUDGET FORUM** The FY 2027 **University Budget Open Forum** will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room. As a part of our commitment to shared governance and transparent decision making, all campus community members are encouraged to

participate. The deans from each of the colleges will present their funding priorities for the coming budget year. Following the deans, the vice presidents will present. This forum is open to the university community and provides an opportunity for understanding the funding needs across the university.

5. **LEADERSHIP SEARCH** We will launch a new search for a Vice President for Finance and Administration this fall, and Dr. Mark Pelton has agreed to chair the search. There are not enough words of thanks we can express to Susan Allen for returning from retirement to provide her expertise and generous assistance and support over the past year-plus, but we owe it to her to find a permanent replacement who can take over by next summer at the latest.
6. **Open Enrollment**
 - a. USG Open Enrollment will be open to benefit-eligible employees October 26 – November 6, 2026. Enrollment in benefits for the 2027 plan year will take place via OneUSG. USG benefits are centered around you to help you balance your health, work, and financial well-being goals. Attend the in-person Benefits Fair in the Student Activities Center/Magnolia Ballroom on Thursday, October 1st from 10:00 a.m. – Noon. This is an active enrollment year, which means you are required to take action if you want healthcare coverage for 2027 Open Enrollment. Visit the [USG Benefits Website](#) to learn more. Be sure to complete your certifications to avoid tobacco and working spouse surcharges!
 - b. The Office of Human Resources Benefits Team will be available to assist employees with Open Enrollment questions on several different occasions throughout the two weeks of Open Enrollment; specific dates they will be available will be circulated via FrontPage as Open Enrollment approaches. Contact benefits@gcsu.edu for questions or more information.
 - c. As mentioned above, the Board of Regents approved health plans for the coming year during their August meeting. [An announcement on the 2027 changes is available here](#) along with a [summary of the approved plan design changes and premiums](#).
 - d. It is highly recommended that employees NOT wait until the last minute to complete their Open Enrollment elections. Often, the OneUSG system lags during the final days as there is a significant increase in web traffic across all 26 institutions in the USG and wait times when calling the OneUSG Connect - Benefits Call Center (1-844-587-4236) are also longer toward the end of Open Enrollment.
7. **ETHICS AWARENESS WEEK** Ethics Awareness Week is scheduled for November 2-8, 2026. The USG sponsors Ethics Awareness Week each year to reinforce our collective commitment to an ethical culture and our shared values and expectations. Georgia College & State University, along with the other 24 USG institutions and the University System Office, hosts activities throughout the week to raise awareness of the importance of an ethical culture and our shared Core Values: Integrity, Excellence, Accountability, and Respect. Ms. Rhonda Fowler is coordinating various in-person and virtual activities for the week. The week's highlight will be a campus-wide shred event on Thursday, November 5, encouraging all departments to organize and purge their documents according to the USG Records Retention Schedule. The USG will host virtual presentations, including a Chancellor's Chat on Monday and an Ethics & Compliance

Best Practice Virtual Presentation on Friday. For more details, visit the Ethics Awareness Week webpage. [gcsu.edu/audit/ethicsawarenessweek](https://www.gcsu.edu/audit/ethicsawarenessweek).

8. **SAVE THE DATES**

Senior Preview Day

Saturday, September 26, 2026

Front Campus

<https://www.gcsu.edu/admissions/senior-preview-day>

Family Weekend

October 2-4, 2026

<https://www.gcsu.edu/parent/events>

University Budget Forum

Thursday, October 1, 2026

9:00 a.m. – Noon

Pat Peterson Museum Education Room

Benefits Fair

Thursday, October 1, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Magnolia Ballroom

Faculty & Staff Fall Festival

Thursday, October 29, 2026

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Front Campus

Open Enrollment

October 26 – November 6, 2026

Ethics Awareness Week

November 2-8, 2026

<https://www.gcsu.edu/audit/ethicsawarenessweek>

GCSU Night at Lockerly in Lights

Tuesday, November 17, 2026

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Lockerly Arboretum

Night of Lights

Thursday, December 3, 2026

5:30 p.m.

Front Campus

Winter Commencement

Saturday, December 12, 2026

1:00 p.m.

Centennial Center

PROVOST’S REPORT — HOLLEY ROBERTS, PROVOST

1. **PROVOST’S OFFICE UPDATES**

- a. **ACCESSIBILITY** In preparation of the upcoming WCAG 2.1 Level AA accessibility deadline set by the U.S. Department of Justice, the university has made several resources available to help you quickly and easily ensure that your

course materials are up to federal standards. Universities are required by law to make course materials accessible by April 27, 2027. To assist you in this process, the Center for Teaching & Learning offers workshops, a training course, videos, how-to guides, checklists, and other tools. Actions for faculty:

- i. You will be added to the required training course, which will launch in GeorgiaVIEW/D2L on Monday, Sept. 14.
 - ii. Register for a workshop (hybrid workshops will be offered throughout the fall term) by visiting our [Registration Page](#).
 - iii. Carefully review your course materials in the LMS, identifying those marked by Blackboard Ally as needing attention — a green, yellow or red gauge will identify these documents. The tool also explains exactly what needs to be done and how to fix it to ensure the documents meet federal standards.
 - iv. Replace inaccessible documents with corrected ones — once corrected, the Blackboard Ally gauge will display as green.
 - v. For questions or assistance, contact the Center for Teaching and Learning at 478-445-2520 or ctl@gcsu.edu.
- b. **SIMPLE SYLLABUS** Simple Syllabus also now has an accessibility-checker built into the platform. While you're updating your course materials, also check your public-facing CVs to make sure they are up to federal standards. The deadline for updating these materials is **Oct. 12, 2026**.
- c. **BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE** Reduced Credit Degree was approved at the August BOR meeting. These programs must be directly related to market demand in the area and the competency- based curriculum should be considered collaboratively with industry partners.
- d. **REIMAGINING FIRST YEAR COMPOSITION AND MATH** The USG is leading an initiative called Reimagining First Year Composition and Math. Many GCSU stakeholders participated in an initial meeting with the University System Office staff on Thursday, September 3, 2026.
- e. **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS** Policy changes for International Students regarding Duration of Status for F-1 and J-1 International students effective September 15, 2026 as well as changes in determining English Proficiency for full compliance by September 1, 2027.
- f. **ONLINE CLASSES** The Provost's Office provided the USG a report regarding the number of online classes for Fall 2025. The university system office is gathering data on the number of online classes that are taking place across the system.
- g. **FAIR USE CHECKLIST** Copyright requirements and the Fair Use Checklist that can be found on the Russell Library Website. These resources were also referenced in the September Provost's Notes.
- h. **AI @ GCSU** website is live at gcsu.edu/ai. You can find Best Practices and other AI information.
- i. **AI STRATEGIC TASK FORCE** The Provost will soon charge an AI Strategic Task Force to operationalize AI policies and best practices across Academic Affairs.
- j. **UPCOMING RECRUITMENT EVENT DATES** Additional information regarding participation and specific responsibilities will be shared throughout the year as plans develop.

