

Student Advisory Council (SAC)

Spring Meeting Minutes

Saturday April 9th, 2005 9:30am-6:00pm
Macon State College

USG Campuses and Representatives in Attendance

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Catrina Kennedy, SGA President
Albany State University, Kendria Favors
Armstrong Atlantic State University, Phillip Pope, SGA President
Armstrong Atlantic State University, Gretchen Stewart, Former SGA President
Atlanta Metropolitan College, Mckinsey Whitten,
Atlanta Metropolitan College, Shari Durham
Dalton State College, Cheri Pace, SGA President
Darton College, Denise Rowley, SGA President
Fort Valley State University, Ronnetta Woods, SGA President
Gainesville College, Erica Rush, SGA President
Gainesville College, Jay Davis,
Georgia Perimeter College Lawrenceville, Christy Pyron, SGA President
Georgia College and State University, Sara Johnson, SGA President
Georgia Southern University, Laurie Markle,
Georgia Southern University, Shri Davis
Georgia Southwestern State University, Everett Lee, SGA President
Georgia Southwestern State University, Nicholas Walker, Former SGA President
Georgia Institute of Technology, Amy Phuong, SGA President
Kennesaw State University, Munzir Naquvi, SGA President
Macon State College, Andrew Ollikaninen, SGA President
North Georgia College and State University, Bernex Richardson, SGA President,
North Georgia College and State University, Tinsley Lamb, SGA Vice President
South Georgia College, Lee Sharpe, SGA President
South Georgia College, Miguel Fuller
University of Georgia, Will Childs, SGA President
University of West Georgia, Jason Allen, SGA President
Valdosta State University, Jason Lewis, SGA President
Waycross College, Allen Roundtree, SGA President
Waycross College, Tobey Fowler, Former SGA President

USG Campuses and Representatives Registered but Not in Attendance

Clayton College and State University- Gerald Heavens
Columbus State University- Larry Webb
Georgia State University- Tourgee Simpson

Breakfast was available from 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. The meeting began at approximately 10:20 a.m. Information packets consisting of minutes from September 25, 2004 meeting at the Gwinnett University Center, the agenda for the meeting, University system publications, and HOPE scholarship supplements were distributed. Introductions took place from 10:30-11:00.

11:00 a.m. HOPE Scholarship Update: Allen May, Senior Financial Aid Consultant, Georgia Student Finance Commission

Mr. Allen May's presentation highlighted the background of GSFC and free counseling for financial aid. He spoke on the components of HOPE including; 35 cents of very lottery dollar goes to HOPE, HOPE is available for students attending all in-state institutions (public and private), and the qualifications for HOPE. Students can apply for HOPE two ways; E-Hope, the online HOPE registration form or the FAFSA application.

Mr. May also spoke of the different HOPE programs. The PROMISE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP for students who earn a teaching certificate and promise to work within the state for one year to re-pay the state. The HOPE TEACHER LOAN for Graduate Study which can be required to pay by working in a Georgia Public school. Lastly, he talked about the changes with HOPE. Students will now be evaluated at the end of spring term, in addition to the tier check points (30, 60, 90 hours.) HOPE mandatory fees have been capped at the 2004 fee level.

A break for lunch was taken at 11:55

12:30 p.m. Keynote Address- Jim Flowers, Special Assistant to the Chief Information Officer, University Systems of Georgia

Mr. Flowers informed the group that a lot happened this session and tuition was one of the major issues. Mr. Flowers praised SAC for their involvement in the process. He also spoke about formula funding stating that every student has a cost and the state provides up to 75% of that cost and any cut in the formula has to be made up in tuition. Mr. Flowers encouraged the members to watch House Bill 299 which is likely to be continued to the next session. House Bill 299 proposes to limit the number of HOPE eligibility hours for most programs. Mr. Flowers talked about the legislative process of working together and asked that if SAC members have any issues they would like to discuss to please work with the staff at the University Systems Office before going straight to the capital.

Mr. Flowers reported on the outcome of the tuition discussion. Instead of raising tuition, the Board of Regents elected cover most of the budget shortage by taking money out of the USG employee health care reserve and to ask the Governor to return money that was set aside for a project that was cancelled. SAC members asked questions about WebCT Vista challenges and consolidation. Mr. Flowers explained why the System

elected to migrate campuses off WebCT to the Vista model which is supported at the System level. Vista offer the campuses more features at a lower cost. Lastly, Mr. Flowers spoke on the civic duties of Student Government Associations. Most importantly he encouraged the members to promote voting on our campuses and to actively become involved in working at the polls.

1:15 p.m. Textbook Forum Updates, open discussion

The University System Office hosted four textbook forums held throughout the state at Georgia Southern, Georgia State, University of Georgia, and Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. They were very successful. A summary report of the suggestions and comments will be forthcoming. It is possible that next year, as a result of these forums that a bill will be introduced in the legislature, to eliminate sales tax on college text books.

1:45 p.m. University Systems Update, Tonya Lam, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Ms. Lam thanked the SAC members for their participation in making the “Education Go” event a success. The University System Office is an active partner in two state-wide initiatives, Education GO and GA college 411, that are targeting high school students and promoting access to higher education.

The Multi-Institutional Functionality (MIF) project that was discussed at the last meeting, that would enable students to register for classes at any USG institution from their home campus has been delayed due to funding. The System Office hopes to be able to continue this project later in the year. Ms. Lam discussed the progress that institutions are making in migrating away from using the social security number as the primary student ID. Many campuses have made the transition to generic ID and others have submitted plans to make the switch this upcoming year.

Ms. Lam also spoke about the purpose of the Student Advisory Council. She highlighted the SAC website www.usg.edu/sac and the SAC listservs. New SGA president’s information will be added to the private listserv each new term. Lastly, she discussed the idea of a SAC summer retreat as an opportunity to kick off the academic year. There was mention of the approval of a new institution, currently the Gwinnett University Center which will open in 2006-2007.

2:35 p.m. Roundtable: University System of Georgia issues and ideas

The discussion was facilitated by Mr. Andrew Ollikaninen which was divided into different topics.

* SAC

There was discussion about a SAC handbook and it was suggested that all the materials were already online at the SAC site, www.usg.edu/sac.

Members felt there needs to be a transition activity for SAC for new members. It was decided that inviting newly elected and former SGA presidents to come together at the spring meeting was a positive one. The members recommended making goals and setting objectives for SAC and report on accomplishments over time. There was also mention of starting an online organization website to see what each campus is doing throughout the semester.

* Student Activity Allocation

There was a discussion about how student activities fees are allocated across the system. On the majority of campuses the Student Government Association is allocated a certain amount of money and budget hearings are held to determine how the money is allocated to the student organizations.

* Governance Structures

Do SGA's have a voice on faculty councils? There is no standard for how this is handled across the campuses. The method of communicating with the faculty councils varied depending on the nature of the matter.

* Technology

There was a discussion on the centralization of computing services. Students were hearing rumors that services would be lost if the System consolidated computing functions. Last term's experience with WebCT was used as an example of what can happen if the System goes down.

4:00 p.m. Alcohol and Drug Education, Carole Middlebrooks, University of Georgia

Ms. Middlebrooks highlighted the statistics of alcohol on campuses and current laws regarding alcohol on campus.

5:00 p.m. Wrap-up, Planning for the next meeting

Discussion was held about where to hold the next meeting. Georgia College and State University volunteered to host. Members discussed the advantages of hosting a summer retreat. It was suggested that the summer could focus on training, leadership, and system issues.