

**REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY SENATE  
24 JANUARY, 2025 MEETING CANCELLED**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

**1. REGRETS, NO REPORT**

**PROVOST’S REPORT — DR. HOLLEY ROBERTS**

**1. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. **DEAN SEARCHES** The College of Arts and Sciences and College of Business and Technology Dean searches will launch very soon. The Provost’s Office will schedule a listening session with each college to gain insights on the selection of the next dean for each college.
- b. **RANKINGS** Georgia College & State University’s online master’s programs were ranked among the top 100 in the country and among the top five in Georgia. The rankings were as follows: Master’s degree in Nursing ranked No. 1 in Georgia and tied for No. 17 in the country, among both public and private institutions. GCSU’s online master’s degree in criminal justice and business ranked highly as well, each earning the ranking of No. 2 in Georgia in their respective categories. The Master of Business Administration program ranked No.4 in Georgia, and the master’s degree in Education tied for the fifth-best program of its kind in the state, along with Kennesaw State University and Georgia Southern University.
- c. **USG RACAA MEETING** Georgia College will host the USG RACAA meeting for all USG Provosts and Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs, February 26-27.
- d. **CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER VISIT** Dr. Costas Spirou, Interim Chief Academic Officer at the University System of Georgia, will be on campus Friday, February 7, 2025 to provide USG updates to the Academic Affairs Leadership Team.
- e. **BOR BUDGET HEARING** Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> is the BOR Budget Hearing with President Cox, Interim Provost Roberts, and VP of Finance and Administration, Susan Allen.

**2. COLLEGES AND LIBRARY**

**a. COLLEGES OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

- i. **Department of Art** The Monuments Project Public Lecture with visiting artist, Julia Morrisroe, from the University of Florida will be at Georgia College on February 3, 2025, from 5-6pm in Arts & Sciences Building #275. There will also be a gallery reception and artist talk on Feb. 5, 2025. 5-7pm
- ii. **History & Geography**
  1. Will host the Georgia Association of Historians’ Annual Conference at GCSU February 7-9, 2025.
  2. Dr. Jessica Wallace has inaugurated a keystone digital history course (*Intro to Digital Humanities*) - an innovative foundation for the planned History in Practice concentration that emphasizes career-ready skills in the digital humanities and it is a vital contribution to the COAS Digital Humanities Collaborative.

- iii. **Chemistry, Physics & Astronomy** Allison Lugue is the first GCSU student admitted to the new dual degree pre-pharmacy MOU at Mercer University.
- iv. **Philosophy, Religion and Liberal Studies** The Black Studies Program, Philosophy, Religion and Liberal Studies Department, Digital Humanities, Rural Studies Institute and the Office of Inclusion and Belonging will host a public lecture by Dr. Tru Leverette, Associate Professor of English and the chair of Africana Studies at the University of North Florida. The public lecture, *River & Rock: African Americans at Home in the World*, will take place on Feb 11, 2025, from 2:00 pm to 3:15 pm. Venue TBA.
- v. **Department of English**
  - 1. Professor Peter Selgin and Dr. Chika Unigwe are both finalists for Georgia's Townsend Prize for Fiction.
  - 2. Dr. Sidonia Serafini received a 2024 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend Award.
  - 3. Dr. Kerry Neville is the invited speaker at University of Limerick's Creative Writing Festival.
  - 4. Dr. Emily Pucker has been elected president of the Georgia and Carolinas English Association.
  - 5. Provost's Visiting Scholar Dr. John Belk (Writing Studies) will be on campus for numerous events during the week of February 10<sup>th</sup>.
- b. **JOHN H. LOUNSBURY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**
  - i. **Mini-Grants** The Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy provided funding for mini-grants for John H. Lounsbury College of Education undergraduate and graduate education candidates and faculty. Nearly \$10,000 was awarded to students and faculty in the first round of grants for a variety of projects (e.g., literacy bags for 50 K-12 students in foster care; conference registration for special education students and faculty; materials to create multisensory learning stations). A second call is currently underway.
  - ii. A **Teacher Recruitment Fair** will be held January 31<sup>st</sup> with well over 50 representatives from P-12 schools from across GA and the US in attendance.
  - iii. **The John H. Lounsbury Lecture Series on American Education** featuring Dr. Dana Rickman (President/CEO of Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education; the organization known for publishing "Top Ten Issues to Watch" and their Education Policy Fellowship Program) whose lecture is titled, "Securing Georgia's Future – Rediscovering the Purpose of Public Education" will take place in Peabody on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.
  - iv. **Sponsored Projects** have been awarded to
    - 1. Dr. Nicole DeClouette: GC Thrive
    - 2. Dr. Linda Bradley: Dyslexia Endorsement Initiative
  - v. **Future Georgia Educators' Day** Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>: Future Georgia Educators' Day at GCSU (high school students interested in education will be on campus)