- i. Senior Preview Day - Saturday, September 26, 2026
- ii. President's Scholarship Competition - Thursday, December 3, 2026 (Reception) & Friday, December 4, 2026 (Competition)
- iii. Sophomore Explore Day - Friday, February 12, 2027
- iv. Admitted Student Day - Saturday, March 6, 2027
- v. Junior Day - Saturday, April 17, 2027

You can reach out to Frances Roberts, Assistant Director of New Student Programs, at frances.roberts@gcsu.edu with questions.

- k. **FACULTY PROFESSIONAL LEAVE PROGRAM** Policy changes were received in the Provost's Office on Tuesday, September 15th. They have been submitted to Tina Lee for uploading to the PPPM. Due to the changes in the policy, the associated rubric will need to be updated. The Provost's Office will send out the new policy and rubric as soon as possible.
- l. **DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT** Mallory Miller has been hired as the Director of Graduate Admissions and Enrollment Management effective September 1, 2026. She most recently served at Middle Georgia State University where she helped grow enrollment grow 4% year over year.
- 2. **COLLEGES AND LIBRARY**
 - a. **COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES**
 - i. **Department of Art**
 - 1. Artober at Andalusia: En Plein Air Community Day will be held Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026, from 9 a.m.–Noon at the Andalusia Farm
 - 2. XOXO: Ceramic Sculpture by Curtis Stewardson. Sept. 29–Oct. 28, 2026. A Reception will be held Oct. 7 from 5–6:30 p.m. with an artist talk at 5:30 p.m. in the Dorothy Leland Gallery, Ennis Hall.
 - ii. **Department of Chemistry, Physics, & Mathematics** Five Chemistry Majors presented at the International Sol-Gel Conference in Lisbon, Portugal. All five students in Dr. Catrena Lisse's chemistry research lab were accepted to present their research at the highly competitive conference held August 31–September 4 in Lisbon, Portugal.
 - iii. **Department of English** Visiting Writers Series: Alumni Reading — Mary Kay McBrayer & Garrett Curbow, MFA in Creative Writing, Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m., The Campus Black Box Theatre.
 - iv. **Department of History and Geography** A History of Ghost: The Alchemy of Expropriating Family History to Conjure Fiction. Center for Georgia Studies & Flannery O'Connor Institute for the Humanities. Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026, 2:00–3:15 p.m., Pat Peterson Museum Education Room.
 - v. **Department of Music**
 - 1. Ballots & Ballads: Singing the Presidency in the 19th Century will be held Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2026, at 6 p.m. in the Magnolia Ballroom.
 - 2. Jazz at the Magnolia (Eighth Annual Community Event). Sponsored by Allied Arts & GCSU Music on Saturday, Sept. 19,

2026, at 7:30 p.m. in the Magnolia Ballroom.

- vi. **Department of Psychological Science** What Matters, Why? (Psychological Science Faculty Showcase Series). Dr. Tsu-Ming Chiang, at 2:30 p.m. on Sept. 23, 2026, in A&S 1-67.
- vii. **Department of Theatre & Dance** GCSU Department of Theatre & Dance presented at the USG Foundation Gala. Four COAS students performed at the USG Foundation's Regents' Scholarship & Awards Gala on Aug. 22 at the Georgia Aquarium, marking the first time GCSU theatre and dance students have been invited to the event.

b. **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

- i. **Dr. Rob Sumowski** was selected as the keynote speaker for the Georgia Educational Research Association (GERA) conference.
- ii. **Dr. Joannie Brillant** Two lessons developed by Dr. Joanie Brillant were published in *New Ways of Teaching Younger Learners* by TESOL Press.
- iii. **Dr. Stacie Pettit**, Chair of the Department of Teacher Education, participated in the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Department Chair Leadership Institute in Washington, D.C. Dr. Pettit also participated in peer leadership consulting, which provided opportunities to collaborate with department chairs facing similar challenges.
- iv. **The 22nd Annual Collegiate Middle Level Association (CMLA) Summit** will be held Friday, September 25, in Kilpatrick Hall. Hosted by the student professional organization CMLA, this student-led event will bring together middle-level faculty and teacher candidates from across the Southeast.
- v. **Study Abroad** The College has received approval for three study abroad programs in Italy, East Africa, and The Bahamas.
- vi. **Faculty Searches** The College is conducting searches for four tenure-track faculty positions. The Department of Professional Learning and Innovation is seeking an Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, while the Department of Teacher Education is seeking Assistant Professors of Secondary Education and Special Education. The College is also seeking an open-rank Professor of Education who will work across the College. The anticipated start dates are January or August 2027.

c. **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

- i. **The Society for Simulation in Healthcare Accreditation Team** was on site September 11th to visit the Simulation and Translational Research Center, which currently has provisional status. Results should be available in December.
- ii. **The School of Health and Human Performance** will host its Annual Professional Development & Networking Dinner on November 5, 2026, at 5:30 PM and the COHS Leadership Board will participate in this mentorship event.
- iii. **The Center for Health and Social Issues** continues to seek a means of adding an advanced practice nurse to the Mobile Health Unit's outreach

efforts.

d. **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY**

- i. **Executive Forum** The CoBT will host two Executive Forum speakers this fall semester on September 28 and November 16.
- ii. **An Executive-in-Residence** will engage with the campus community from September 28–30.
- iii. **Dean’s Student Advisory Council** Members of the Dean’s Student Advisory Council will participate in three interactive sessions showcasing liberal arts in action on October 15 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of GCSU’s designation as Georgia’s Public Liberal Arts University.
- iv. **Atkinson Honors Awards Ceremony** The CoBT has secured a gift from Exchange Bank to be the naming sponsor of the Atkinson Honors Awards Ceremony for the next five years.
- v. **Accreditation** The CoBT is actively preparing for the upcoming AACSB and ABET accreditation reports.

e. **UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

- i. **New Library Resources** Two new resources are now available to support faculty and student research:
 1. The American Psychological Association (APA) Style Manual Online
 2. IMPLAN, an economic analysis tool
- ii. **Affordable Learning Georgia (ALG)**, an initiative of the University System of Georgia that provides affordable course materials, seeks proposals for Round 30 of its Affordable Materials Grant program. The deadline to submit an intent to apply to the Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects is September 21. Contact Paula Knight, library champion for ALG, at paula.knight@gcsu.edu for more information.
- iii. **Study Room Reporting System** Beginning this semester, a study room reporting system was implemented during the fall term to promote student accountability for maintaining the condition of study rooms and to help ensure the library remains a welcoming environment for all users.
- iv. **New Employees** Two new employees have joined the library’s team. Melissa Anderson, Associate Director of Collection and Resource Services and Kiana Williams, Administrative Assistant I.

