



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Faculty Senate
FROM: Dr. Brendan Kelly, President
RE: President Response to Senate Actions
DATE: September 22, 2021

Following is my response to the actions of the Faculty Senate as represented in the minutes of the meeting of September 10, 2021, which were approved electronically on September 21, 2021. All program approvals are made contingent upon the department's commitment to staff the changes out of existing internal funds. Note that Section 3.6.2 of the Board of Regents Policy Manual states, inter alia: "The termination of educational programs, degrees, or majors shall be submitted to the Chancellor for review and recommendation for action by the Board of Regents." So, all program, degree, and major terminations (as well as additions) need to be approved by the Board. Our requests should include the rationale and the plan for addressing the needs of existing students.

Committee Reports

Committee I: Undergraduate Programs Committee (Karen Graffius, Chair)

Action Items: ([Addendum I](#))

- A) College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry
 - 1) Department of Mathematics, Sciences, and Technology
 - a) [Mathematics Minor](#)
Request: Modify

Item approved unanimously.

I accept this motion.

- b) [Computing, B.S.](#)
Request: Add

Item approved with 43 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

c) [Computing, Nexus](#)

Request: Add

Item approved with 44 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

d) [COMP 2200 – Introduction to Databases](#)

Request: Add

e) [COMP 2300 – Fundamentals of Computing](#)

Request: Add

f) [COMP 2320 – Principles of Programming](#)

Request: Add

g) [COMP 2350 – Introduction to Digital Media](#)

Request: Add

h) [COMP 2360 – Physical Computing](#)

Request: Add

i) [COMP 2500 – Intro to Computer Security](#)

Request: Add

j) [COMP 3300 – Application Development I](#)

Request: Add

k) [COMP 3310 – Mobile Development](#)

Request: Add

l) [COMP 3350 – Game Development I](#)

Request: Add

m) [COMP 3400 – System and Network Admin I](#)

Request: Add

n) [COMP 3500 Cybersecurity](#)

Request: Add

o) [COMP 3600 User-Centric Computing I](#)

Request: Add

p) [COMP 3800 Data Analytics](#)

Request: Add

q) [COMP 4200 Advanced Database Systems](#)

Request: Add

r) [COMP 4300 Application Development II](#)

Request: Add

s) [COMP 4350 Game Development II](#)

Request: Add

t) [COMP 4400 System and Network Admin II](#)

Request: Add

u) [COMP 4420 DevOps](#)

Request: Add

v) [COMP 4500 Computer Forensics](#)

Request: Add

w) [COMP 4600 – User-Centric Computing II](#)

Request: Add

x) [COMP 4982 – Capstone Project](#)

Request: Add

y) [COMP 4985 – Special Topics in Computing](#)

Request: Add

z) [COMP 4986 – Internship](#)

Request: Add

Items d-z taken as a block and approved with 44 in favor, 1 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

I accept these motions.

Committee II: Graduate Programs Committee (Dena Kniess, Chair)

Action Items: ([Addendum II](#))

A) College of Education

- 1) Department of Sport Management, Wellness, and Physical Education
 - a) [Integrative Health and Wellness, M.S.](#)
Request: Add

Item approved with 47 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

- b) [CMWL 6100 – Lifestyle Medicine and Integrative Health](#)
Request: Add
- c) [CMWL 6200 – Behavior Change Models, Methods and Theories](#)
Request: Add
- d) [CMWL 6300 – Mind Body Medicine](#)
Request: Add
- e) [CMWL 6400 – Exercise and Nutrition for Health and Healing](#)
Request: Add
- f) [CMWL 6500 – Health Technologies](#)
Request: Add
- g) [CMWL 6600 – Wellness Law & Entrepreneurship](#)
Request: Add
- h) [CMWL 6700 – Personal and Professional Development for the Health and Wellness Coach](#)
Request: Add
- i) [CMWL 7000 – Advanced Health and Wellness Coaching](#)
Request: Add
- j) [CMWL 7100 – Capstone \(Culminating Experience\)](#)
Request: Add

Items b-j approved as a block with 45 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

I accept these motions.

B) College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry

1) Department of Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology

a) [SOCI 5015 – Analyzing and Visualizing Data](#)

Request: Add

Item approved unanimously.