- vi. **Special Education** The undergraduate Adult Degree Completion Program has been approved the President, the USG, and the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. Dr. Cara Smith notified SACSCOC of the approval. The efforts of a great many people from almost every office of the university have made this possible and we look to begin the program this summer.
- vii. **Documentary Series** Coordinated through the School of Continuing & Professional Studies in collaboration with CoA&S, Math Department, Sociology Department, CoE, Student Life, and the Provost's Office, upcoming films include
  1. Tuesday, February 25 at 6:30 pm in A&S Auditorium: *Counted Out*
  2. Tuesday, March 4 at 5:30 pm in A&S Auditorium: *The Cost of Caring*
  3. Friday, March 28 at 8:00 pm in Russell Auditorium: *Wildcat*
  4. Wednesday, April 16 at 6:00 pm in A&S Auditorium: *View Finders*
- c. **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**
  - i. **Rankings** Georgia College & State University's online master's programs were ranked among the top 100 in the country, and among the top five in Georgia, in U.S. News & World Report's 2025 rankings. The university's master's degree in nursing ranked No. 1 in Georgia and tied for No. 17 in the country, among both public and private institutions.
- d. **J. WHITNEY BUNTING COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY**
  - i. **Dr. Chris Serafin** started in January as a new marketing lecturer.
  - ii. **Faculty Searches**
    1. Candidates for the Tenure Track Position in Economics will be conducting on-campus interviews over the next few weeks.
    2. The CoBT is reviewing candidates for several other positions and will be bringing candidates to campus starting in February.
  - iii. **Executive in Residence** The COBT's next Executive in Residence, Kevin Neary from Orcawise in Dublin, Ireland, will be here Jan. 27-Jan. 29 (*Imagine 2030 – Innovate*). On Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 5:00 in A&S Auditorium, Kevin will be speaking on "Critical Thinking in the Age of AI". Please attend and encourage your students to attend as well.
  - iv. **Executive Forum** The COBT has brought back the quarterly Executive Forum. This is a membership based dinner with a speaker series designed for campus and community interaction (*Imagine 2030 – Engage*). The first speaker is Kevin Neary on Monday, Jan. 28. The next speaker will be Mike Ciabattoni, Managing Partner, CW Holdings LLC. on March 3. Please contact [Nancy.Finney@gcsu.edu](mailto:Nancy.Finney@gcsu.edu) to purchase a membership.
  - v. **Career Fairs** The Accounting Career Fair is Jan. 29, and the Information Technology Career Fair is Feb. 12. Both are in Magnolia Ballroom, and students may sign up through Handshake.
- e. **UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

- i. **Affordable Learning Georgia**, a USG initiative focused on affordable course materials, calls for proposals for Round 27 of their grant program. Proposals must be submitted by the Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects (OGSP) and are due by March 6, 2025. The OGSP is offering application review and feedback from February 10-17, 2025. Contact Dr. Shaundra Walker for information at [shaundra.walker@gcsu.edu](mailto:shaundra.walker@gcsu.edu).
  - ii. **Roundtable** On February 5 from 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m., Evan Leavitt, Manager of Facilities Operations & Planning, will co-present with GCSU student, Suzy Parker, at the Georgia Association of Museum's Conference, which will be held on GCSU's campus. Their roundtable, "Low-Tech, High Impact: DIY and Low-Tech Design Secrets" will be moderated by Jordyn Street '23, who works part-time in Special Collections.
  - iii. **The Corinthian**, Georgia College's student research journal needs faculty reviewers for the following subjects: Public Health, Health and Physical Education, and Nursing. Interested faculty are encouraged to contact Dr. Shaundra Walker at [shaundra.walker@gcsu.edu](mailto:shaundra.walker@gcsu.edu)
3. **SCHOOLS AND HONORS COLLEGE**
- a. **THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**
    - i. **The Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Curriculum & Instruction Fee Waiver Campaign** has resulted in 15 new graduate applications for summer 2025, marking the first time the program has used a waiver to attract interest in the program. The waiver expires on January 17, 2025, at 11:59 pm.
    - ii. **Application Fee Waiver** The Graduate Admissions Office will offer an application fee waiver for summer 2025 and fall 2025 enrollment, March 18 – April 1, 2025. The fee waiver will be available for all graduate programs.
    - iii. **Q&A Session** The Graduate School will offer a virtual Q&A session in March for prospective students to learn about GCSU graduate programs and the graduate admissions process.
    - iv. **Graduate Research Travel Grants** The Graduate School is accepting applications for Spring 2025 Graduate Research Travel Grants. The grants support graduate student presentations of original scholarship or research in the student's discipline conducted at professional academic conferences (international, national, regional, and state level). The application is available on the Graduate Opportunities web page and the deadline to apply is February 15, 2025.
    - v. **Graduate Research Showcase** As of January 1, 2025, the Graduate Research Showcase in the institutional repository, Knowledge Box, had 13,599 downloads from 138 countries. In December 2024, the Graduate Research Showcase had 284 full-text downloads. The most popular papers and posters were
      - 1. *The Benefits of Singing and Audiation for Beginning Musicians* by graduate student Elissa Harris, Master of Music Education. (14 downloads)