3. **SCHOOLS AND HONORS COLLEGE**

a. **THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**

- i. **Graduate Student Withdrawals & Graduate Student Retention Efforts** As of September 14, 2026, a total of 54 graduate students have withdrawn from Fall 2026 term. The “Come Back Strong” re-enrollment communication plan is in progress. The communication plan encourages withdrawn graduate students to update their graduate admissions and re-enroll spring ‘27 or summer ‘26. The re-enrollment communication plan includes personalized emails and phone calls to students.
- ii. **Graduate Research Travel Grants** The Graduate School is accepting applications for the fall 2026 cycle of the Graduate Research Travel Grants program. The maximum award amount is up to \$750. The

application is available on The Graduate School website, and the submission deadline is October 15.

- iii. **Graduate Opportunities** The Graduate School sponsors opportunities for graduate students to engage in a range of activities and share their knowledge and experiences for real-world success. The following opportunities are currently available and planned.

1. **Navigate: Lunch 'n Learn Series** Online programming: Introduction to Library Resources; Beyond the Books: Building Healthy Daily Habits. These pre-recorded presentations are available for viewing on the GCSUNavigate YouTube channel.
2. **Graduate Student Writing Retreat** There will be a Graduate Student Writing Retreat, October 3.
3. **Morning Pour** Coffee, Conversation & Connection with The Graduate School.
4. **Meet-and-Greet** College-specific meet-and-great opportunity exclusive for graduate assistants.
5. **Graduate Research Showcase in the Knowledge Box** As of April 1, 2026, the Graduate Research Showcase in the Knowledge Box had 28,434 downloads of graduate student scholarships from 172 countries. The 10 countries/regions represented includes, the United States, Singapore, Brazil, China, the United Kingdom, Viet Nam, the Philippines, India, Canada, and Germany. The United States showed the highest number of downloads of 14,926 followed by Singapore with 1,713 downloads.

b. **HONORS COLLEGE & NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

- i. **Legends of Honors** On Sept. 16, GCSU Honors alumnus Cameron Watts ('20, Economics) led a Zoom-based Legends of Honors session on "Innovations to Empower the Everyday Voter." Mr. Watts recently completed his MPA at the University of Pennsylvania and serves as a Program Manager for Change.org's new Civic Dialogues initiative.
- ii. **Honors Convocation**, at which new incoming Honors students will be inducted into Eta Sigma Alpha (the Honors student association), will be held at 1:00 PM on October 4 in Magnolia Ballroom. Faculty are invited to process in their regalia. [RSVP here](#).
- iii. **Georgia Collegiate Honors Conference** The Honors College will host the [Georgia Collegiate Honors Conference](#) at GCSU on Feb. 26-27, 2027.
- iv. **Faculty Fellows** The National Scholarships Office is pleased to announce its inaugural cohort of faculty fellows. Faculty fellows will promote national scholarships opportunities for undergraduates and graduate students to students and colleagues and will also learn and help share best practices in personal statement writing and letter of recommendation writing. Faculty Fellows will serve 2-year terms, which will be renewed by the Dean of the Honors College.
 1. Scott Buchanan, Government & Sociology
 2. Melanie Devore, Biological & Environmental Sciences
 3. Daniel Holcomb, World Languages & Culture

- v. Hasitha Mahabaduge, Chemistry, Physics, & Mathematics
- c. **SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**
- d. **Afterschool Achievement**
 - i. **School Support** Afterschool Achievement is supporting 140 Oak Hill Middle School students and 130 Lakeview Academy students offering GCSU students service-learning opportunities through supplemental programs offered to youth during afterschool times 3:30-6:30 pm. If you are interested in partnering, please contact Sequena Stanton, Director of Afterschool Achievement at 478.445.5613. [Afterschool Achievement](#).
 - ii. **Speaker Series** High Achievers Program Coordinator, Kenneth Daniels, is soliciting support for guest speakers in the HAP speaker series which provides supplemental activities for the High Achievers Program ([High Achievers Newsletter](#)). To sign up as a guest speaker for the High Achievers Program, please email Program Coordinator, Mr. Kenneth Daniels at kenneth.daniels@gcsu.edu or contact Mr. Daniels at 478.445.8509
- e. **Academic Outreach** Participation is encouraged in Adopt-A-Stream Water Monitoring activity on Friday, October 9 at Lake Laurel's Champion Creek, Andalusia (Tobler Creek) and Greenway's Tanyard Creek. Visit [Academic Outreach Adopt-A-Stream](#) site to get involved. Reach out to Ruth Eilers (ruth.eilers@gcsu.edu) to collaborate and get involved.
- f. **Communities in Schools Milledgeville Baldwin County CISMBC** is planning a *Shop with a Bobcat* joint community outreach event on December 5. Contact Courtney Bentley, courtney.bentley@gcsu.edu to volunteer and get involved.
- g. **Continuing & Professional Education** The Department of Continuing & Professional Education has partnered with GCSU's Chief Human Resources Officer, Eric Johansen, to provide a SHRM certification prep course. All GCSU's employees get a discount on selected courses. [Discover your continuing education opportunities here!](#) Have an idea for a program, contact Angie Woodham, Director of Continuing & Professional Education at angie.woodham@gcsu.edu.
- h. **Historic Museums**
 - i. **Pumpkin Carving & Painting** at Andalusia Saturday, October 24, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. [Pumpkin Carving & Painting](#).
 - ii. **Death After Dark Tours** [Register now](#) to participate in Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion Death After Dark Tours on Friday, October 23, 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m. These tours fill quickly, so register before they vanish!
 - iii. **Upcoming Events** Additional programming is coming to Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion and Andalusia! Follow us on Facebook at [@GeorgiasOldGovernorsMansion](#) and [@AndalusiaFarmPage](#) to discover upcoming events!
- i. **Office of Adult Learner Services** In collaboration with The Graduate School a Graduate Writers Retreat will be hosted on Saturday, October 3 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Space is limited and [registration is required](#)
- j. **Office of the Executive Director**
 - i. **The AI in the Liberal Arts Speaker Series** will highlight and celebrate the innovative work being done by our faculty, staff, and students as they

contribute to the evolving understanding and application of AI within their disciplines. More information is [here](#).

