

Georgia College & State University Academic Policy Committee

Annual Report 2024-2025

Committee Name: The Academic Policy Committee

Academic Year: 2024-2025

Committee Charge:

- **V.Section2.C.1.a. *Membership.*** The Academic Policy Committee shall have no fewer than eleven (11) and no more than thirteen (13) members distributed as follows: no fewer than nine (9) and no more than eleven (11) members selected from the Corps of Instruction faculty, at least seven (7) of whom are elected faculty senators, one (1) member who is the Chief Academic Officer or an individual appointed by the Chief Academic Officer to serve as a designee in compliance with V.Section2.C, and one (1) member appointed by the University President in compliance with II.Section1.A.5.
- **V.Section2.C.1.b. *Scope.*** The Academic Policy Committee shall review and recommend for or against policy relating to undergraduate and graduate education matters that have broad impact or implication to the university as a whole, which includes, but is not limited to, policies relating to grading, scholastic probation and honors, academic appeals, academic standing, standards for admission, general university degree requirements, educational processes, academic calendar, academic assessment, and academic ceremonies. This committee also provides advice, as appropriate, on academic procedural matters at the institution which includes, but is not limited to, academic assessment and those matters relating to the educational process.

Committee Calendar:

August 12, 2024 (Governance Retreat)

September 6, 2024

October 4, 2024 (cancelled due to lack of discussion items)

November 1, 2024

January 10, 2025 (cancelled due to lack of discussion items)

February 7, 2025

March 7, 2025

April 4, 2025 (cancelled due to lack of discussion items)

Executive Summary:

Topics of discussion:

- Academic Integrity Implications of Artificial Intelligence
- Alignment of Bobcat Code and Academic Dishonesty Policy
- Edits to Academic Dishonesty Policy for Clarity

Committee Membership and Record of Attendance:

Key: P=Present, R=Regrets, A=Absent, E=Committee business transacted via electronically, C=Meeting canceled due to lack of discussion items

Member Name	Position	Senate Member	September 6	October 4	November 1	January 10	February 7	March 7	April 4
Andrew J. Allen	Chair	Yes	P	C	P	C	P	P	C
Rodica Cazacu		Yes	P	C	P	C	P	R	C
Donovan Domingue	Secretary	Yes	R	C	P	C	P	P	C
Sayo Fakayode		Yes	P	C	P	C	R	P	C
Hedwig Fraunhofer		Yes	P	C	P	C	P	P	C
Adam Lamparello		Yes	R	C	P	C	R	R	C
Arban Sengupta		Yes	R	C	R	C	P	P	C
John R. Swinton	Vice-Chair	Yes	P	C	P	C	P	P	C

Talecia Warren		Yes	R	C	P	C	R	P	C
Dana Gorzelany-Mostak		No	P	C	P	C	P	P	C
Nancy Mizelle		No	P	C	P	C	R	P	C

Motions brought to the Senate floor:

Motion Number: 2425.APC.003.P

Source Committee: Academic Policy Committee

Motion Status: Awaiting Action by Executive Committee

Motion Type: Policy Recommendation

Motion Text: To recommend as University Policy the proposed “Student Academic Dishonesty Policy Revision” as outlined in the supporting document and to endorse the guidelines and procedural recommendations made therein.

Proposed Policy Language:

Georgia College acknowledges the need to preserve an orderly process with regard to teaching, research, and public service, as well as the need to preserve and monitor students’ academic rights and responsibilities. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated at Georgia College. Possible consequences of academic dishonesty, depending on the seriousness of the offense, may range from a revision of assignment, an oral reprimand, a written reprimand, an F or a zero for grade work, removal from the course with a grade of F, to suspension or exclusion from the University.

Academic dishonesty includes the following examples, as well as similar conduct aimed at knowingly making false representation with respect to academic performance.

Reason for the Policy: The Academic Policy Committee, at the request of committee members, considered a change in the current GCSU academic dishonesty policy (<https://gcsu.smartcatalogiq.com/2023-2024/undergraduate-catalog/academic-policies/student-code-of-conduct/student-academic-dishonesty/>) to clarify language and expectations.

The Academic Policy Committee moved to advance the motion to the University Senate on March 7, 2025. The motion was approved by the University Senate on March 28, 2025, and is awaiting approval by the University President.

Motion Number: 2425.APC.002.P

Source Committee: Academic Policy Committee

Motion Status: Awaiting Action by University President

Motion Type: Policy Recommendation

Motion Text: To recommend as University Policy the proposed “Bobcat Honor Code Revision” as outlined in the supporting document and to endorse the guidelines and procedural recommendations made therein.

