



**Student Advisory Council (SAC)
Spring Conference Minutes
Friday, February 23-Saturday, February 24, 2007
Atlanta Metropolitan College**



**Student Advisory Council (SAC) Spring Conference Minutes
Friday, February 23-Saturday, February 24, 6:30-10:00pm; 8:00-3:30pm
Atlanta Metropolitan College**

USG Campuses and Representatives in Attendance

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College- Jason Chapman, SGA President
Albany State University- Rubin Pusha, SGA President
Armstrong Atlantic State University- Erik Reid, SGA President
Atlanta Metropolitan College- Sonya Ingram, Student Commission President
Augusta State University- Isaac McAdams, SGA President
Coastal Georgia Community College- Ashley Frye, SGA President
Columbus State University- Nicole de Vries, SGA President
Dalton State College- Nathan Smith, Student Representative of Dalton State
Gainesville College- Tyler Suggs, SGA President
Georgia College and State University, Janessa Hartmann, SGA President
Georgia Institute of Technology- Alison Graab, SGA President
Georgia Institute of Technology- Alex Wang, SGA Academic Affairs Chair
Georgia Southern University- Christopher Ford, SGA President
Gordon College- Gilda Moss-Adderley, SGA President
Macon State College- Janelle Love, SGA President
Middle Georgia College (Cochran)- Travis Horsley, SGA President
Middle Georgia College (Dublin)-Kenny Hughes, SGA President
North Georgia College and State University- Bernex Richardson, SGA President
Savannah State University- Rolando Cantrell, SGA Vice President
University of Georgia, Brent Wierson, SGA External Affairs Chair
University of West Georgia, Riean Norman, SGA President
Valdosta State University, Jeremy Baker, SGA President

Armstrong Atlantic State University- Al Harris, Director of Student Activities
Atlanta Metropolitan College- Iris Shanklin, Director of Student Activities
Atlanta Metropolitan College- Gary McGaha, Interim President
Augusta State University- Eddie Howard, Director of Student Activities
Board of Regents- Regent Potts
Board of Regents- Regent Tucker
Clayton State University- Jeff Jacobs, Associate Dean of Students and Senior Director of Judicial Affairs
Coastal Georgia Community College- Dave Leenhouts, Director of Student Life
Georgia House of Representatives- Sara Johnson, House Intern
Georgia Student Finance Commission- Mary Alexander, Legislative Liaison
North Georgia College and State University- Wesley Thomas, Director of Student Activities
University System Office- Tonya Lam, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
University System Office- Jenny Greyerbiehl, Graduate Assistant
University System Office- Catherine Finnegan, Director of the Office of Information & Instructional Technology
University System Office- Thomas Daniel, Senior Vice Chancellor and Interim Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice Chancellor Administrative and Fiscal Affairs

USG Campuses and Representatives Registered but Not In Attendance

Clayton State University- Toke Adetayo, SGA President
East Georgia College- Jason Cochran, SGA President
East Georgia College- Dianna Wedincamp, Coordinator of Student Activities
Georgia State University- Joan Collier, SGA President



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Friday, February 23

Information packets were given to each attendee consisting of the agenda and evaluation for the conference, handouts from Catherine Finnegan from the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, Mary Alexander from the Georgia Student Finance Committee and Sara Johnson from the Georgia House of Representatives, minutes from the Fall SAC Conference, and a copy of the SAC Committee Goals created this fall.

6:30 p.m. Registration

7:00 p.m. Welcome- Sonya Ingram, SGA President, Atlanta Metropolitan College & Dr. Gary McGaha, Interim President, Atlanta Metropolitan College

Ms. Ingram provided us with the initial welcome and introduced us to students that are a part of the AMC Student Commission.

Mr. McGaha welcomed the SAC group to campus on behalf of the AMC Family. Mr. McGaha provided the SAC group with a little bit of information about his background and how he ended up at AMC. Mr. McGaha expressed his appreciation for the SAC student's attendance at the SAC conference and shared with the students the importance of their work.

7:15 p.m. Energizer-Dave Leenhouts, Director of Student Life, Coastal Georgia Community College

7:45 p.m. Results of the BOR Technology Survey-Catherine Finnegan, Director of the Office of Information and Instructional Technology, Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

See PowerPoint titled "USG Student Information Technology Presentation" as well as link to PDF of "USG Student Information Technology Survey" on SAC website.