- ii. **48hr Milly Film Festival** Participants are being sought for the 48hr Milly Film Festival set for November. Get updates and details on [Instagram](#).
- iii. Members of the Chamber of Commerce are participating in a Leadership & Management Essential program that provides them with skills to better serve their teams and the community. Participants will earn a badge

4. **OFFICES AND PROGRAMS**

a. **ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

- i. **The Office of Graduate Admissions** reports a 6% increase in new graduate enrollment from Fall 2025 to Fall 2026, reflecting continued growth and strong student interest in the university's academic offerings.
- ii. **Upcoming Graduate Program Virtual Open House Events** include the College of Education on September 23, 2026, the College of Arts & Sciences on October 27, 2026, and the College of Business & Technology on November 18, 2026, with sessions offered at 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. on each date.
- iii. **The Office of Admissions** received **10,060 applications** for the Fall 2026 term, and GCSU proudly welcomed **1,842 new freshmen**. This is the largest and one of the most academically prepared freshman class since the institution was designated as Georgia's Public Liberal Arts University in 1996.
- iv. **The Fall 2027 Freshman Application** is now open, requiring all first-year applicants to apply through the Common Application; the GCSU-specific supplemental essay has been replaced by the Common App essay. Early Action decisions are scheduled to be released in mid-November.
- v. **Dr. Gertrude Ehrlich Endowed Scholarship** The GCSU Financial Aid Team launched the administration of the Dr. Gertrude Ehrlich Endowed Scholarship for the 2026-2027 academic year, which has expanded scholarship opportunities for eligible students.
- vi. **Scholarship Tea** The GCSU Financial Aid & Scholarship team will assist University Advancement with the annual Scholarship Tea, to be held on October 16 at 2 p.m. in the Magnolia Ballroom. This event will connect donors with the students who benefit from their support.
- vii. **Midterm Grades** for all Core IMPACTS courses are due by Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 9 a.m. Faculty are strongly encouraged to submit grades for all students in all courses, as this information is essential for early intervention efforts designed to support student retention and success.
- viii. **The Fall 2026 Career & Graduate School Fair** drew 847 student attendees and featured 119 represented organizations.
- ix. **The Student Success & Retention Series' Early Alert Mini-Series** will be held in the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room on September 22 from 12 - 12:30 p.m. and September 23 from 9 - 9:30 a.m.

b. **OFFICE OF GRANTS AND SPONSORED PROJECTS**

- i. **Faculty Grant Opportunity** Affordable Learning Georgia (ALG) –

Round 30 is accepting proposals for three grant opportunities:

1. Transformation Grant: up to \$30,000
 2. Continuous Improvement Grant: up to \$10,000
 3. Research Grant: up to \$10,000
 4. Faculty interested in applying should submit their intent to apply to grants@gcsu.edu by September 21, 2026, identifying the grant opportunity, team lead, and team members.
 5. GCSU Internal Deadline: Final application materials are due to the Office of Grants & Sponsored Projects (OGSP) by October 2, 2026, to allow time for institutional review and submission.
 6. ALG Proposal Deadline: October 9, 2026
- ii. **Research Compliance and Federal Policy Updates** GCSU is finalizing new research compliance policies, including those to address Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs, Required Research Security Compliance (RECR), Safe and Inclusive Working Environments for Off-Campus or Off-Site Research, and Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC). These policies strengthen institutional research security and compliance and are increasingly important for faculty pursuing federal funding. Faculty should be aware of these requirements as they develop and submit proposals.
- iii. **External Funding Opportunities and Trends**
1. OGSP continues to monitor and disseminate federal agency updates that may affect proposal preparation and award management, including proposed changes to NSF policies and guidance.
 2. Information has been circulated regarding proposed revisions to NSF's Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG), which will be replaced by the new NSF Guidance on Financial Assistance (GFA). Faculty who regularly pursue NSF funding are encouraged to monitor these changes. OGSP will notify the GCSU community when the revisions are finalized and implementation requirements are available.
- iv. **Proposal Development and Submission Support**
1. OGSP continues to support faculty and staff with proposal development and submission activities for federal and non-federal funding opportunities, including collaborative research proposals and external partnerships. Support includes proposal review, budget development, compliance review, and institutional approvals.
 2. To support timely review and submission, faculty are encouraged to notify OGSP of their intent to pursue funding 45–60 days before federal or state grant deadlines and at least 45 days before private or local grant deadlines. Advance notice is particularly important to allow for institutional approvals, compliance reviews, and solidifying external partnerships.

c. **INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH**

- i. **Bobcats FIRST** launched the “No Wrong Door” campaign to invite students to connect with faculty. Faculty are encouraged to display their decal on their office doors as a symbol of an open door for conversation and support. Email emily.jarvis@gcsu.edu to have a No Wrong Door session at your next department or committee meeting.
 - ii. **Wellness Day** Save the date for GCSU Wellness Day on March 2, 2027. All students will take two institutional assessments in the morning, and all are welcome at Fresh Check Day in the afternoon. More information will be coming soon. Check <https://www.gcsu.edu/wellbeing/gcsu-wellness-day> for updates.
 - d. **MURACE (MENTORED UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ENDEAVORS)**
 - i. **Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference (GURC)** GCSU will host the 15th annual GURC in Milledgeville on November 6-7, 2026, organized by the MURACE office. GURC is a statewide, regional, multidisciplinary conference to showcase undergraduates’ original research projects or creative endeavors conducted with faculty and staff mentors. It also provides networking opportunities for undergraduates in career and graduate schools. GCSU undergraduate students are encouraged to submit their projects.
 - 1. Submission due date: September 28, 2026
 - 2. Faculty Approval date: September 30, 2026
 - 3. The [Submission Form](#) (click)
 - 4. Visit the [MURACE webpage](#) for further information.
 - ii. **Research Day 2027** will be April 21, 2027. Classes will be reassigned for the entire campus to participate. The submission Form will be available later this semester. MURACE invites all disciplines to consider designating the day to celebrate their student success by presenting senior capstone projects or discipline-specific events with classes reassigned.
 - iii. **New Coordinator** MURACE has welcomed Katie Smith to the team as the new MURACE Coordinator.
 - iv. **Contact** Email murace@gcsu.edu if you have any questions.
 - e. **THE MONTESSORI SCHOOL**
 - i. **Currently Serving** 23 Georgia College employee families and 14 Baldwin County Board of Education families.
 - ii. **Total Student Enrollment** 101, 8 classrooms ranging in age from 6 weeks to 4-years-old.
 - iii. **Waitlist** 87 students
 - iv. **Year-over-Year Retention Rate** 99%
5. **CENTERS AND INSTITUTES**
- a. **CENTER FOR TEACHING & LEARNING**
 - i. **Student Rating of Instruction Survey (SRIS)** Department Admins should mark all courses NOT being surveyed in Banner by October 10 and the Faculty Objective Selection Form opens on October 16.
 - ii. **Affordable Materials Grants (Round 30)** The submission deadline is Oct. 9.

