

University Senate Committee Annual Report Student Affairs Policy Committee (SAPC) 2018-2019

Due Date: Submit in MSWord format to senate@gcsu.edu

Committee Name: Student Affairs Policy Committee (SAPC)

Academic Year: 2018-2019

Committee Charge:

V.Section2.C.4.b. Scope. The Student Affairs Policy Committee shall be concerned with policy relating to the general social, cultural, and practical welfare of students, which includes, but is not limited to, policies relating to non-academic areas such as conduct and discipline, grievances and non-academic appeals, financial aid, human services for students (e.g. health center, counseling), organizations, awards, intercollegiate athletics, and other extracurricular activities (e.g. Greek life, residence life, intramurals). This committee also provides advice, as appropriate, on procedural matters that affect the general social, cultural, and practical welfare of the students.

Committee Calendar:

September 6
September 21
October 5
October 19
February 1
March 1
March 29

Executive Summary: The majority of the committee’s time was spent meeting with students and administrative campus leaders to discuss issues faced by Georgia College students. The motivation was to understand and advance ways that Georgia College and SGA can better serve them.

Committee Membership and Record of Attendance:

Aggregate Member Attendance at Committee Meetings for the Academic Year:

“P” denotes Present, “A” denotes Absent, “R” denotes Regrets (blank denotes non-membership)

Meeting Dates	04/27/19	8/14/19	9/6/19	10/5/19	11/2/19	2/1/19	3/1/19	3/29/19
Joanna Schwartz –Chair-Senator	A	P	R	P	R	P	R	P
Kat Capstick– Non-Senator	A	A	A	A	P	A	X	X
Paulette Cross–Senator	A	P	P	R	P	P	P	R
Jaira Dye– Student, Non-Senator	P	A	P	P	R	R	P	P
Mary Catherine Rogers-Senator	A	A	A	P	P	R	P	A
Monica Ketchie – Vice Chair - Senator	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	R
Laverne Renfroe– Non-Senator	P	P	P	R	P	P	P	P
Rachel Spradley– Non-Senator	A	A	R	A	A	A	A	A
Brandon Sample- Senator	P	P	P	R	P	P	R	R
Amy Pinney – Senator	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Guy Biyogmam – Secretary, Non-Senator	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	R
Amelia Lord –SGA President	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	R
Sophia Gonzales, Student							R	P
Kevin Blanch, Senator			P	P	P	A	A	P

Motions brought to the Senate floor:

No motions were brought to the Senate floor for the 2017-2018 academic year

Other Significant Deliberation (Non-Motions):

The State of Policies on Campus

We met with Dr. Wilson and Dr. Womack to discuss the legal implications of the new policy on freedom of expression on campus. According to them, GCSU being part of the University System of Georgia has to follow State laws, even if the policy can potentially impact underrepresented students. Georgia College can only take action if there is enough evidence that the speech crosses the lines of Harassment and Discrimination, or disrupts the business of Georgia College. They also emphasized that the policy has limits and any issue should be directed to them. They are also planning to train students, faculty and staff on how to respond to potential offensive language.

Students' Email addresses

We could not meet with Dr. Bob Orr. Emailed the committee and indicated that for students to move their email domain from a google domain to a different one, they would have to give up their Google affiliation. This could result in SGA calling for a ballot for students to vote and reach a consensus. The committee thought that it will be very hard to get a consensus from students. Based on the response from the SGA and the students who participated in SAPC this was not further pursued.

The HUB

We met with Stacey Milner, Director of the GC Cultural Center to ask how SGA can be more involved. Dr. Stacey Milner presented several activities and important programs covered by the cultural center in an effort to promote diversity and inclusion. With the cultural center receiving more attention, Dr. Milner stated that her biggest challenge to achieve its mission is visibility and formal funding. Also, the cultural center would like to partner with other departments on campus.

Diversity Action Plan

Met with Veronica Womack to discuss the Diversity Action Plan and how SGA can help with its implementation. Amelia Lord and other members of SGA then worked outside the committee to address operationalization of those concepts.

