

eCore Regents Advisory Committee

Spring 2024 Virtual Meeting

April 15, 2024

Committee Attendees

Dr. Matthew Anderson - ABAC
Dr. Nicholas Urquhart - ABAC
Dr. Rhonda Porter - ASU
Dr. Kokila Ravi - AMSC
Dr. Sametria McFall - SSU
Sara Selby - SGSC
Dr. Catherine Whelan - EGA
Dr. Asha Warren - FVSU
Lisa McNeal - CCGA
Dr. Tim Howard - CSU
Dr. Tammy Byron - DSC
Dr. A. Keith Kelly - GGC

Julius Fleshcner – GHC
Dr. Justin Lonsbury – GSU
Dr. Dustin Anderson – GSOU
Dr. Bryan Davis – GSW
Dr. Ric Calhoun – GOC (Gordon State)
Dr. Brendan Callahan – KSU
Dr. David Jenks – MGSU
Dr. Bill Vencill – UGA
Dr. Irene Kokkala – UNG
Terri Brown – EGA
Dr. Shani Wilfred – VSU

USG eCampus/BOR Attendees

Dr. Jason Huett
Dr. Brett Miles
Dr. Sarah Kuck
Jon Sizemore
Janet Gubbins

Joe Fernander
Dr. Kelly Steed
Christy Talley
Addie Scott
Mickey Jones

Michael Harris
Myranda Stephens
Dr. Daniel Brooks
Amy Clines

Minutes Recorded by Read.AI

AGENDA

9:30 AM Virtual Meeting Begins 9:32 start

Welcome – Dr. Irene Kokkala, Chair

9:35 AM Approval of Fall [2023 Minutes](#) – Dr. Irene Kokkala

- Motion to approve by David Jenks
- Motion seconded by Brendan Callahan
- A vote was captured via the meeting's chat function, and was unanimously approved.

9: 40 AM eCore Updates/Old Business

System Office Update– Jon Sizemore

The university system is currently updating its official record of approved degrees and majors overseen by the Board of Regents. This revision process is underway, with a focus on validating data for each campus. Two cohorts of five institutions (ten total institutions) are currently involved in reviewing authorized programs, a process that will continue throughout the summer for the remaining institutions. Previously, the database of approved programs included an indicator for USG collaborative programs, including eCampus programs. This indicator will no longer be publicly visible. Instead, eCampus has created a web page listing all collaborative programs across the university system and the participating institutions.

Enrollment and General Update – Dr. Jason Huett

eCore Spring 2024 enrollment is up 22% from Spring 2023. Additionally, there is an 18.6% increase in enrollment from fiscal year 2023 to fiscal year 2024.

Academic Honesty Policy & Artificial Intelligence – Dr. Jason Huett

The Academic Honesty Policy of the eCore collaborative was updated in Summer 2024 to include language regarding ethical use of artificial intelligence tools in academic work. eCore has seen an increase in academic honesty violations and appeals related to AI use, and there is a need to clarify guidelines for students and faculty. The emergent policy of partner institutions will be monitored to inform ongoing policy alignment in the eCore cooperative academic arrangement. A survey will be distributed to RAC members to collect sample AI policy statements from across USG.

FreeCampus and Microcredentials Task Force – Dr. Sarah Kuck

Three new FreeCampus nursing support courses launched in Spring 2024: Medical Terminology, Medical Mathematics, and Fundamentals of Pathophysiology. In addition, the College Foundations for English Composition & College Math Foundations courses were revised to include Accuplacer content. New courses on health and personal wellness and financial literacy, aligning with Department of Ed requirements, are being developed for academic year 2025. Additionally, eCampus is collaborating with Kennesaw State to develop micro-credentials for its non-credit-bearing FreeCampus courses. By fall 2024, five courses will be offered with these micro-credentials using the Kennesaw State taxonomy and the Credly Digital Credentials Platform for implementation, allowing students to showcase their knowledge on platforms like LinkedIn or their resumes.

eCore Updates–Dr. Kelly Steed

ANTH 1102 Introduction To Anthropology: eCore will begin offering ANTH 1102 in Fall 2024. This course was previously approved by the eCore RAC in Spring 2023, but due to delays in the General Education Council approval process the course was not included in the cooperative academic agreement for AY 2024. It will be included in the CAA for academic year 2025.

Comparative Syllabus Analysis: eCampus is conducting a comparative syllabus analysis to establish benchmarks for core courses undergoing major revisions. Sample syllabi are being collected from affiliate institutions and compiled in a database by eCampus staff. The data will provide insights into instructional strategies, learning objectives, assessments and academic rigor, and will help SMEs determine how to revise eCore curriculum to ensure it remains in alignment with equivalent course offerings across USG.

Standardized Proctored Exam Materials: Following a research project conducted in Fall 2023, eCore has implemented standardized proctored exam materials in Spring 2024. Prior to this term, faculty selected proctored exam materials at the individual section level, which occasionally resulted in delayed access for students who submitted proctored exam extension requests. In addition, the variety of materials allowed impacted data quality for eCore LO assessments. Faculty survey feedback provided academic oversight to establish the appropriate proctored exam materials for each course, and the exam materials are now standardized across eCore. This change has improved facilitation of proctored exams for thousands of students across the state and will improve the quality of eCore LO data for spring 2024.