- iii. **Peer Feedback on Teaching (PFoTs)** are offered from August 31 through September 25 and then again from September 28 through October 9.
- iv. **Small Group Instructional Diagnosis (SGIDs)** are offered from October 12 through November 6.
- v. **Accessibility Essentials** Creating Accessible Documents — 9/22 @ 3:00 p.m. or 9/23 @ 9:00 a.m.
- vi. **Accessibility Essentials** Using Accessibility Tools & Features in GeorgiaVIEW/D2L — 9/29@ 9:00 a.m. Or 9/30 @ 3:00 p.m.
- vii. **Accessibility Essentials** Open Lab — 10/5 @ 11:00 a.m. Or 10/6 @ 11:00 a.m.
- b. **GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER**
 - i. **GCSU Global Fair** The Global Education Center will host the university-wide GCSU Global Fair on Front Campus on Wednesday, September 23rd. All students and members of the university community are invited to see the full range of 2027 program offerings.
 - ii. **GCSU Global Passport** The Global Education Center is beginning a standardized onboarding and advising process for all outbound study abroad students through the GCSU Global Passport, a centralized platform that guides students through a consistent sequence of pre-departure milestones—including application submission, health and safety training, visa and travel guidance, and orientation—paired with defined advising touchpoints so every student receives the same quality and consistency of support regardless of which advisor manages their case.
- c. **INSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP AND THE PUBLIC GOOD**
 - i. **Leader Academy** GCSU enrolled 270 new first-year students in the Leadership Academy, an eight-month leadership-development program focused on leadership and the public good
 - ii. **GEM Program** Twenty-seven students have been admitted into the thirty-second cohort of the GEM Program. GEM is a yearlong leadership and public service program administered jointly between GCSU and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.
 - iii. **Usery Forum on Leadership** On Tuesday, September 15th, the Usery Forum on Leadership hosted Greg Bluestein, chief political reporter for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Registration for future events is available online at ideas.leadcreatively.org.
 - iv. **TEDxGeorgiaCollege** will be hosted on Tuesday, November 10th in Russell Auditorium. Ticket sales will open on September 30th and are available at tedxgeorgiacollege.com.
- d. **THE LEARNING CENTER**
 - i. **Student Staff Trainings** were held throughout the month of August.
 - ii. **Supplemental Instruction** Call for Spring 2027 SI support went out to deans and department chairs with a deadline to request of September 17, COB. An announcement will be posted on Front Page.
 - iii. **Recruitment** Engaging in heavy recruitment for spring student staff
 - iv. **Excel Bootcamps** Round 3 for Excel Bootcamps has begun with over 400

students served thus far.

- v. **Algebra Review** workshops had close to 200 students who attended the 2-day reviews.
- vi. **Attendance with All Services** Drop-in tutoring, SI sessions, Math Lab, are up over 50% compared to last fall, first 4 weeks.

e. **SANDRA DUNAGAN DEAL CENTER FOR EARLY LANGUAGE AND LITERACY**

- i. **Dr. Amanda Rutter** was selected by the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education as a Georgia Education Policy Fellow for 2026-27.
- ii. **Georgia Reads** The Deal Center was awarded \$50,000 from GOSA (Governor's Office of Student Achievement) to evaluate the 2026 Georgia Reads community awardees.
- iii. **Governor's Summit on Early Language and Literacy** Executed our largest Governor's Summit on Early Language and Literacy with 301 attendees (a 58% increase from 2025), including 14 members of the Georgia General Assembly.
- iv. **The Summit and the Dinner with the Deal Center Fundraising Gala** garnered unprecedented numbers with 169 attendees with fundraising totaling \$61,645 (a 45% increase from 2025).
- v. **Advancing Leadership and Literacy Systems Alignment** In collaboration with five Georgia Regional Educational Service Agencies (RESAS), the Deal Center is serving over 300 school leaders through the Advancing Leadership and Literacy Systems Alignment training cohort.

f. **THE WRITING CENTER**

- i. **Student Support** Fall semester tutoring is underway across all modalities: individual in-person appointments, drop-in hours, online consultations, and asynchronous feedback, including evening and weekend availability
- ii. **Outreach** From the start of the semester through early October, the Writing Center has conducted 52 class visits (43 library-based visits for English 1101/1102, about 9 for other courses). Additional outreach included the Back-to-School Block Party, an APA workshop for Psychology Honors Society, a Biological/Environmental Sciences Meet & Greet, and two tabling events.
- iii. **Tutor Ed** Dr. Allison VandeVoort (Biology) is leading a professional development session on scientific writing for Writing Center tutors this fall.
- iv. **Graduate Student Writing Retreat** Writing Center staff will support the Graduate Student Writing Retreat on Saturday, October 3, with staff available throughout the day for individual consultations.
- v. **WAC/Writing-Enriched Curriculum** Continuing collaboration with the College of Education into the fall semester.
- vi. **Dr. Joy Bracewell**, Director of The Writing Center, was selected as a workshop leader for the Thomas R. Watson Conference at the University of Louisville in November. She also co-authored a chapter, "From Prompting to Practice: Authentic Thinking, Tutor Agency, and the Conditions AI Cannot Provide," in progress for the edited collection

STAFF COUNCIL REPORT — KELLY PRIOR, CHAIR

1. **RETREAT** We held our Staff Council yearly retreat at the beginning of August. We heard from the executive cabinet about events and activities going on for the upcoming academic year, the council discussed goals for the upcoming year and how we would achieve those, selected the committee chairs, and Angela Landers from the USG came and did a teambuilding exercise.
2. **FIRST MEETING** We had our first meeting for the new academic year yesterday, discussed our upcoming events and ways we could become even more involved across campus.
3. **2027 USG STAFF COUNCIL CONFERENCE** We will be hosting the 2027 USG Staff Council Conference next academic year. This will be a great time for us to showcase our campus to other USG institutions.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT — SAM SAMIYA, PRESIDENT

1. **NEW OFFICE SPACE** The Student Government Association has officially moved into a new office space within the Student Engagement Office, located in Rooms 142 and 143. Members of the university community are encouraged to stop by, meet with members of the SGA Executive Board, and learn more about how SGA can support students.
2. **OPEN HOUSE** SGA will also host an Open House on Friday, September 25, from 1:00–2:00 PM. All members of the Georgia College & State University community are welcome to attend, meet our student leaders, and learn more about the work of the 90th SGA.
3. **SGA SENATE MEETINGS** Members of the university community are also more than welcome to attend SGA Senate, held every Friday at 2:00 PM in Donahoo Lounge.
4. **ONGOING COMMITMENT** SGA remains committed to serving students, listening to their concerns, and connecting them with the appropriate resources and support across campus.

ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE — ARNAB SENGUPTA, CHAIR

1. **NO WRITTEN REPORT**

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE — BRAD FOWLER, CHAIR

1. **NO MEETING, NO REPORT**

BELONGING AND INCLUSION POLICY COMMITTEE — HEDWIG FRAUNHOFER, CHAIR

1. **OPERATING PROCEDURES** BIPC discussed and unanimously approved its Operating Procedures for 2026-2027.
2. **POSITIVE WORKING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT POLICY** In addition, specific discussion points included committee scope and charges; a review of last year's BIPC initiatives; and the desirability and challenges of creating a policy promoting a positive

working and learning environment. In preparation for the October meeting, committee members will find and share policies addressing ethical conduct that are already in existence at GCSU, other institutions of higher education, or professional organizations.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF UNIVERSITY SENATE — JOYCE NORRIS-TAYLOR, CHAIR