I accept this motion.

Information Items:

A) College of Education

1) Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Speech Language Pathology

a) [Professional Counseling, M.Ed., Concentrations in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling](#)

Request: Modify Admissions Criteria

These modifications remove the GRE requirement for admission into the program.

b) [Professional Counseling, Ed.S.](#)

Request: Modify Admissions Criteria

These modifications remove the GRE requirement for admission into the program.

I have no comment.

Committee III: Academic Policies Committee (Jennifer Edelman, Chair)

Action Item:

A) Georgia History and Georgia Constitution Proficiency Exam Policy ([Figure 1](#))

Request: Modify

Item approved with 43 in favor, 3 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

I accept this motion.

Information Item:

A) High Impact Practices (HIPs) Designations (Figure 2)

The USG is requesting that every institution develop a campus-wide process and criteria for assigning attributes in Banner for all courses identified as High Impact Practices (HIPs). In Spring 2021, six UWG faculty—including one APC member—were selected to serve as USG HIPs Implementation Fellows to serve as campus liaisons to support this work. They will continue to advise and support this work as members of the Campus HIPs Committee, which is comprised of faculty representatives from each academic college, school, and unit. The Campus HIPs Committee will draft recommendations for the process and criteria for assigning attributes in Banner for courses identified as HIPs, which then will be submitted the APC for revision and approval before being sent to the Faculty Senate for final approval. Once this the process and criteria for assigning HIPs attributes to courses have been approved, the curricular approval of courses receiving a HIPs attribute will be processed through UPC and the Faculty Senate on a course by course basis before being sent to the Registrar, who will assign the attributes to courses in Banner. The Provost supports this work and has identified funding to support faculty in course design or course redesign related to HIPs.

I have no comment.

Committee IV: Faculty Development Committee (Patrick Erben, Chair)

Information Item:

A) BOR Post-Tenure and Annual Review Recommendations (Figure 3)

The FDC wanted to bring everyone's attention to ongoing changes made by the Board of Regents to 10-year annual evaluations and faculty evaluations in general, which will probably affect pre-tenure, tenure and promotion, and post-tenure review applications. There will be a good bit of work that will need to be done by institutions as the board moves to approve these changes, and much of it will rely on institutions to craft actual policy changes, especially with regard to different review levels and at the program level. Specific things noted were a focus on student success activities outside of teaching such as mentoring or undergraduate

research, and changes in the post tenure review timeline and process. Discussion then focused on concerns over how this may change the nature of academic freedom post tenure, and whether the BOR is attempting to ensure that faculty are maintaining productivity throughout their career through their increased control and centralization of the promotion and tenure process. See [Figure 3](#) for a summary and flow chart of changes to the post tenure review timeline. (See also [September 10, 2021 Zoom Meeting](#), beginning at 1:56:20)

I have no comment.

Committee VIII: Budget Committee (Laurie Kimbrel, Chair)

Information Item:

A) David Nickell will serve as Chair of the Budget Committee for the 2022-2023 Academic Year.

Chair Kimbrel also provided a quick update regarding an upcoming Budget Workshop scheduled for September 21, 2021, with the Provost and Vice President of Business and Financial Services John Haven. She will share the slides from that workshop at the October Senate Meeting.

Chair Kimbrel also stated that the Budget Committee has formed a subcommittee that is currently working on the 12-month pay option for ten month employees that is allowed by policy but has not been put into practice. The Budget Committee is also collaborating with the Facilities and Information Technology Committee to create a faculty parking fee subcommittee comprised of members from both Budget and FITC.

I have no comment.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

A) QEP, Dr. Ralitsa Akins

Dr. Akins stated that she is in contact with Faculty Senate Committees to which she is serving as a liaison, as well as UWG's liaison with the SACSCOC, about the best way to approach the QEP process in order to be as productive as possible as we move forward. Not

only is it clear that we will have to base this process on data, but we also need broad faculty participation. Dr. Akins will be meeting with the Institutional Planning Committee soon to discuss the initial process further, and she will report back to this body when more information becomes available.

I have no comment.