10:00 AM New Business

AY 2025 eCore Course Revisions– Dr. Kelly Steed

17/25 institutions had responded to the course revision survey as of 4-15-24. The following eCore courses were approved for major revisions:

- CHEM 1212K
- ENGL 2112
- ENVS 2202
- HIST 1111
- HIST 2112
- MATH 1001
- MATH 1401
- MATH 1501
- MUSC 1100
- PHYS 2212K

Core IMPACTS Implementation – Dr. Kelly Steed

eCore will include video content to support Core IMPACTS in all of the courses starting in Fall 2024. An overview video of each Core IMPACTS area will highlight the learning outcomes and career-ready competencies for that area and explain how they support students' pathways to careers. SMEs will also include IMPACTS-focused instructional content in major and minor course revisions starting in Summer 2024.

eCampus requested updated equivalency chart information from all affiliates in support of Core IMPACTS implementation for Fall 2024. Affiliates were asked to email crosswalks or other relevant information to ensure that the eCore website lists accurate information about course equivalency and transferability.

Grade & Academic Honesty Appeal Process Changes – Dr. Brett Miles

All student and faculty forms will move from eCampus's legacy system, SEADS, to Salesforce effective Summer 2024. This transition will enhance automation and lead to improved documentation and reporting, especially for the Grade Appeal and Academic Honesty processes, as these workflows can be complex. The policies will not change, only the processes.

Instructional Design Updates – Myranda Stephens

Beginning in Summer 2024, eCampus is launching Simple Syllabus in all collaborative eCore, eMajor, and FreeCampus courses. This tool will improve the syllabus creation process for instructors and enhance content and access for students. Here are just a few of the benefits:

- The public-facing [Syllabus Library](#) allows prospective students, parents, high school counselors, and advisors to sample eCampus syllabi to determine if a course will be a good fit for their schedule and responsibilities.
- **Standardized syllabus templates** ensure that students have a consistent navigation experience from course to course so that they can quickly find important information. Standardized templates also help instructors take the guesswork out of ensuring their syllabi are updated with current policies.
- **Robust analytics** allow us to determine student and instructor syllabus engagement.
- **Automated reminders** ensure that faculty update their syllabi by the due date.
- **Simplified export:** eCampus staff can quickly export all syllabi to assist our institutional partners with accreditation visits and institutional research.
- **Calendar widget integration** syncs due dates directly on the syllabus, reducing instructor administrative tasks and ensuring accurate information across course resources.

Curriculum & Instruction Updates – Christy Talley

eCampus Faculty Development hosted 50 eCore Faculty Deep Dive Discussions in Fall 23 - Spring 24 with 372 instructors in attendance. These working groups provide essential academic oversight for eCore. Each meeting focuses on a specific eCore course and allows faculty to collaboratively review student outcomes data and plan curriculum revisions.

There were 452 registered faculty participants at the Annual USG eCampus Faculty Conference Nov. 2-3, 2023. During the conference, 13 [eHero](#) Award recipients were recognized. 168 USG faculty completed USG eCampus Faculty Certification during CY 2023 offered during 7 cohorts throughout the calendar year.

Christy Talley reminded the committee that new faculty credentials are emailed prior to each start of term, as well as a reminder of access to the Xitracs portal which houses comprehensive faculty credentials. The new faculty credentials for Summer 2024 will be emailed out on May 17, 2024 as the Summer term begins on May 20. RAC members were thanked for their continued review and affirmation of new faculty credentials each semester.

Call for Nominations/Election for New Officers – Dr. Irene Kokkala

Both Chair Elect and Member at Large Officers were nominated and elected at this meeting.

Dr. David Jenks nominated Dr. Dustin Anderson (GA Southern) as Chair Elect and was seconded by Dr. Tim Howard. A vote was captured via the meeting's chat function, and the nomination was unanimously approved. Dr. Ric Calhoun (Gordon State) was nominated by Dr. David Jenks. A vote was captured via the meeting's chat function, and the nomination was unanimously approved.

Dr. Kokkala passed the gavel as Chair to Dr. Ralitsa Akins, who will be serving as the new eCore RAC Chair.

Updates/Feedback/New Business from Participating Institutions

Dr. Huett reminded the group that submission of the crosswalks to eCampus are critical.

10:18 AM Adjourn

eCore Bylaws

On who may attend this meeting:

Each member institution will be allowed one representative to be appointed by the institution's VPAA/Provost. The Chief Academic Officer of each Partner Institution appoints as its representative to the membership of the eCore RAC a senior academic administrator with faculty rank who is involved in the operation of the Partner Institution's general education curriculum.

On new appointments:

Article III. Executive Committee

This RAC has three primary officers-the Chair, Chair-Elect, and Executive Committee Member-at-Large. The Chair of this RAC must be at the rank of VPAA, Associate VPAA, or Assistant VPAA, or other position in senior leadership with faculty rank and a broad oversight for the general education curriculum. The terms of the Chair and Chair-Elect are for one year. The Member-at-Large will serve a three year term. The terms for all offices begin following the spring meeting. The Chair-Elect will become the Chair and the new Chair-Elect will be elected during the spring meeting. The Member-at-Large will be elected every three years at the spring meeting. When an office becomes vacant during a term of service, the Executive Committee will select an appropriate representative to complete the specified term of office.