1. **AI POLICY REVISION** ECUS has approved and sent to University Senate Motion Number 2627.ECUS.003.P to approve the AI Policy language in response to USG policy review.
2. **POLICY ON POLICIES** ECUS is currently reviewing the proposed Policy on Policies. Charles Norton came to our 9/4/2026 meeting. We currently have some questions we are addressing before we are ready to bring it to the University Senate for approval.
3. **Senate Account Updates**
 - a. Foundation account balance: \$1099.98
 - b. State budget account balance: \$3,977.00
 - c. Donation account balance: \$64.17

FACULTY AFFAIRS POLICY COMMITTEE — CHRISTINE MUTITI, CHAIR

1. **OPERATING PROCEDURES** FAPC voted to approve the operating procedures with a few minor revisions.
2. **SUMMER SERVICE EXPECTATIONS** What are the expectations if faculty are asked to do service in the summer, for example compensation or ability to say no. The committee will determine whether the USG or GCSU has a policy addressing summer service expectations for 10-month faculty. Examples discussed included requests for faculty to assist with curriculum preparation, serve on search committees, summer orientation, or advise students during the summer.
3. **PROFESSIONAL LEAVE** The committee discussed (but did not resolve) the issue of how candidates are assessed to be put forward for professional leave. This stems from one of the committee recommendations from last year to continue to examine access and equity across academic units, including continuity planning for programs in which faculty are difficult to replace. The committee noted that rubrics linked in the latest Provost's notes may not reflect the most recent policy revisions. Specifically, FAPC previously approved a motion to remove "seniority" from the policy language, but that change does not appear in the current version of the rubric.

RESOURCES, PLANNING AND INSTITUTIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE — NATALIE TOOMEY, CHAIR

1. **OPERATING PROCEDURES** The committee reviewed and approved its Operating Procedures for the 2026-27 academic year.
2. **IRWIN STREET PARKING** The committee discussed ridership on the Irwin Street parking shuttle service, which has exceeded 19,000 riders so far this academic year. To accommodate this demand, a sixth shuttle will be added, with the goal of achieving five-minute service intervals.
3. **CLASSROOM AVAILABILITY DURING FINALS WEEK** The committee discussed ongoing challenges in securing adequate classroom space during finals week, including:

- a. Limited availability of large-capacity rooms, requiring some classes to be split across two or more rooms.
- b. Insufficient rooms to separate students requiring testing accommodations, compounded by a shortage of proctors available to support these students during finals week.

STUDENT AFFAIRS POLICY COMMITTEE — JOHN MOORE, CHAIR

1. **OPERATING PROCEDURES** were unanimously approved
2. **GREEN ST CROSSWALK** Discussed the Greene St. crosswalk by Adams Hall and the reflecting pool. Looking to improve visibility, lighting, and overall safety for students.
3. **STUDENT RELOCATION** Discussed the relocation of scholarship students to off campus apartments following large admission classes. Looking into who to bring to the discussion.
4. **ACADEMIC ADVISING TURNOVER** Causing stress among the students. Looking to develop a more sustainable system.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS — BRAD FOWLER, CHAIR

1. **NO WRITTEN REPORT**

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

1. **UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE April 17, 2026; May 6, 2026; August 28, 2026**
 - a. **Action Items**
 - i. **April Meeting**
 1. CoBT: Department of Information Systems & Computer Science. Modification of the Requirements for the Computer Science Major. Change the Math requirements—Replace the optional additional math courses with a required MATH 4400. Effective Fall 2026.
 - a. Jenq-Foung Yao attending as representative.
 - b. The Math Department has also approved this decision.
 - c. Unanimously approved with amendment (Change “the optional additional math course” to “the optional additional math courses.”).
 2. CoBT: Department of Information Systems & Computer Science. Modification of the Requirements for the BS in Data Science. Effective Fall 2026.
 - a. Jenq-Foung Yao attending as representative.
 - b. Unanimously approved.
 3. CoBT: Department of Management, Marketing, & Logistics. Modification of the Requirements for the Concentration in Entrepreneurship. Swap the old Entrepreneurship Concentration to the newly added courses. Effective Spring 2027.
 - a. Scott Manley attending as representative.

- b. Unanimously approved.
- 4. CoBT: Department of Management, Marketing, & Logistics. Modification of the Requirements for the Minor in Entrepreneurship. Swap the old Entrepreneurship Minor to the newly added courses. Effective Spring 2027.
 - a. Scott Manley attending as representative.
 - b. Unanimously approved.
- 5. COBT: Department of Accounting & Business Law. New Minor in Accounting. Effective Fall 2027.
 - a. Scott Manley attending as representative.
 - b. Ask the department to address the following concerns about the proposal:
 - i. Change “Open to all disciplines” to “Open to all disciplines in the College of Business & Technology.”
 - ii. The lack of a limit of the number courses that can be double counted
 - iii. Minimum grade required for students enrolled in the minor (‘C’ or higher for all courses)
 - iv. Faculty, resource, and course capacity for students to enroll in major and new minor.
- 6. A&S: Department of Philosophy, Religion and Liberal Studies. Modification of all Concentration in the IDST Major. Change the Foundation Section (Area F) so that the inclusion of World Languages courses at the 1002, 2001, & 2002 levels are optional.
 - a. Sunita Manian attending as representative.
 - b. Unanimously approved with amendment (Change “Modification of all Concentration in the IDST Major. Change the Foundation Section (Area F) so that the inclusion of World Languages courses at the 1002, 2001, & 2002 levels are optional.” to “Modification of all Concentrations in the IDST Major. Change the Foundation Section (Area F) so that the inclusion of World Languages courses at the 1002, 2001, & 2002 levels are options.”).
- 7. A&S: Department of Communication. Modification of Existing Major in Mass Communication, including Major Emphases in Strategic Communication, Broadcast Journalism, & Film/TV/Audio Production. An increase from 12-18 credits in the required major courses & Change in the required methods course for Film/TV/Audio Production and an option for Broadcast Journalism.
 - a. Michael Dreher attending as representative.
 - b. COMM 3300 will be moved from Field of Study to Major courses. COMM 1110 will take its place in Field of Study courses.

- c. Unanimously approved with amendment (Change “Modification of Existing Major in Mass Communication” to “Modification of Existing Major in Mass Communication (Communications).”).
 - 8. A&S: Department of Communication. Creation of a New Emphasis in Communication Studies for the BA in Communication.
 - a. Michael Dreher attending as representative.
 - b. Unanimously approved.
- ii. May Meeting
 - 1. A&S: Department of Philosophy, Religion and Liberal Studies. Deactivate Interdisciplinary Studies Minors and Concentrations: Black Studies and Urban Studies Minors and IDST major concentration in European Studies, Race and Social Justice and Gender and Sexuality.
 - a. Sunita Manian attending as representative.
 - b. 7 voted in favor; 4 abstained
 - c. Approved
 - 2. Addition to the Agenda – A&S: Department of Philosophy, Religion and Liberal Studies. Deactivate Asian Studies Certificate.
 - a. Sunita Manian attending as representative.
 - b. 9 voted in favor; 2 abstaining
 - c. Approved
 - 3. A&S: Department of Philosophy, Religion and Liberal Studies. Modify Concentrations in Interdisciplinary Studies: Modify the requirements of the DST concentrations in Society, Religion and Human Experience; Environment and Society; and Individualized Studies so that they carry the same credit hours.
 - a. Sunita Manian attending as representative.
 - b. Unanimously approved.
 - 4. A&S: Department of Philosophy, Religion and Liberal Studies. Rename Concentrations in Interdisciplinary Studies: Change Environmental Justice and Culture to Environment and Society; Change the Culture, Religion and Society to Society, Religion, and Human Experience.
 - a. Sunita Manian attending as representative.
 - b. 10 voted in favor; 1 abstained
 - c. Approved
 - 5. A&S: Biological & Environmental Sciences. Modify courses counting as “Upper-level ENSC Courses.” Rename the group of elective courses “Upper Level Lab-Based ENSC Courses.”
 - a. Kalina Manoylov and Allison VandeVoort attending as representatives.
 - b. Unanimously approved.
- iii. August Meeting
 - 1. **Election of Officers**