8:30 p.m. SAC Member Expectations-Wes Thomas, Director of Student Activities, North Georgia College & State University

The SAC students brainstormed expectations they had of themselves in regards to serving on SAC.

- As the official delegate of my campus as well as a representative of the 260,000 students attending institutions of the University System of Georgia, I will conduct myself professionally and will work diligently to improve my campus and the University System of Georgia.
- I will respond in a timely fashion to the communication sent to me by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.
- I will keep in contact with other SGA Presidents between meetings and will provide any requested information to other schools.
- I will follow through with any commitments I make to the SAC or to any SAC Committee.



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- I will keep my campus SGA informed on what SAC is doing and collect any concerns from students on my campus that need to be relayed to SAC.
- I, as the designated representative to SAC at my respective institution, must attend all SAC meetings; however, due to extenuating circumstances if I am unable to attend a meeting I will select a representative to take my place and will make sure that they are briefed on what to expect, updated on any ongoing SAC business, and prepared to make any necessary reports.
- Upon leaving office on my campus, I will fully inform my successor about SAC and pass along any information or materials to assist them take my place on SAC. Furthermore, I will inform the System Office of the change and will provide contact information for the new SGA President.
- At all SAC meetings I agree to be candid, participative, and respectful to all parties present.

Saturday, February 24

8:00 a.m. Breakfast & HOPE Presentation-Mary Alexander, Legislative Liaison, Georgia Student Finance Committee

See PowerPoint titled “Georgia Student Finance Commission Presentation” on SAC website.

9:30 a.m. Review of Committee Progress/Goals for the 2006-2007 Year and Committee/Goals Work-Jeff Jacobs, Associate Dean of Students and Senior Director of Judicial Affairs & Review of Committee and Iris Shanklin, Director of Student Activities, Atlanta Metropolitan College

Students from each of the four committees (below) provided SAC with a brief review of their committee goals and then discussed the progress they have made on their goals so far this year.

Board of Regents Connectivity

Objective: To create an environment that enhances connectivity between the Board of Regents, University System of Georgia Institutions and its constituents; to create a concrete system of representation and accountability; and to promote a more comprehensive interaction that will unify the University System of Georgia. The ultimate goal of connectivity is to have a student as a formal voice and vote on the Board of Regents.

Action Items: 2 SAC students will attend each Board of Regents meeting; SAC students will work to build relationships with Board members in their local areas; SAC will work to increase awareness of the Board of Regents and the University System of Georgia; extensively explore the benefits and efficiency of a voting SAC member on the Board of Regents; review the process the state of Texas and other possible states went through to accomplish this goal; write a resolution to the Board of Regents to allocate funding to allow SAC members to attend Board of Regent meetings; brainstorm and visit other funding ideas such as asking each SGA to donate \$50 to the cause as an immediate way



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to solve the funding problem; inform SAC members of where each Regent is located in the state of Georgia.

UPDATE: Over the next month--gather research from the states that have a student regent (creating a questionnaire form), need to collect more thoughts on the issue of having a student VOTING regent, want to get SAC involved in connecting with local regents-recommendation to make requirement for communication once/twice a semester, committee still planning to attend BOR meetings.

See PowerPoint titled "Board of Regents Connectivity Presentation" on SAC website for more information.

Committee Members-Jeff Jacobs, Advisor

Travis Horsley-Middle Georgia College-Chair

Jason Chapman, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College- Finance Directors

Janessa Hartmann, Georgia College & State University-Finance Directors

Laquata Sumter, Darton College-Research Directors

Riean Norman, University of West Georgia-Research Directors

Janelle Love, Macon State College

Brent Wierson, University of Georgia

HOPE Scholarship

Issue: Incoming 1st year students frequently lose their HOPE scholarship

Objective: to increase retention and enrollment

Action Items: Do a pilot study to test the feasibility of the proposed plan:

High school students with 3.0 to 3.3 (*Note change from original proposal of 2.9 to 3.2 via Fall SAC Conference) would be given ½ of the HOPE scholarship when they arrive on campus in the fall and if they receive a 3.0 in their first semester of college they will be reimbursed for the ½ not originally covered when they first arrived on campus. If you received a 3.3 GPA or higher in high school you would receive the HOPE scholarship as it currently exists. The ideal pilot school is a medium/large size institution, with a mix of commuter and non-commuter students, with low retention rates. If more than one school is willing to do this, ideally one of the schools would be a 2 year institution and the other school would be a 4 year institution.

