

A DRAFT History

of the

University System of Georgia Faculty Council (USGFC)

Prepared by Craig Turner Last Updated: 18 November 2010 (Corrections are welcome)

url: http://info.gcsu.edu/intranet/univ_senate/USGFC/index.htm

Fri 9 November 2007North Georgia College & State University Dr. Elizabeth Combier
North Georgia College and State University faculty governance leaders hosted a meeting from 10 am to 3 pm. This meeting was intended for faculty governance leaders (up to two per institution) at the twelve senior colleges in the University System of Georgia that have about the same size and focused on the exchange of information on best practices. Five of these twelve institutions were represented at the meeting and discussions centered on governance issues. Each of those present described the governance structure at their institution.

Fri 14 March 2008 Georgia Faculty Governance Units (GAFGU) Clayton State University Dr. Russell Porter
Faculty governance leaders at Clayton State University hosted a shared governance coordination meeting for faculty governance leaders at all university system schools. A brief keynote address entitled "State of the University System of Georgia" was given by Dr. Susan Herbst, Chief Academic Officer of the University System of Georgia, followed by a session of Q & A where the primary topic was the USG Core Curriculum. Three main breakout groups:

(1) Faculty Governance Units: What do they look like in the USG? [facilitators: Elizabeth Combier & Craig Turner].

(2) Faculty Benefits: What do they look like in the USG [facilitator: Michael Toma]

(3) GAFGU: What Next? [facilitator: Russell Porter].

*When the GAFGU breakout group reported out to the full group, they offered a proposal for the formation of a University System of Georgia Faculty Council (USGFC) which those in attendance were asked to circulate among their faculty, faculty governance unit, Chief Academic Officer, and President of their respective university. Ultimately accompanying the proposal was a draft set of bylaws to clarify the intent of the proposed organization with working identity USG Faculty Council. This complements existing advisory groups for USG students (Student Advisory Council) and USG Staff (USG Staff Council), the latter serving as a model for the proposed USGFC. Remaining after this meeting adjourned to **draft USGFC Bylaws** were Russell Porter (Clayton State University), Elizabeth Combier (North Georgia College and State University), Craig Turner (Georgia College & State University), Thomas Hancock (Georgia Gwinnett College), Rose Metts (Savannah State University), & Juone Brown-Johnson (Fort Valley State University).*

Fri 16 May 2008.....University System of Georgia Academic Affairs Office Dr. Russell Porter
USGFC leadership team (Elizabeth Combier, Russell Porter (Moderator), Michael Toma, and Craig Turner) meets with Dr. Susan Herbst and Dr. Linda Noble to discuss the momentum of the USGFC and explore the possibility of it becoming an official advisory committee in the University System of Georgia.

Mon 26 May 2008..... Dr. Russell Porter
*Russell Porter (Clayton State University) announces his intent to accept a Dean of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education position at Shepherd University in West Virginia. The USGFC Moderator position is passed to Elizabeth Combier (North Georgia College & State University) effective **1 June 2008** while Michael Toma (Armstrong Atlantic State University) and Craig Turner (Georgia College & State University) agree to assist as needed in the leadership of the USGFC. Also assisting in the leadership are Leanne West (Georgia Tech), Paul Alberto (Georgia State University), and William Vencill (University of Georgia).*

Wed 20 Aug 2008.....University System of Georgia Offices Dr. Elizabeth Combier
A group of governance leaders meet at the USG offices to discuss the draft USGFC Bylaws. In attendance are In person Leanne West (GaTech); Paul Alberto (GSU); Thomas Hancock (GGC); Elizabeth Combier (NGCSU) Via video conference: William Vencill (UGA); Robert Lightfoot (Waycross) Via teleconference: Craig Turner (GCSU); John Settini (ABAC); Kerri Johnson (Darton); Margaret Smith (Bainbridge) Changes include the introduction of tier voting. This 28 Aug 2010 draft of the bylaws is still in place as of 18 Nov 2010.

Fri 5 Sep 2008..... Dr. Elizabeth Combier
Elizabeth Combier sends email to the faculty governance point persons requesting consideration of the 28 Aug 2010 draft USGFC bylaws by the appropriate faculty group (faculty governance unit, faculty senate, university senate, faculty council, etc., OR full faculty) AND independently by the University President at each USG institution. The question is whether the institution (faculty, University President) will endorse (or not) the 28 Aug 2008 draft USGFC bylaws

Tu 28 Sep 2008 **Dr. Elizabeth Combier**
Elizabeth Combier announces a website that will track the USGFC bylaws endorsement status of each USG institution.

Th 13 Nov 2008 **Dr. Craig Turner**
Craig Turner announces the debut of the email list usgfc@list.gcsu.edu.