- a. **Chair** – Angel Abney (By acclamation)
 - b. **Vice Chair** – Miriam Jordan (By acclamation)
 - c. **Secretary** – Alex Berglund (By acclamation)
- b. **New Business**
 - i. April Meeting
 - 1. Changes in Bylaws
 - a. First reading occurred on March 27, 2026.
 - b. Article II: Membership and Meetings the UCC
 - i. Elected Members: Change College of Business to College of Business & Technology
 - ii. Appointed Members: Change membership from Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Academic Affairs Assistant to Provost Appointee (18 members to 17 members)
 - c. Unanimously approved.
 - ii. May Meeting—None
- c. August Meeting
 - i. Accepted the Operating Procedures (revised August 30, 2024) for use during the 2026-2027 academic year – Unanimously approved
 - ii. Accepted the Bylaws (revised April 17, 2026) to be used during the 2026-2027 academic year – Unanimously approved
- d. **Modern Campus Curriculum**
 - i. Accounts were created for all UCC Members. All logged into Modern Campus and they were introduced to the program.
- e. **Information Items**
 - i. College of Arts & Science
 - 1. **New Course Proposals**
 - a. Department of Communication. COMM 3910: Introduction to Quantitative Research. Effective Fall 2027.
 - b. Department of Communication. COMM 2300: Rhetoric in Contemporary Life. Effective Fall 2027.
 - 2. **Modification of Existing Courses**
 - a. Department of Communication. RHET 4100. Instructional Communication. Change course to COMM 4650 instead of RHET 4100. Effective Fall 2026.
 - b. Department of Communication. MSCM 3363. Current Issues in Advertising. Change course to COMM 3540 instead of MSCM 3363. Effective Fall 2026.
 - c. Department of Communication. MSCM 3355. MSCM Service Learning. Delete Course. Effective Fall 2026.
 - d. Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences. BIOL 4715. Oceanography. Change Pre-Requisite: Add permission of instructor as a pre-req. Effective Spring 2027.
 - e. Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences. ENSC 4715. Oceanography. Change Pre-Requisite: Add

- permission of instructor as a pre-req. Effective Spring 2027.
- f. Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences. BIOL 4260. Environmental Toxicology. Change Course Title to Environmental and Organismal Toxicology & Change Catalog Description. Effective Spring 2027.
 - g. Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences. ENSC 4260. Environmental Toxicology. Change Course Title to Environmental and Organismal Toxicology & Change Catalog Description. Effective Spring 2027.
 - h. Department of Theatre and Dance. THEA 3100. Theatre History I. Change Course Title to Theatre History to 1800. Effective ASAP.
 - i. Department of Theatre and Dance. THEA 4950. Special Topics. Change: Remove Permission of Instructor. Effective Summer 2026.
 - j. Department of Theatre and Dance. THEA 3300. Acting Styles. Change: Remove Pre-Requisite THEA 2150. Effective ASAP.
 - k. Department of Theatre and Dance. THEA 3110. Theatre History II. Change Course Title to Theatre History Since 1800. Effective Summer 2026.
 - l. Department of Theatre and Dance. THEA 2940. Sophomore Theatre Practicum. Change: Remove Pre-Requisite THEA 1200 & THEA 1200L. Effective ASAP.
 - m. Department of Theatre and Dance. THEA 1300. Introduction to Acting. Change: Remove Pre-Requisite & Major/Minor Restriction. Effective ASAP.
 - n. Department of Theatre and Dance. THEA 4350. Directing 2. Change: Remove Permission of Instructor. Effective ASAP.
 - o. Department of Theatre and Dance. THEA 3700. Stage Make Up. Change: Remove Theatre Major/Minor restriction. Effective ASAP.
 - p. Department of Theatre and Dance. THEA 4310. Solo Performance. Change: Remove Pre-requisite THEA 1300 and Add Pre-requisite THEA 2300. Effective ASAP.
 - q. Department of Theatre and Dance. THEA 4210. Advanced Lighting Design. Change: Remove Theatre Major/Minor restriction. Effective ASAP.
 - r. Department of Theatre and Dance. THEA 3215. Lighting Design. Change: Remove Pre-requisite THEA 1200 and THEA 1200L (lab). Effective ASAP.
 - s. Department of Theatre and Dance. THEA 1160. Stagecraft. Change: Remove Theatre Major/Minor restriction. Effective ASAP.

- t. Department of Theatre and Dance. THEA 1200. Introduction to Design. Change: Remove Pre-requisite THEA 1160. Effective ASAP.
 - u. Department of Theatre and Dance. DANC 3150. Modern Workshop. Change: Remove Pre-Requisite THEA 3215. Effective Spring 2027.
 - v. Department of Theatre and Dance. DANC 3100. Ballet Workshop. Change: Remove Pre-Requisite. Effective Spring 2027.
 - w. Department of Theatre and Dance. DANC 2150. Modern II. Change: Remove Pre-Requisite. Effective Spring 2027.
 - x. Department of Theatre and Dance. DANC 4200. Dance Performance Practicum. Change: Remove Pre-Requisite. Effective Spring 2027.
 - y. Department of Theatre and Dance. DANC 2100. Ballet II. Change: Remove Pre-requisite. Effective Spring 2027.
- ii. College of Education
 - 1. **New Course Proposals—None**
 - 2. **Modification of Existing Courses**
 - a. Department of Middle Grades Education. EDMG 3004. Seminar II. Change: Course Hour load will increase from 2 to 3 credit hours. Effective Fall 2027.
 - b. Department of Middle Grades Education. EDMG 4960. Internship. Change: Course Hour load will increase from 3 to 4 credit hours. Effective Fall 2027.
 - c. Department of Middle Grades Education. EDMG 3003. Seminar I. Change: Course Hour load will increase from 2 to 3 credit hours. Effective Fall 2027.
 - d. Department of Middle Grades Education. EDMG 4003. Seminar III. Change: Course Hour load will increase from 2 to 3 credit hours. Effective Fall 2027.
 - e. Department of Middle Grades Education. EDMG 4001. Field Placement III. Change: Course Hour load will increase from 1 to 2 credit hours. Effective Fall 2027.
 - f. Department of Middle Grades Education. EDMG 4250. Inquiry and Reflection. Change: Course Hour load will increase from 1 to 2 credit hours. Effective Fall 2027.
- iii. College of Business & Technology
 - 1. **New Course Proposals**
 - a. Department of Information Systems & Computer Science. Data Science Program. DATA 3080: Data Visualizing & Storytelling. Effective Spring 2027.
 - b. Department of Information Systems & Computer Science. Data Science Program. DATA 3099: Data Science for Interdisciplinary Research. Effective Spring 2027.

