

Minutes of USGFC Meeting held online at 1 am on 23rd October 2020

Attending

Almira Vazdarjanova; Andrew Mudrinich, SSU; Angelia Thomas, USG; Barbara Biesecker, UGA; Brian Ring, Chair, VSU; Brian Schwartz, Columbia SC; Dan Williams, UWG; Dana Caldemeyer, SGSC; Darlee Dickens, EDSC; Dave Williams, Clayton SU; David Kerven, GGC; Doug Moodie, Secretary, KSU; Catherine Fowler, GCSU; Elizabeth Gurnack, GSWSU; Humayun Zafar, KSU; Jamie Mitchem, UNG; John Pattillo, MGSU; Joseph Hughes, Parliamentarian, GT; Juanita Hicks, USG; Julia Kubane, GT; Lisa Branson, GHC; Marti Venn, USG; Matthew Boedy, UNG & AAUP; Matthew Hipps, Chair-Elect, DSC; Michelle Brattain, GSU; Na'Tasha Webb-Prather, USG; Peter Basciano, AU; Richard Foreman, Albany SC; Ryan Currie, ABAC; Sarah Mergel, Past Chair, DSC; Steve Raynie, USG; Steve Wrigley, USG; Stuart Rayfield, USG; Terence Sullivan, Guest; Theresa Stanley, Gordon SC; Trisha Holts, GSU; Timothy Brown, Webmaster, GSU; Tristan Denley, USG; Yvonne Le Roy-Landers, Staff Council, VSU.

Chancellor's Report

BUDGET

FY 20/21 is flat minus a 10% cut, with no formula funding; governor has asked for FY 21/22 for full formulae funding, which is another \$61m, for budget submission.

State revenue is looking good but July and August was up because of income tax delay. September is 6% up. October report will be on 8th December.

Permission to roll over budget at year end is up for discussion again. Questions raised about tuition and fee levels, as well as paying for Covid items.

COVID

Plan for Spring 21 is to have as many "in person" courses as possible. This will vary from institution to institution as different classroom capacities, etc. The following questions were asked.

Q1. Can USG organize Covid testing across system?

A. USG is working with Georgia public health. USG coordinated PPE for system. Institutions should use local resources for testing, etc.

Q2. What about changes to CDC guidelines for accommodations?

A, USG will follow CDC guidelines but individual campuses will make the final decisions.

Q3. What is the USG view on F2F after Covid?

A. USG is not de-emphasizing online after Covid. Majority of students and parents want in person classes. Many students have difficulty getting access to good internet and to being able to study well at home (42% are on Pell grants). USG should meet needs of students.

Q4. How are campuses doing on Covid?

A. GS, UGA, and GCSC were problems for first 3 weeks. Cases are now dropping. Most of infections probably came from home. Most Covid infections occur in homes.

Q5. Students are not turning up to F2F classes. They are attending online instead through streaming.

A. USG has reports of faculty not turning up for F2F classes. There is parental anger over hybrid classes with little F2F components.

Q6. Can we get hard data on student attendance?

A. Faculty should encourage F2F attendance. USGFC can maybe get some hard data.

SALARIES

Q7. Will USG use SBEC information when deciding salaries?

A. USG looks at this data. However, USG need allocated dollars to give increases. Georgia has fallen behind. A 1% increase for all state employees costs \$141m; for USG it costs \$21m. There will be no increases in 2021.

Chief Academic Officer Report

GEN ED

He hopes to restart Gen Ed consultation process in the Spring, with virtual town halls. There has been lots of discussion on the History, Government, and Political Science part of Gen Ed.

ACT & SAT

USG has been talking to the College Board. They will not be able to run tests in time for Fall 21 entrants due to Covid. Georgia alone normally has about 20 thousand students take these tests. So, no use of SAT or ACTs for admittance until after Covid.

PTR

Dr Schwaig's group are looking at PTR; each campus at present does this differently. They are looking at using PTR for rewarding faculty for good work. They are gathering a lot of input from across states.

Dr. Stuart Rayfield's report on Covid

Fall update – Overall successful

1. Overall institutions have seen steady rates of Covid-19 transmissions.
2. Several institutions saw spikes in cases at the beginning of the semester but were able to reduce the number of cases through a strong education campaign.
3. No documented or reported cases of transmission in the classroom.
4. Most cases are traced to off-campus events where mitigation measures are not being practiced.

· ***Spring Plans***

Spring will look like fall in terms of Covid-19 mitigation plans (masking, social distancing, enhanced cleaning and disinfections, etc.) but institutions are encouraged to maximize face-to-face/in-person instruction as much as possible. Fall schedule was retro-fitted for Covid-19; spring should be designed with Covid-19 in mind and should maximize the instructional day to utilize larger classrooms throughout the day.