UPDATE: Action Items--Gather data from GSFC such as how many students lose HOPE freshman year, etc., compile data, write a position paper for the April SAC meeting.

Notes learned from the GSFC Presentation--Transcript Exchange GSFC is going to do will help standardize grades for high school students, possibly help with the debate about whether or not the GPA standards for "at risk" students is valid or would work. Still a lot of debate about the committee and what recommendations should be made from SAC to the BOR.



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Committee Members-Dave Leenhouts, Advisor

Issac McAdams, Augusta State University
Nicole de Vries, Columbus State University
Ashley Frye, Coastal Georgia Community College
Christopher Ford, Georgia Southern University
Allison Graab, Georgia Institute of Technology
Kenny Hughes, Middle Georgia College

Academic Advisement

Issue: Academic advisement is not effective and/or consistent which causes students a lot of frustration.

Objective: Create an academic advisement center or department that deals with advisement regardless of major. This center/department will know all Board of Regents information and changes, know graduation requirements, academic scheduling, etc. This center/department should work to complement the university advisement mission. This center/department will train all faculty in how to advise students about multiple issues such as balance, etc. as well as logistical changes in graduation requirements, course catalog changes, etc. every year. Students will be required to see their academic advisor every semester and will have a hold on their ability to register for classes each semester if they do not fulfill this requirement. Once a student visits their advisor, the hold will be lifted. This requirement would not apply to students in a cohort or program that allows for no flexibility in scheduling.

Note: At some institutions, departments/schools are currently responsible for advisement of their students.

UPDATE: Met with USG Enhanced Advising Processes Team prior to SAC conference. Gave USG Team “Academic Advisement Committee Handout” PDF on SAC website. Asked SAC students for ideas and suggestions. Plan to follow-up with students and faculty from the Georgia Institute of Technology because of their current advisement system.

Committee Members-Wes Thomas, Advisor

Erik Reid, Armstrong Atlantic State University
Gilda Moss-Adderley, Gordon College
Bernex Richardson, North Georgia College & State University- *Chair*
Rubin Pusha, Albany State University
Nathan Smith, Dalton State College
Sonya Ingram, Atlanta Metropolitan College
Jeremy Baker, Valdosta State University

Course Availability/Academic Schedule



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Objectives: To promote student retention by offering an 18th month academic schedule for course offerings; to support the primary initiatives of fixed tuition; to support a successful transition of transfer and transient students, to update Banner Web or utilize a system to support the 18 month schedule; to create a better/greater frequency of the total number of courses offered each semester; to aid administration/registrar in planning, providing, and preparing a schedule that mirrors the needs of the students.

Classes offered, time of day class will be held (morning, afternoon, night)

Action Items: Research institutions that are and are not providing a schedule beyond the next semester; research actual initiatives of fixed tuition and its correlation to providing an 18 month schedule; measure the success of or the feelings of students toward an 18 month schedule; identify Banner Web capabilities to support this system; pull statistics from institutions that already offer a 18 month schedule to see what their graduation/retention rates are and if you can accredit an increase in graduation/retention rates to having an 18 month schedule available to students.

UPDATE: Chancellor is recommending each campus offer a 18 month schedule to coincide with his 4-year fixed tuition plan. Also, Vice President's for Academic Affairs meeting recommended a 24 month schedule. It is important for SAC to follow-up with each of their home institutions to see if these schedules are actually implemented. If you want it to be mandated, that would have to be done through the Chancellor. Committee disbanded at this meeting after the report.

11:00 a.m. Question and Answer with Two Board of Regents Members-Regent Tucker & Regent Potts

Regent Potts and Tucker provided a brief history of their background and how they became regents members. They also provided their initial feelings about having a voting student regent on the board of regents. Serve 7 year terms-importance to understand and be a viable member also important to be impartial, represent the entire state, very big responsibility to be on the BOR-need to understand that issue (student regent not work). Briefly mentioned the two tracks the BOR members go to during each meeting. Students asked what suggestions the regents would have for the BOR Committee to work on: suggested attendance at BOR meetings (finding some financial support-need budget/plan to give to BOR)-important to have intimate knowledge of the BOR, which students on SAC do not currently have.