2. *Correlation Between Pitching Velocity and Plyometric Output* by graduate student Landon Childers, Master of Science, Athletic Training. (13 downloads)
  3. *Team/Co Teaching in the Instrumental Classroom: A Differentiated and Holistic Approach to Instruction* by graduate student, Robert Groves, Master of Music Education. (12 downloads)
- vi. **Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week 2025** is April 14 – 18, 2025.
- b. **HONORS COLLEGE & NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS**
- i. **Legends of Honors with Nadya Gutierrez:** On Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 6:00 p.m., GCSU alumna Nadya Gutierrez will deliver a Zoom-based presentation titled “Oysters and Seagrass and Marsh—Oh My! Coastal Ecology in an Every-Changing Environment.” Gutierrez earned a NOAA-Hollings Scholarship and a Quad Fellowship to support marine sciences research and is currently completing a Ph.D. at UNC-Chapel Hill.
- c. **SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**
- i. **Spring Documentary Film Series** In collaboration with the School of Continuing & Professional Studies, The College of Arts & Sciences, the Department of Math, the Department of Sociology, the College of Education, Student Life, and the Provost’s Office we invite faculty, staff, students, and the community to join us for the following documentaries.
  - ii. **Counted Out** How we understand math—and who understands it—is a critical determinant of social and economic power. This film shows what’s at risk if we keep the status quo, and what’s possible if we use math in service of a healthy future for all of us. Tuesday, Feb. 25, 6:15 – 8:30 p.m. A&S Auditorium.
  - iii. **The Cost of Caring** There is a shocking and devastating rise in suicide rates among veterinarians today. The Cost of Caring is a documentary about the high incidence of veterinarian suicide rates in the United States and specifically how to help stop this crisis. Participate in a panel discussion with the filmmakers, Marie and Frank Barnas and General Vet practitioner, Dr. Mike Chapman. Tuesday, March 4 5:30 – 7 p.m. A&S Auditorium.
  - iv. **Wildcat** Follows the life of writer Flannery O’Connor while she was struggling to publish her first novel. Meet Producers, Mary Rogers & Joe Goodman. Friday, March 28, 8:00 p.m. Russell Auditorium, This event is part of the *Flannery at 100* celebrations.
  - v. **View Finders** Showcasing beautiful locations, photography, and outdoor adventure. Meet filmmaker, Chris Greer. Wednesday, April 16, 6 – 7 p.m. A&S Auditorium.
  - vi. **High Achiever’s Program**
    1. The HAP will be completing a seven-part financial literacy series with the Exchange Bank Community Outreach team and participate in a QPR Suicide Prevention session with Emily Jarvis (GCSU Asst. VP for Student Health & Wellness)

2. Kenneth Daniels, continues to solicit support for guest speakers in the HAP speaker series. Contact him if you are interested: [kenneth.daniels@gcsu.edu](mailto:kenneth.daniels@gcsu.edu) or contact Mr. Daniels at 478.445.8509
- vii. **YES at Oak Hill Middle School and Lakeview Academy**
1. Afterschool Achievement is seeking to partner with the College of Business & Technology, the College of Education, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the College of Health Sciences to support **GCSU service-learning students** and to provide supplemental programs to youth during afterschool times 3:30-6:30 pm.
  2. Both YES programs have provided academic and enrichment services to over 250 3-8 grade youth in Baldwin county. Learn more in the [LVA newsletter](#) and the [OHMS newsletter](#).
- viii. **Academic Outreach**
1. **Thirst for Knowledge:** Join GCSU's Thirst for Knowledge water quality monitoring sessions at Champion, Tobler, and Tanyard Creeks on January 24 and February 14. Visit our [Adopt a Stream Monitoring site](#) for more information.
  2. **Science Nights** Academic Outreach kicks off evening Science Nights with the Starlab and hands-on activities at schools like Dames Ferry and Turner Woods Elementary. Additionally, AO will visit classrooms and provide science enrichment at schools such as Oak Hill Middle, Midway Hills Academy, and Gray Elementary.
  3. **Science Enrichment Programs** Weekly science enrichment programs for homeschool groups, the Life Enrichment Center, and High Achievers Program resume after MLK Jr. Day. AO will also host groups like Jeffersonville Elementary, Georgia Cyber Academy, and Lakeview Primary for science activities on the GCSU campus.
- ix. **Communities in Schools Milledgeville Baldwin County** Christi Tyson has worked as a Site Coordinator at Lakeview Academy with Communities in Schools of Milledgeville/Baldwin County since 2009. She has taken on the additional responsibilities of Data Administration for the past year.
- x. **Continuing & Professional Education**
1. **Head Start** Thank you to Drs. Muschaweck, Wills and Hiller Crook, EdS, for their assistance with the Hancock County Head Start teacher professional development on January 7. They conducted a 5-hour workshop titled, Behavior Management Approaches for Young Children, A Make & Take Workshop.
  2. [Register Now for Swim Lessons](#) 8-week season of children's swim lessons. We're working to schedule lessons for adults in the future.
  3. [Cybersecurity & Fraud Awareness Workshop](#) In collaboration with GCSU IT and Hance Patrick, this online 2-hour workshop will show you the techniques that scammers use in today's web

environment and help you identify and prevent loss from an online scam.