Proposed Policy Language:

RULE 9. PLAGIARISM

For the purposes of this code, plagiarism is considered the act of representing ideas, writings, artistic designs, or any other creative endeavors that were created by someone or something else as one’s own. This includes, but is not limited to, materials created by artificial intelligence. When direct quotations are used, they must be indicated; and when the ideas of another are incorporated in any submission, they must be acknowledged, according to a style of documentation appropriate to the discipline. Materials covered by this prohibition include, but are not limited to, text, video, audio, images, photographs, websites, electronic and online materials, and other intellectual property.

RULE 12. UNAUTHORIZED USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

It is a violation of the academic honor code to use artificial intelligence technologies in completing coursework or assignments without the prior explicit written approval or positive assent of the applicable instructor.

RULE 13. VIOLATION OF ADDITIONAL COURSE STANDARDS

Academic units and members of the faculty may prescribe and give students prior **written** notice of additional standards of conduct for academic honesty in a particular course, and violation of any such standard of conduct shall constitute misconduct under The Bobcat Code.

Reason for the Policy: The Academic Policy Committee, at the request of faculty, considered a change in the current GCSU Bobcat Code (<https://www.gcsu.edu/deanofstudents/student-code-of-conduct>) to ensure that the inappropriate use of AI technologies is clearly forbidden, following a previous revision in Student Academic Dishonesty Policy. The proposed changes would reword RULE 9. Plagiarism, add a new RULE 12. Unauthorized Use of Artificial Intelligence, would renumber the final rule, and would clarify new RULE 13. Violation of Additional Course Standards. No other changes to the Bobcat Code are deemed necessary by the Academic Policy Committee at this time.

The Academic Policy Committee moved to advance the motion to the University Senate on February 7, 2025. The motion was approved by the University Senate on, February 28, 2025, and was approved by the University President on March 28, 2025. Implementation is in progress.

Motion Number: 2425.APC.001.P

Source Committee: Academic Policy Committee

Motion Status: Awaiting Action by University President

Motion Type: Policy Recommendation

Motion Text: To recommend as University Policy the proposed “Student Academic Dishonesty Policy Revision” as outlined in the supporting document and to endorse the guidelines and procedural recommendations made therein.

Proposed Policy Language: Using artificial intelligence technologies in completing coursework or assignments contrary to the stated rules of the course and/or without the prior explicit written approval or positive assent of the applicable instructor.

Reason for the Policy: The Academic Policy Committee, at the request of faculty, considered a change in the current GCSU academic dishonesty policy (<https://gcsu.smartcatalogiq.com/2023-2024/undergraduate-catalog/academic-policies/student-code-of-conduct/student-academic-dishonesty/>) to ensure that the inappropriate use of AI technologies is clearly forbidden, following a previous revision in the 2023-2024 school year. The committee investigated all pertinent policies at other USG institutions to determine what language sister universities and colleges may already have in place. The committee found that only Augusta University and the University of Georgia had so far altered their policies to reflect the new landscape. Faculty members Joy Bracewell and Cynthia Alby were consulted for their experience and expertise. The committee ultimately found that the GCSU academic dishonesty policy’s current language regarding plagiarism is in need of updating. Therefore, APC proposes that the University Senate consider the above language to insert as a new item 1C, with subsequent relabeling of existing items in the policy. In the coming meetings, the APC may revisit this policy for slight rewording of the preamble for clarity.

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Other Significant Deliberation (Non-Motions):

None

Ad hoc committees and other groups:

None

Committee Reflections:

What worked well: The committee was efficient in its use of time. Its deliberations were collegial and constructive. The committee was open to consider ideas and motions from all sources at the University.

What could use improvement: No suggestions for improvement at this time.

Committee Recommendations:

Are there any issues that should be considered by this committee the following year? No

Are there any issues that this year's committee was unable to complete its work on? No

Do any of this year's committee actions require follow-up? (i.e. a policy was drafted, but there was a recommendation for a review of the policy during the following year.) No

Recommendations on calendar (meeting times, outline items that you expect would be considered annually) None

Recommend items for consideration at the governance retreat: None

Appendix: Committee Operating Procedures

Robert's Rules of Order shall be utilized for all committee meetings. The Academic Policy Committee is composed of 11 members, so 6 members must be present at any meeting to establish a quorum to conduct committee business. Any agenda items must be presented to the committee no later than one week before the next scheduled meeting, barring emergencies. Meetings will begin on time and will proceed expeditiously, although the ability of all committee members to voice their opinions will be considered sacrosanct. On the extremely rare occasions that a meeting must exceed its scheduled time, the committee must choose to extend the meeting time by majority vote. New items will only be considered by the committee through the consensus of the committee. Whenever possible, the committee will encourage guests to attend meetings to clarify information related to committee discussions.

The standing operating procedures of the Academic Policy Committee permit for electronic discussion of items if achieving and maintaining a quorum becomes difficult. In addition, in special cases, the committee may consider and vote on items via email.