Questions were asked about the strategic capital (priority) model (*some new formula) changes suggested by the Chancellor and adopted by the BOR. The Regents gave information about why those changes were made to the strategic capital (priority) model. Goal is to receive more funding from community/capital partners. The old model had been in place for over 20 years and there were a lot of people (legislature, etc.) hearing about necessary changes. Important to address growth (statistic about USG student growth), not just needs/wants from campuses that are not growing.



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How is the USG unique in hearing student concerns as compared to other state systems? We are viewed in high esteem with other states-but we may not do a good enough job to connect with students.

Are there more ways to encourage this dialogue with the BOR-what you do and why and what our students want to hear and why? Contact with Tonya Lam is crucial. Also, introduced Julia who is a person to send your concerns to.

UGA is interested in learning how to best speak with and encourage legislature to push to pass the following bills:

154-Intellectual diversity in higher education: opposed bill because of the meaning of the bill (BOR opposes)

141-No taxes on textbooks: hodgepodge of sales tax exemptions (30 bills right now) is part of the problem... is likely not to be addressed this legislative session... it is a \$4 million bill

Asked the BOR about feelings on the price of textbooks and the students ordering textbooks from some online sites instead of at the bookstore on their campus. Tonya mentioned the USG did a report several years ago on the taxes on textbook issue. See the report titled "Textbook Task Force Report" on the SAC website.

Encouraged committee to work on this and more research.

Student fees question-student activity fee process-April BOR meeting-they must approve all increases in student fees. The BOR typically grants fees based on particular projects, not just general approval. Bill Bowes (USG employee) has due diligence in regards to mandatory fee increases. He compares with other institutions in the southern region, etc. It is important to have student body backing. Chancellor and USG staff negotiate with individual presidents about increases in student activity fees.

How can the students help the regents work with their individual communities? Attend local city council, chamber of commerce, etc. meetings. Voice your opinions and work hand-in hand with those groups. If you are going to make up a problem you need to be willing to assist with working on the solutions. Regents are on campus in their district regularly-meet with the regent when your regent visits-do this by contacting your president and asking to meet with them.

12:00 p.m. Lunch and Legislative Update-Thomas Daniel, Senior Vice Chancellor and Interim Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice Chancellor Administrative and Fiscal Affairs, Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia & Sara Johnson, Georgia House of Representatives, House Intern (Reps. Hembree, Coleman, and Millar), Education and Higher Education Committees

Mr. Daniel provided us with some stories about his undergraduate career and his history. This is the best time in the history of the university system: because of students (smart,



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hard-working, future is bright), outstanding BOR, chancellor is committed (what is your core mission and who are your principled customers), USG staff dedicated to you.

Helpful hints about our future... understand you are a customer, but are also one of other constituencies. Service to the BOR-if you can't show up to SAC, how are you going to be a student... how are you going to represent the students (58% students are female, average age 24, 33,000 non-traditional undergrads)-which of those constituencies are you going to represent? How many of you are freshman? None... but they are the largest class.

Budget

Governor Perdue gave an outstanding recommendation to the Legislature. Perdue's proposals would increase the Board of Regents operating budget by \$200 million – include \$80 million to fully fund the formula (an increase in formula funds sparked by the University System's enrollment growth) and a 3 percent merit salary increase. The Governor also is proposing a \$228 million bond package to fund the System's most critical new construction and renovation projects.

Legislation *Below are a number of bills introduced by members of the Georgia General Assembly that are of special interest to the USG. Note: not all information was presented, other information was pulled from the USG Legislative Update on February 26, 2007.

House Bill 63 – This bill would enable the Georgia Student Finance Authority to provide direct loans to students at a rate of 1 percent annually.

House Bill 72 – This bill would create the Georgia Homeland Security in Education Act of 2007. The act would require private and public post-secondary institutions to report international students who violate the terms of their student visas by withdrawing from or not attending classes to federal, state and local authorities. HB 72 replicates provisions of the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, through which the government monitors student visas.