4. [Master the Art of Grant Writing: A Comprehensive Workshop Series](#) In collaboration with Dr. Carrie Cook and Dr. Min Kim, this 4-session professional development series is designed for nonprofit professionals, educators, and community leaders seeking to enhance their grant writing skills.
5. [Register for the Information Session](#) Rome & Amalfi Coast, Thursday, February 27 at 12 p.m. Learn more about the adventure to Rome & Amalfi Coast and the School of Continuing & Professional Studies leads alumni, friends, and community members on an adventure to breathtaking coastlines and delicious Italian cuisine.
6. **Reserve your spot: Rome & the Amalfi Coast (Dec. 5 – Dec. 14, 2025)** [Registration is open](#)
- xi. **Historic Museums** Flannery O'Connor is turning **100** years old, March 25, 2025! From lectures to a music festival, we have something for everyone! Visit [Flannery at 100](#) to celebrate Flannery O'Connor's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

#### 4. **OFFICES AND PROGRAMS**

##### a. **ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

- i. **Freshman Applications** As of January 13, freshmen applications are up by 3% compared with last year. Deposited freshmen students are up by 2%.
- ii. **Scholarship Applications** The GCSU Financial Aid Office launched the institution's 2025-2026 Scholarship Application on December 2, 2024. The deadline for students to submit the application is February 17, 2025. Financial Aid, along with Enrollment Management, launched a comprehensive communication plan to advertise this application and has seen a significant increase in the number of scholarships applications received thus far.
- iii. **Teacher Recruitment Fair** The Career Center will host the Teacher Recruitment Fair on January 31 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The event will take place at the Wellness & Recreation Center.
- iv. **First Year Guides** The Office of First Year Experience is currently recruiting First Year Guides (FYGs) for the 2025-2026 academic year. Please send any FYG recommendations to Sandra Terry at [sandra.terry1@gcsu.edu](mailto:sandra.terry1@gcsu.edu).
- v. **Sophomore Explore Day** The second annual Sophomore Explore Day will take place on February 12. This is an opportunity for high school sophomores with a 3.5 GPA or higher to visit campus and meet with various departments.
- vi. **Springfest**, GCSU's annual spring preview day for admitted high school seniors, will be held on March 1.

##### b. **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

###### i. **Rural Studies Institute**

1. **Summer Interns** The RSI in Partnership with the PIN Partnership in Innovation will host two summer interns to develop a virtual database of the Black Belt region of the South. Please spread the word that we are looking for students who are skilled in computer science and technology.
  2. **Lecture Series** The RSI in Collaboration with the GCSU Food Collaborative's Feast for Thought: Exploring Food, Society, and the Environment virtual lecture series will host Dr. Stephanie Opperman February 7, at 12:00.
  3. **Talk** The Black Studies Program will host Dr. Tru Leverette for a talk entitled, River & Rock: African Americans at Home in the World on February 11<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 -3:15 pm in the Peabody Auditorium.
- ii. **The Writing Center** This semester, the Writing Center is piloting a study on the "Impact of AI Writing Diagnostic Tools on Writing Center Efficacy." The research investigates how an AI diagnostic tool developed by GCSU faculty Gongbing Hong and Ward Risvold can help tutors address discipline-specific writing conventions, improve session efficiency, and enhance tutor confidence while maintaining the integrity of peer-to-peer tutoring relationships. This mixed-methods study will provide valuable insights into effectively integrating AI tools within writing center pedagogy, advancing our understanding of this emerging intersection. The findings will be presented at the [International Writing Across the Curriculum Conference](#) at Colorado State University this July.
- iii. **Leadership Programs**
1. **Undergraduate Student Nominations** We will begin receiving nominations of undergraduate students from members of the faculty and staff for admission to our fall 2025 programs. All faculty and staff members are invited to submit nominations of students. Our staff will verify students' eligibility, offer advising, and invite their applications.
  2. **Virtual Book Club** Georgia College's Leadership Programs have announced their "[Must-Reads of 2025](#)," featuring twelve recommendations for providing leadership in our unique historical moment. Our Virtual Book Club is open to all members of the university community and to the public as well.
  3. Our **Usery Forum on Leadership** will be hosted on Monday, 3 March 2025 at 5 p.m., featuring the Hon. Steve C. Jones. The Hon. Steve C. Jones is a Senior United States District Court Judge, appointed by former President Barack Obama in 2011. In this role, he presides over cases that involve the United States government, the United States Constitution, federal laws, controversies between citizens of different states and other matters. Jones holds a bachelor's degree in management and juris doctor degree, both from the University of Georgia. The Usery Forum on Leadership honors the legacy of U.S. Secretary of Labor



W. J. Usery, Jr., exploring leadership that brings people together in service to the public good. Additional information and registration is open at [gcsu.edu/usery](https://gcsu.edu/usery).