- c. Department of Information Systems & Computer Science. MIS & MMIS Double Bobcat program. BCOM 4398: Strategic Writing AI Prompting. Effective Spring 2027.
- d. Department of Management, Marketing, & Logistics. Entrepreneurship Program. ENTR 4100: Entrepreneurship Planning. Effective Spring 2027.
- e. Department of Management, Marketing, & Logistics. Entrepreneurship Program. ENTR 3200: Entrepreneurship Experience. Effective Spring 2027.
- f. Department of Management Marketing & Logistics. Entrepreneurship Program. ENTR 3100: Entrepreneurship & New Venture Creation. Effective Spring 2027.
- g. Department of Management Marketing & Logistics. Marketing. MKTG 4150: Digital Marketing. Effective Spring 2027.
- h. Department of Economics & Finance. ECON 3137: Risk, Uncertainty & Gambling. Effective Spring 2027.

2. Modification of Existing Courses

- a. Department of Information Systems & Computer Science. CBIS 2220: Principles of Information Systems. Modification in Pre-Requisite: Add DATA 1501 as a pre-req. Effective Spring 2027.
- b. Department of Information Systems & Computer Science. CSCI 4960: IceBox Athlete Internship. Modification in hours: Set up for zero credit hours as an option. Effective Spring 2026.
- c. Department of Information Systems & Computer Science. CBIS 3210: Business Analysis. Change the course number to 4298. Effective Spring 2027.

iv. College of Health Sciences

- 1. **New Course Proposals—None**
- 2. **Modification of Existing Courses—None**

v. Library

1. **New Course Proposals**

- a. Information Studies. INFO 4040: Intellectual Freedom and Censorship.

2. GRADUATE COUNCIL April 3, 2026 (No Quorum—An email Vote on 4/22/26) & August 28, 2026

a. **Old Business**

- i. Maximum allowable credit overlap between graduate programs? More to come.

b. **New Business**

- i. All members log in to Modern Campus Curriculum (bring your laptops)
- ii. Everyone in attendance signed in to Modern Campus and roles were assigned.

c. **Action Items**

- i. Note: On April 3, there was no quorum. The committee voted via email on 4/17/26 to approve the following
 - 1. Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Computer Science for Teachers, deactivation
 - 2. Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Education and Equity, deactivation
 - 3. MACC; Moving ACCT 6115 Governmental Accounting to the accounting elective choices and adding a new course, ACCT 6110 Financial Reporting in its place as a required course.
- ii. August 28—Election of Positions
 - 1. Secretary—LaTeshia Warren
 - 2. Elect Chair—Al Mead
 - 3. Graduate Student to Serve—Plan to recruit and send names to Chair & Lyndall Muschell
 - 4. Reviewed Bylaws
 - a. Mandy Jarriel suggested an edit for clarification
 - i. Article IV—Membership, Quorum Section #
 - ii. Tabled to vote later
- iii. **College of Arts & Sciences**
 - 1. None
- iv. **College of Business & Technology**
 - 1. None
- v. **College of Education**
 - 1. None
- vi. **College of Health Sciences**
 - 1. None
- d. **Information Items**
 - i. EDFS 6504, “Special Topic” designation be removed; Art Pedagogy.
 - ii. EDFS 6466, Change from "repeatable for credit" (RP) to "not repeatable for credit" (NR).
 - iii. EDFS 6598, Change from "repeatable for credit" (RP) to "not repeatable for credit" (NR).
 - iv. EDFS 6506, “Special Topic” designation be removed; Business Pedagogy.
 - v. EDFS 5213, Change from "repeatable for credit" (RP) to "not repeatable for credit" (NR).
 - vi. EDFS 5233, Change from "repeatable for credit" (RP) to "not repeatable for credit" (NR).
 - vii. EDFS 5215, Change from "repeatable for credit" (RP) to "not repeatable for credit" (NR).
 - viii. EDFS 6505, “Special Topic” designation be removed; World Language Pedagogy.
 - ix. ACCT 6110 Financial Reporting; 3-0-3, new
 - x. BCOM 5398 Strategic Writing AI Prompting; 3-0-3, new
 - xi. CBIS 5218 Advanced Networking and Cloud Computing; 3-0-3, new
 - xii. CBIS 5298 No Title on Form; 3-0-3, new

- xiii. BIOL 5260 change title from Environmental Toxicology to Environmental and Organismal Toxicology
 - xiv. MAAI 6900 AI Solution Development (Capstone); 3-0-3, new
 - xv. DATA 6100 Applied Machine Learning; 3-0-3, new
 - xvi. MAAI 6500 Responsible AI Implementation & Governance; 3-0-3, new
 - xvii. DATA 6200 Programming for AI Applications; 3-0-3, new
 - xviii. MAAI 6400 AI Systems for Enterprises; 3-0-3, new
 - xix. MMIS 6300 Human/AI Communications; 3-0-3, new
 - xx. DATA 6000 Applied AI Fundamentals; 3-0-3, new
3. **GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE (GEC) April 9, 2026 (No Quorum—Email vote April 29) & August 28, 2026**
- a. Core-Related Course Proposals
 - i. None
 - b. GC1Y/2Y Proposals
 - i. New section proposals
 - 1. GC2Y Global Perspectives: Writing the World
 - a. Approved by email April 29
 - 2. GC2Y Global Perspectives: In Quest of the Heroic
 - a. Approved by email April 29
 - c. New Business
 - i. Election of Officers
 - 1. Jeff Turner elected as Chair unanimously
 - 2. Stephanie Austin elected as Vice-Chair unanimously
 - 3. Sara Jordan elected as Secretary unanimously
 - d. Old Business
 - i. Bylaws Revisions from Last Semester—Approved unanimously
 - ii. Development of GC Learning Outcomes for Areas P, A and S from Cara Smith
 - iii. GEC has reviewed these and are asking for feedback from faculty (Due Date Coming); Will give final approval following feedback
 - iv. On-Going Tasks from Spring 2024 Syllabus Audit Findings
 - 1. Review of GcxYs w/ Core IMPACTS
 - a. Rubrics we use need to be aligned with CoreIMPACTS
 - 2. Non-sections Development
 - 3. Develop process for review of GcxY sections {Resend the syllabus we created}
 - 4. Syllabus Audit 2.0