Wed 20 Mar 2009 **University System of Georgia Offices** **Dr. Elizabeth Combier, Dr. Craig Turner**
Elizabeth Combier and Craig Turner co-chair a meeting of the USGFC advocates. Dr. Susan Herbst provides a Q&A session. The topics included: Two Year Merger with Tech Colleges, Historically Black College merger, USG Core Revision, Faculty Development Opportunities by USG, Franchise Programs, Budgets, Furloughs. Parallel sessions were held on two year merger and faculty benefits. Dr. Hugh Hudson provided update on AAUP and legislative matters. Those present endorsed a statement against the two year merger. In addition, information about the possibility of a proposal for ORP participants to be allowed to buy into the TRS system was provided. Such a change would require a change in State of Georgia Statute and being a fiscal matter is a two-year process.

Wed 13 Nov 2009 **Georgia College & State University** **Dr. Elizabeth Combier, Dr. Craig Turner**
Elizabeth Combier and Craig Turner co-chair a meeting of the USGFC advocates. As this meeting comes to order, it is known that 33 of the 35 USG institutions have endorsed the 28 Aug 2010 draft USGFC bylaws. At the conclusion of the meeting, a resolution advocating for “no merger” of two year USG institutions with technical colleges is unanimously adopted. Dr. Beth Jensen is acknowledged for her long-standing leadership on this initiative. Other resolutions were drafted on the topics of ADP Concerns and Limit Centralization of Other Matters until ADP is worked out, Faculty Compensation, and Furlough Inequities. Other topics considered were Faculty Governance and Comprehensive Statement on the underutilization of the resource of USG faculty expertise. Resolutions are accessible at the website.

Tue 19 Jan 2010 **University System of Georgia Offices** **Dr. Elizabeth Combier, Dr. Craig Turner**
Interim co-point persons of the USGFC Advocates (Elizabeth Combier, Craig Turner) meet with the Executive Vice Chancellor (Dr. Susan Herbst) and Associate Vice Chancellor of Faculty Affairs (Dr. Linda Noble) to exchange information and discuss the process for requesting official recognition of the USGFC by the BoR/USG. In addition, the 13 Nov 2009 meeting resolutions (Two Year Merger, and three drafts (ADP Concerns, Faculty Compensation, and Furlough Inequities) are shared. Detailed minutes and supporting documents for this meeting accessible at the website.

Tue 19 Jan 2010 **Dr. Craig Turner**
Craig Turner announces that the USGFC web presence will now be hosted by GCSU and extends appreciation for the countless hours of service that Dr. Elizabeth Combier spent preparing, updating, and maintaining the USGFC web presence since 28 Sep 2008.

Tue 15 Feb 2010 **Dr. Elizabeth Combier, Dr. Craig Turner**
Interim co-point persons of the USGFC (Elizabeth Combier, Craig Turner) send a letter to Executive Vice Chancellor (Dr. Susan Herbst) and cc Associate Vice Chancellor of Faculty Affairs (Dr. Linda Noble) to request official recognition of the University System of Georgia Faculty Council by the Board of Regents. Details are available at the website.

Wed 10 Mar 2010 **USGFC Resolution via listserv** **Dr. Jeff LeMieux**
Jeff LeMieux (College of Coastal Georgia) authored and administered the listserv vote for a resolution endorsing the Chancellor’s position against additional FY2011 USG budget cuts. Resolution details are accessible on the website.

Th 1 Apr 2010 **Board of Regents Policy Language for USGFC** **Dr. Linda Noble**
USG University Presidents endorse draft language for the Board of Regents policy manual with few tweaks. The language was a collaborative effort facilitated by Dr. Linda Noble and involving some USG University Presidents, USG Legal, USG Staff, and Elizabeth Combier and Craig Turner.

Th 30 Apr 2010 **USGFC official recognition on BoR Agenda (May 2010)** **Dr. Linda Noble**
Dr. Linda Noble shares information that the official recognition of the USGFC will be considered by the Board of Regents at its May 2010 meeting. This information is distributed via the usgfc@list.gcsu.edu to the advocates for the USGFC by Craig Turner. Details are available at the website.

Th 25 May 2010 **USGFC official recognition by BoR (May 2010)** **Dr. Craig Turner**
Craig Turner announces that official recognition of the USGFC was approved by the BoR Academic Affairs Committee on Tuesday May 11 and formally by the full Board of Regents on Wednesday May 12. Details are available at the website.

Fri 19 Nov 2010 **First “official” meeting of the USGFC** **Juone Brown-Johnson**
Elizabeth Combier and Craig Turner co-chair the first “official” meeting of the USGFC hosted by Juone Brown-Johnson at Fort Valley State University. All in attendance are contributing to the continuing history of the USGFC. Welcome!!!