iv. **The International Education Center**

1. **International Student Cohort** As previewed at the recent Academic Leadership meeting, GCSU welcomed an unusually large Spring international cohort. Fourteen new students – fully six from the State Department – representing ten different nations arrived in Milledgeville this month. Nations represented are: Albania, Brazil, Cambodia, East Timor (A first), Germany, Honduras, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Korea, Taiwan, and Tajikistan.
2. **Study Abroad** interest remains high, with numbers once again above the preceding year. To date, International has 308 active and viable applications for study abroad, up nearly 14% from this time last year.

v. **Mentored Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors**

1. **MURACE Coordinator**, Natalie Clark, started on January 7, 2025.
2. **NCUR 2025** Seven student projects and three mentor-led (faculty) presentations were accepted for presentations (April 7-9)
3. **Posters at the Georgia State Capitol** is scheduled for February 25, 2025 and planning is underway.
4. **GCSU Research Day** is scheduled for April 16, 2025. The new submission system is in place. March 3, 2025 is the proposal submission due date. Check the [MURACE webpage](#) for further information or email [murace@gcsu.edu](mailto:murace@gcsu.edu) with questions.

5. **CENTERS AND INSTITUTES**

a. **Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literary**

i. **2025 Research Grant Initiative**

1. Georgia Southern, Dr. Sally Brown, “PAGES+ Literacy Initiative: Parents and Generations Engaging Through Stories and Language”
2. Georgia State University, Dr. JeanMarie Farrow, “Rethinking Practice-Based Learning Theory in the AI Era: A Structured Composing Tool to Enhance Early Literacy and Language Development”
3. Georgia Gwinnett College, Dr. Jennifer Green, “EXCEL EXCEL Afterschool Tutoring Program”
4. Georgia State University, Dr. Brennan Chandler, “Supporting Paraeducators in Enhancing Language and Literacy”
5. University of Georgia College of Public Health, Dr. Grace Bagwell Adams, “Prioritizing the Building Blocks for Co-Regulation and Language Development with Families of Hospitalized Newborns: Nurturing a Community of Practice for Home Visitors”

- ii. **Literacy Screeners** In December, Dr. Morgan presented Deal Center recommendations for selection of state universal reading screeners to the

State Board of Education. This work was done as a result of SB464 and included a systematic review of submitted reading screeners. The State Board approved the four screeners recommended by the Deal Center as well as a fifth screener not on the Deal Center list.

- iii. **Legislative Funding** The Deal Center was included in the budget request submitted to Governor Kemp by the Georgia Council on Literacy. Proposed funding will allow the Deal Center to oversee quality control efforts for school-based literacy coaches statewide and will lead to a Literacy Coach Endorsement program.
- iv. **Virtual Learning Series** On February 3rd, the Deal Center will launch a new 8-session virtual learning series focused on *'The Science of Reading Meets the Science of Learning'*.
- b. **Center for Teaching and Learning**
  - i. **Change to SRIS** All courses are tagged to be evaluated. Instructors can work with their chairs to identify those courses that do not need to be evaluated and then mark them as such in Banner. Classes can be marked in Banner until Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - ii. **Teaching Excellence Awards** College award winners will need to have their packets for the University Award into the CTL by March 1, 2025
  - iii. **Academic Affairs Small Grants Program** Applications will be due by February 15, 2025. Workshops will held February 5 @ noon & February 7 @ 2:00 p.m.
- c. **Flannery O'Connor Institute for the Humanities**
  - i. **FOIH January Newsletter** is [here](#).
  - ii. **Book Club** The FOIH hosts a monthly Zoom book club with Bruce Gentry. Join us to discuss Brad Gooch's biography of Flannery O'Connor, Thursday January 23. Sign up for the Zoom Link here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/00f8af20502641f88fb3c9d52b9551c5>
  - iii. **Southern Gothic Lecture Series** The FOIH proudly introduces the inaugural Southern Gothic Lecture Series, bringing two visiting lecturers to campus this February:
    - 1. Dr. Sara Crosby, The Ohio State University, "The Rougarou and the Rise of the Cajun Ecogothic." Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 5:00 p.m. GCSU Museum Education Room.
    - 2. Dr. Teresa Goddu, Vanderbilt University, "Jesmyn Ward's Ecogothic." Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 5:00 p.m. GCSU Museum Education Room.
  - iv. **Flannery O'Connor's Centennial** Come help us celebrate Flannery O'Connor's Centennial March 25-29., Full schedule of events including an Art Opening, Gallery Talk, screening of the film *Wildcat*, a biopic about Flannery O'Connor directed by Ethan Hawke and starring Maya Hawke, and a music festival. Full schedule of events here: <https://www.gcsu.edu/oconnor/flannery-at-100>
- d. **The Learning Center**
  - i. **Excel Bootcamps and Algebra Review Workshops** start this week.

- ii. **Supplemental Instruction** 55 SI/PASS leaders are matched with 87 sections of classes this spring semester.
- iii. **STEM** The LC received \$25k from the USG STEM office to continue our work.
- iv. **Training** We are hosting a conference style comprehensive training for all LC staff on Friday 1/24; several faculty and professional staff will be guest presenters and facilitators
- v. **Utilization** of all services were up an average of 21% from last fall.

**ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT — DR. ANDREW ALLEN**

- 1. **HONOR CODE** APC did not meet in January, but we are currently working through a draft of updates to the Bobcat Code that would address first concerns regarding inappropriate use of AI by students. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we'll have a motion to ECUS on that in February.

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION POLICY COMMITTEE — DR. COREY CLAXTON**

- 1. **NO MEETING, NO REPORT**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF UNIVERSITY SENATE — DR. NICHOLAS CREEL**

- 1. **AD HOC AI POLICY COMMITTEE** Movement continues on establishing an Ad Hoc AI Policy Committee in the University Senate
  - a. I have asked the Provost for a list of everyone that they feel should be included. That list is below.
    - i. Dr. Bucholtz from the Provost's Office
    - ii. Someone from the English Department/Writing Center
    - iii. At least one representative from each college
    - iv. Someone from the Library
    - v. Someone from the Graduate School
    - vi. Operations (We will ask Staff Council to give us an appointee)
    - vii. One or two at large seats to cover anyone we might be forgetting at the moment
  - b. Please have standing committee chairs forward me any recommendations you have for inclusion on this committee. Recommendations can be for a specific person or to make sure we have someone from a specified unit of the university.
  - c. The plan is for ECUS to move on this in our February meeting, allowing the full Senate to vote on it in the March or April meeting.
- 2. **RENAMING DEIPC** ECUS will be voting to rename DEIPC.
  - a. The committee has proposed renaming it to "The Committee on Belonging and Inclusion".
  - b. Nothing in terms of the mission/charter of the committee will change.
  - c. The plan is to effectuate this change by the end of the current senate term, so ECUS should be voting on this in our February meeting.

**FACULTY AFFAIRS POLICY COMMITTEE — Dr. Jennifer Flory**

- 1. **UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF [SRIS POLICY CHANGE](#)**

- a. Co-taught classes (e.g., TREK) where the instructor on record (therefore the instructor being evaluated) is not the only instructor they experience
  - b. Lab courses and any other course where the instructor on record is not always the instructor facing them (e.g., taught by GAs)
  - c. Cross-listed courses
  - d. David Smith's suggestion for a more long-term solution was to have departments mark courses in Banner that need to be evaluated based on the policy, but also the individual needs of the courses, to eliminate this level of confusion in the future.
  - e. FAPC recommends that faculty who co-teach, supervise labs, and/or teach cross-listed courses to be in touch with departmental admins and David Smith, if necessary, to make sure that their courses are being evaluated correctly.
2. **TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS AD HOC COMMITTEE**
- a. Kim Muschaweck, Suzanna Roman-Oliver, Dana Gorzelany-Mostak, Roberto Leon, Jennifer Flory, and Jim Berger met January 8.
  - b. Issue a call to departments for measures or tools that are in use by departments already (Jen and Dana will cover CoAS, Health Sciences, Business, and Library; Kim and Suzanna will cover Ed)
  - c. Invite one representative from each college and A&S Division to join committee by reaching out to award winners from past few years (Jen and Dana will cover CoAS, Health Sciences, Business, and Library; Kim and Suzanna will cover Ed)
  - d. Kim and Roberto will work together to put together models of evaluation and best practices from other schools
  - e. Jim and/or Suzanna will see about getting on college meeting agendas for February 14
  - f. Next Meeting: Friday, February 7, 12 pm
  - g. Add questions to needs assessment for each department
  - h. After gathering and reviewing data, create templates and examples to share with all departments
3. **FACULTY COMPENSATION POLICIES**
- a. We have asked Academic Affairs to add summer salary to the data collection
4. **PROFESSIONAL LEAVE POLICY (old form for reference, current application form)**
- a. 10 total applications in A&S reviewed by a faculty committee and sent to Provost in priority order. Academic Affairs put together a faculty review committee which put together a rubric and reviewed 11 total applications. FAPC is requesting a copy of the rubric and recommends that standards be reviewed and clarified first, and then the rubric aligned with those, and to be shared when application is requested.
5. **FACULTY ATTENDANCE AT UNIVERSITY CEREMONIES AND ACADEMIC REGALIA POLICY**
- a. Current policy: GC holds official ceremonies at which faculty will wear appropriate academic regalia including but not limited to Graduation, Freshman Convocation and Honors Day. Faculty members are expected to provide their own academic regalia either representing their alma mater or GC. **In light of our student-centered mission, all faculty are encouraged to attend all graduations, Honors Day and Freshman Convocation events, but**

**departments will be responsible for their own procedures for insuring that an appropriate number of faculty attend each event.**