B) New Advising Procedure (Figure 4)

Chair Williams gave some background information regarding the recent transfer of undergraduate advising from programs to the Advising Center and the proposed resolution found in Figure 4, and the rationale behind that resolution. (See [September 10, 2021 Zoom Meeting](#), beginning at 2:12:07) He stressed that this resolution was not a criticism of the excellent work done by our professional advisors or of the Advising Center. Some concerns that were raised by faculty in attendance were the importance of advising and student success activities within the promotion and tenure process, the role that mentoring and career planning plays in advising, the importance of prerequisites within curriculum paths, how this may affect student letters of recommendation, the nuanced conversations that take place between faculty and their advisees, further erosion in shared governance, and changes to program websites that now directs students to the Advising Center rather than a program-specific disciplinary advisor.

Provost Preston clarified that faculty have not been removed from the advising process. There were about 900 students in very specific academic programs who did not have the opportunity to receive general advising as part of the Center for Academic Success and Advising, so the action taken was to add three advisors to that Center so that students could have more access to advising. He stressed that he values the disciplinary advising that faculty give, and the addition of these three advisors allows faculty to focus more on that disciplinary advising while augmenting and adding to the resources already available to students.

Chair Williams stated that it was his understanding that, according to Carrie Ziglar, faculty will no longer review student schedules or remove advising holds, but will play a role alongside professional advisors as a mentor to students. The Provost stated that no student will be advised exclusively by faculty and faculty are not removed from the process as they

are central to mentorship and advising. Instead, this adds to the resources for student success and advising already in place. With regards to website changes that direct students to the Advising Center rather than a program-specific disciplinary advisor, the Provost stated that he would be happy to work with the Center for Academic Success and Advising to clarify that.

APC Chair Jennifer Edelman stated that this resolution came through APC, and she reached out to a number of people to find out more information and they all stated that faculty would no longer advise students. She asked the Provost to clarify whether student advising would begin in the Advising Center and be transferred to an advisor within their program after a certain point in their progress or whether student advising would remain within the Advising Center during the entirety of that students progression through their program. The Provost stated that after he learned of the 900 students who needed advising, concerns arose about faculty workload, especially over the summer when faculty may not be on contract. Rather than put student in limbo, three new advisors were added to the Advising Center in order to support our students' advising needs. He added that his main focus is student success, but we also need to make sure that we are respecting faculty workload, particularly in the summer, and make sure that we have the appropriate number of advisors to support the number of students that we have. The Provost stated that he was happy to get together and have a conversation about this in order to clarify any confusion, and APC Chair Edelman invited him to attend the next APC meeting.

Chair Williams stressed that there was no objection to the addition of the three new advisors, but it would have been useful to have program and faculty input in the decision making process.

After calling the question, the resolution passed with 31 in favor, 6 opposed, and 5 abstentions.

I have no comment.

C) Resolutions on COVID Protocols ([Figure 5](#))

Chair Williams began by stating that both of these resolutions were written before President Biden's executive orders regarding mandating vaccinations across large employers. (See [September 10, 2021 Zoom Meeting](#), beginning at 2:32:39) That said, faculty

at a number of institutions across the USG have been concerned about what they view as inadequate safety measures on campus to reduce the spread of Covid among all members of the university community. We are still operating under USG guidance that encourages individuals to wear masks and to get vaccinated, but there is no mandate, and a number of Faculty Senates across the state including UNG, UGA, and GSU have passed similar resolutions to what we are proposing in Figure 5. When Chair Williams polled the General Faculty to comment on potential resolutions our Senate could offer, 75% of the 283 responses supported Senate action on the matter, and among that 75%, 80 faculty used the comments section of the survey to write in a request for a mask and/or vaccine mandate.

It was noted that UWG's AAUP chapter Executive Committee has worked with the Georgia state AAUP to organize a series of protests next week that will take place every day at different times to encourage widespread participation for anyone who wants to participate without disrupting classes.

After calling the question, the Petition to the USG for a Change in COVID Policy passed with 40 in favor, 4 opposed, and 0 abstentions. The Resolution on Campus COVID-Related Protocols at UWG passed with 43 in favor, 3 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

The University of West Georgia continuously focuses on the health and wellbeing of our community's students, faculty, and staff, including following the guidance of the Office of the Governor, the University System of Georgia, and the Department of Public Health.