Dr. Womack suggested that:

- a) SGA can help spread the word about where students can go to report and handle student complaints
- b) Help develop a media strategy – SGA has begun developing a strategy

General issues regarding inclusivity, campus safety, student concerns about dining, transparency in food service and norovirus reporting

Ms. Sophia Gonzales proposed including “dining dollars” that could be used elsewhere and there was general agreement that students would find that useful. Other committee members elaborated on food services processes that could improve. Among those were cleanliness issues and student concerns of misrepresentation in that food does not tend to look the way it is represented in our media and to constituencies such as students’ parents.

The Vice President for Finance and Administration, Susan Allen, was extremely responsive and made suggestions to continue this dialogue as well as discussing in detail the options for vendors for GC dining spaces. The limitations of vendors was contrasted to the option for a self-managed system. She confirmed the Administration’s interest in the importance of quality in the dining experience and sought to continue this dialogue. She proposed a meeting to include students and key members of the process. She asserted that this is a contract that will be coming back up for bid and encouraged finding ways increase information sharing about that. When it was suggested that this be the first item for the Fall meeting, both Ms. Gonzales and Ms. Allen agreed that they should move forward on this before then and will work to arrange that conversation.

Ms. Allen also addressed campus safety issues, discussing campus priorities for increasing the visibility of crosswalks and how those changes will impact campus. She also reiterated that a new chief safety officer would start in April and encouraged the committee in invite him in.

Student Town Hall Meeting Regarding Food Services

SAPC facilitated a conversation between SGA and Ms. Allen that led to an extremely well attended SGA Town Hall including top members of University administration to discuss the quality of food services and the options Georgia College should address to improve food services and to consider as the University goes into a negotiation for service renewal.

Early College

We met with Dr. Lewter on concerns that GC Early college students do not feel welcome on campus. He, along with Dr. Wilson and Dr. Womack informed the committee that an attempt to give them access to many facilities on campus has been made in the past, but the GCEC principal, DR. SALLAD did not welcome the idea due the age of Early college students and their middle and high school student's status.

We later met with Dr. Runee Sallad from the Early College to discuss ways to better integrate GC Early college students into the Georgia college community. DR. Sallad informed the committee that GCEC used to be very comfortable at Georgia college in the past. For instance, in 2014-2016, GCEC students had GC mentors and were involved in students organizations. Nowadays, they are not even welcome at the HUB, and they are subject to many accusations. As a result, they tend to stay on Kilpatrick area to avoid trouble. They do not feel connected to GC. SGA added a new position dedicated to Early college students in order to help improve the relationship between GC early college students and GC students.

Ad hoc committees and other groups:

None

Committee Reflections:

The committee was exceptionally productive and facilitated change through partnerships with leaders across campus. No motions came to the floor because the issues addressed didn't require Senate votes. Our most interesting meetings were ones that included guests who work with underrepresented students. Hearing about the specific perspectives of these students was illuminating and helpful in understanding how to create a more inclusive campus environment. Many faculty/staff committee members remarked on how impressed they are by our SGA representatives. They brought up meaningful issues for discussion in committee and worked on addressing concerns expressed by our guests directly following the SAPC meetings.

Committee Recommendations:

- SGA should educate GC students on the importance of GCEC, GC faculty in some of their courses could have students make presentations at GCEC for credit. SGA could use their volunteer hours to provide mentoring and tutoring to GCEC students. GC could promote GCEC to GC faculty as an opportunity for active learning and diversity and inclusion activities.
- The committee recommended that a Diversity and Inclusion component be included in the freshmen seminar course. This will also better prepare GC students to accept GCEC students on campus and educate them on opportunities offered by the GCEC program, namely, volunteer hours, tutoring leadership, active learning, and diversity and inclusion activities.
- Continue working with the Cultural Center, the LGBTQ+ Center, Women's Center and Early College to make underrepresented students feel more welcome and appreciated on campus.
- Continue the dialogue on campus safety issues, visibility of crosswalks and quality food services

Recommend items for consideration at the governance retreat:

See Committee Recommendations.

Appendix: Committee Operating Procedures

From the agreed upon 2017-2018 SAPC Operating Procedures document:

“The Student Affairs Policy Committee (SAPC) is governed by the Senate bylaws in participating in the shared governance of Georgia College & State University. The members are accountable to the constituents they serve and function as a team to benefit these constituents.”

“The SAPC members work cooperatively as a team for the good of the University, the University Senate, Student Government Association, and the Committee.”

“Deliberation is informal until there is a motion for committee consideration in which case Robert's Rules apply.”