- b. From our 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Contracts: Every faculty member is expected to participate in Convocation (8/23/2024) and Commencement ceremonies.
- c. A faculty member has brought to our attention the following concerns about required events that have “that have ignored the overall health and well-being of our faculty and staff.” They provided context by explaining briefly how several events have “failed to fully protect the physical and mental well-being of faculty who are required to attend” and provided potential solutions to these issues.
- d. **Occupational health and safety of our faculty at university events**
  - i. **Graduation/Convocation**
    - 1. Issue: The line-up location for graduation and convocation has very little airflow which is problematic for people who have a variety of health conditions. Additionally, the space is extremely claustrophobic and requires faculty to stand in close quarters for up to one hour, which negatively affects those with anxiety or other conditions. In fact, one faculty member had to be removed from the line-up last year due to an induced health issue. The increasing length of the ceremonies is also problematic as it requires faculty to sit in extremely close quarters in folding chairs that are physically harsh on those with a variety of health conditions. In addition, the events following convocation this past year required faculty to walk an extended distance to a secondary location in the August heat - after enduring the previously stated conditions.
    - 2. Remedy: These problems could be easily remedied by shortening the length of the line-up/ceremony, spacing out chairs during the event, creating a more open space on the mezzanine with chairs for the faculty to congregate prior to the event starting, and hosting the secondary events at the Centennial Center or making these events optional for faculty to attend.
    - 3. FAPC Feedback: CoB has had people with heat issues including someone collapsing from the heat outside. Another faculty member had issues with standing as long as they had to prior to the ceremony. Maybe need to add seating inside where we need to wait. The chairs are too close together, especially for certain body types. Add more chairs. Clarity with communication in terms of health concerns/accommodations. Availability of alternate arrangements should be clearer.
  - ii. **Academic Expo**
    - 1. Issue: This year the academic expo had no air conditioning. This was known in advance of the event starting. Yet, the event continued without adequate fans or airflow for several hours. This is problematic for faculty with a variety of health conditions or medications that make them heat intolerant.

2. Remedy: This event could have been rescheduled, moved online or made hybrid, or ensuring the placement of adequate fans before the event started.
  3. FAPC Feedback: The AC was out in Magnolia.
- iii. **Fall Fest/Spring Fest/Summer Orientations**
1. Issue: Over the last several years, these events have occurred outside in the sun, in extremely high temperatures. Some departments did not have tents for faculty to shield them from the sun and heat.
  2. Remedy: These events could easily be moved inside to protect those who are heat intolerant.
  3. FAPC Feedback: A&S would like to figure something out to get tents for departments who do not have them.
  4. From the faculty member: “I am hopeful that your committee might take up this issue to ensure that, in the future, the university is cognizant of the varied health conditions of faculty/staff and how these events may negatively affect the health and well-being of faculty and staff. I hope that the university will take steps to make accommodations accordingly. This is important to ensure the overall health and well-being of our faculty and staff required to attend these events. This is particularly important for events where attendance is mandatory, but it is also important at other events where attendance is expected to fulfill service obligations.”

**RESOURCES, PLANNING, AND INSTITUTIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE — DR. BRAD FOWLER**

1. **SOLAR OPPORTUNITIES** Frank Baugh joined us to provide information on possible solar initiatives from the perspective of facilities management. Frank reviewed previous efforts to initiate solar projects for Georgia College. These included a solar farm project in partnership with Georgia Power for west campus and a partnership with Cherry Street Industries to put solar panels on the top of Georgia College buildings. Neither of these initiatives were adopted due to various reasons, such as topographical, warranty, and structural issues. Frank feels that any solar installation would not make a significant impact on the financial bottom line for campus electrical service but could be beneficial for educational purposes. The committee also feels that if a solar initiative could be executed through grant funding might also have a positive impact on the Georgia College brand. The committee plans to invite Nicholas Creel to the February meeting to discuss his knowledge of solar grant opportunities.
2. **PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN** Brian English and Charles Crucey presented the results of the Parking & Transportation Master Plan that was conducted in the Fall of 2024. P&T currently does not generate enough revenue and requires a major investment in busses and shuttles. They developed a plan to buy new vehicles over the next four years. As part of this plan, P&T are changing the pricing structures for faculty, staff, and students. They plan to initiate an elective parking fee for parking passes for students and raise the price of parking passes for faculty and staff. These higher rate passes will allow premium access to certain lots and alleviate the lack of parking spots in the later hours of the morning and afternoon. The Irwin Street lot will be reconditioned

and shuttle service to the lot will be prioritized. All faculty, staff, and students have the option to parking in the Irwin Street lot for \$50 per year.

3. **FALL BREAK/THANKSGIVING BREAK** The meeting included an informational item about concerns over Fall Break and Thanksgiving Break. Some faculty have issues with the ambiguity of having classes during the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving Break. This item is being brought to ECUS to see if there is interest in being further discussion.

#### **STUDENT AFFAIRS POLICY COMMITTEE — DR. AMY PINNEY**

1. **MEETING** We had a productive meeting, wrapping up old business and venturing into some new business. We also spent time planning for our February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting
2. **SGA UPDATE** President Hawkins provided the committee with an update on her priorities for the semester. I'll let her speak to those.
3. **STUDENT HOUSING** A faculty member reached out to me with some housing concerns brought to them by some students. I shared the concerns with the committee. We discussed the issues at length. The committee has invited Larry Christenson and Lori Burns to our February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. They have confirmed.

#### **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION — AXEL HAWKINS**

1. **NO REPORT**

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS — DR. STEPHANIE JETT**

1. **AT-LARGE ELECTED FACULTY SENATOR ELECTION PROCEDURE** Procedures were presented and adopted unanimously. The document outlines the timeline that will be followed.
2. **QUESTION/NEW BUSINESS FOR FEBRUARY** Should Deans, Associate Deans, and Chairs be allowed to serve as EFS?
  - a. If they are listed on the Corps of Instruction list, then they can serve as EFS.
  - b. Given the extensive additional responsibilities of the aforementioned individuals as well as the power differential that exists between faculty and these CoI administrators, should ECUS amend the by-laws to exclude them from being elected as EFS?
  - c. What about serving as appointees?

#### **UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM REPORT — DR. ANGEL ABNEY**

1. **UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE November 22, 2024**
  - a. **College of Arts & Sciences**
    - i. **Action Items**
      1. A&S: Modify Existing Concentrations for Liberal Studies (Interdisciplinary Studies): Add Internship Option in the Capstone requirement for all Liberal Studies Concentrations
        - a. Note: Need to change proposed effective date from Fall 2023 to Fall 2025
        - b. Unanimously approved
      2. A&S: Modify Existing Medical Physics Concentration in the Physics BS—Effective Fall 2025
        - a. Unanimously approved

3. A&S: Modification of Existing Physics Minor for the BS in Physics—Would also update the minor in the medical Physics Concentration—Effective Fall 2025
    - a. Unanimously approved
  4. A&S: Deactivation of the Physics Education Concentration—Effective Fall 2025
    - a. Unanimously approved
  5. A&S: Creation of New Mathematical Economics Concentration of the BS in Mathematics—Effective Fall 2025
    - a. Unanimously approved
  6. A&S: Creation of New Statistics Concentration of the BS in Mathematics—Effective Fall 2025
    - a. Unanimously approved
  7. A&S: Modification of Existing Teaching Concentration of the BS in Mathematics—Effective Fall 2025
    - a. Unanimously approved
- ii. **Information Items**
1. none
- b. **College of Business**
- i. **Action Items**
    1. CoBT/A&S: Creation of a New Minor in Legal Studies
      - a. Approved; 1 Abstained
  - ii. **Information Items**
    1. **New Course Proposals**
      - a. FINC 4340 Econometrics for Finance Majors. Department of Economics and Finance.
    2. **Modification of Existing Courses**
      - a. MGMT 4605 Internship &/or Coop Education in Management. Catalog Description Pre-requisite and/or Co-requisite Change. Department of Management, Marketing, and Logistics.
      - b. LOGS 4605 Logistic Internship. Catalog Description Pre-requisite and/or Co-requisite Change. Department of Management, Marketing, and Logistics.
      - c. ACCT 4605 Internship. Grade Type Change (Convert from letter grades to Pass/Fail). Accounting and Business Law Department.
      - d. MKTG 4605 Internship/Coop Education for Marketing. Catalog Description Pre-requisite and/or Co-requisite Change. Department of Management, Marketing, and Logistics.
      - e. MKTG 4198 Capstone: Strategic Marketing. Catalog Description Pre-requisite and/or Co-requisite Change. Department of Management, Marketing, and Logistics.



- f. MGMT 4195 Strategic Management. Catalog Description Pre-requisite and/or Co-requisite Change. Department of Management, Marketing, and Logistics.
  - c. **College of Education**
    - i. **Action Items**
      - 1. COE: Modify Existing Major: Para-Professional to Teacher Special Education Program Department of Teacher Education— Effective Date Summer 2025
        - a. Unanimously approved
    - ii. **Information Items**
      - 1. none
  - d. **College of Health Sciences**
    - i. **Action Items**
      - 1. none
    - ii. **Information Items**
      - 1. none
- 2. **GRADUATE COUNCIL November 8, 2024**
  - a. Did not meet on November 8, 2024, because of a lack of agenda items.
- 3. **GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE November 15, 2024**
  - a. **GC1Y Proposal** History of the Musical – approved
  - b. **CORExplore** No proposals submitted. There was a discussion about looking for anyone interested in proposing a new pathway (a pathway related to Artificial Intelligence was suggested). K. Anderson advised classes could be added to pathways at the section level if some professors teach sections differently and only certain sections fit the pathway.
  - c. Findings from **GC1Y/2Y audit**: Initial audit for new BOR required syllabus statements led to an additional audit of GCXY courses. It was discovered that approval documentation for some courses was not easily accessible and some faculty may be teaching courses without approval. J. Turner will contact Brandon Samples, who created a D2L site with course approval documentation several years ago. We may be able to access this course and simply add new approval documentation to the course so it’s all in one place.
  - d. **GCXY Modification Form on GEC Website** We don’t currently know where these are routed after someone submits one. As this issue gets corrected, the committee granted informal approval for spring 2025 to the following instructors and classes: Bonnie Green to teach “GC1Y: Writing Lifestories,” Amy Lewis to teach “GC1Y: Growing Up with Literature,” and Betsy Short to teach “GC1Y: Growing up with literature” and “GC2Y: Arts and Literacy.” Permanent approval of these instructors pending formal paperwork submission.