House Bill 80 – HB 80 requires the Board of Regents, which has administrative responsibility for the Georgia Public Library Service, to consider local economic conditions in apportioning state funds to Georgia's county and regional public library systems each year. The bill also would require a state audit of each library system with certain exceptions.

House Bill 131 – This bill would make surviving spouses of military personnel killed in combat eligible to receive the Georgia HERO Scholarship.

House Bill 141 – This legislation would exempt textbooks from the state sales tax.

House Bill 152 – Under the provisions of this legislation, home-schooled students scoring in the top 10 percent of the SAT or ACT would qualify to receive a HOPE Scholarship.

House Bill 154 – This bill would create the Intellectual Diversity in Higher Education Act, requiring all USG institutions to report to the Board of Regents and post on their websites annually information about their efforts to ensure intellectual diversity and the free exchange of ideas.



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House Bill 216 – This bill would establish a minimum statewide standard for honors courses so eligibility for HOPE and other postsecondary scholarships can be reliably based on a “B” average.

House Bill 228 – This bill would remove the hourly caps on HOPE scholarships.

House Bill 243 – This bill would revise the HOPE Scholarship Program so that enrollment in postsecondary courses at a branch of the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education would not count against the hourly caps for HOPE grants.

House Bill 246 – This bill would create the HOPE Literacy Scholar Program, using HOPE scholars to assist in reading literacy programs in public pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and elementary schools. The bill also would grant participating HOPE scholars in danger of losing their scholarships an additional quarter or semester to pull up their grades.

House Bill 458 – This bill would require all USG institutions offering four-year degrees to establish teacher-education programs.

House Bill 467 – This bill would provide course credit for freshmen entering the University System who have successfully completed the international baccalaureate diploma program.

House Bill 474 – This bill would require certain Georgia universities to offer Georgia entities the first opportunity to purchase or license intellectual property produced by the university.

House Resolution 246 – This resolution would urge the Board of Regents to establish intercollegiate wrestling programs.

House Resolution 322 – This resolution would create a Joint Study Committee on Continuing Education and Collegiate Sports Programs for Students with Disabilities.

Senate Bill 28 – This bill would provide for the development of consumer-driven health-insurance plans by the Commissioner of Insurance, Pharmacies and Pharmacists.

Senate Bill 33 – This bill would authorize the development and implementation of a statewide first-responder building mapping information system.

Senate Bill 35 – This bill would require the Board of Regents to develop a policy giving home-schooled students who apply for admission as undergraduates consideration equal to that of students from public and private schools.

Senate Bill 68 – This bill would enact the Career Academies Act, establishing career academies as charter schools of the Department of Technical and Adult Education.

Senate Bill 74 – This proposed amendment to the Returning Hero Education Act would require the University System to give preferred status to combat veterans of the Armed Services who graduated from a Georgia high school and apply for admission to USG institutions.

Senate Bill 75 – This bill would require the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) to establish minimum statewide standards for honors courses. GSFC also would be required to determine students’ eligibility for post-secondary scholarships, grants and loans by weighting grades received for honors, advanced placement and international baccalaureate courses to account for their rigor.

Senate Bill 111 – This bill would prevent revenue collected by the University System for tuition from lapsing.



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Senate Bill 169 – This bill would enable the Georgia Student Finance Authority to provide direct loans to students at a rate of 1 percent annually.

Senate Bill 196 – This bill would provide scholarships for the children of military personnel killed or disabled in combat.

Senate Resolution 125 – This resolution would reserve funds raised by the Georgia Lottery for the HOPE Scholarship Program and other tuition grants, scholarships or loans enabling state citizens to attend college in Georgia, for voluntary pre-kindergarten, and for educational shortfall reserves.

Also, Sara Johnson a Georgia College and State University student and former SGA president/SAC member provided additional information to SAC in her work with Representative Bill Hembree about House Bill 141. HB141 is eligible for action this year and next year. It has already been introduced on the floor (sub-committee, committee, and floor). Sara gave SAC several handouts one of which is posted on the SAC website titled “Tax Free Textbooks for College Students.” Sara made recommendations to SAC as ways of supporting the bill included passing a resolution from your SGA in support of it. Also, write a letter of support to Hembree. Sara has a listserv and Facebook group going if you would like additional information and updates. In May 2007 results of national textbook committee will be presented. There are currently 11 other states that do not have sales tax on textbooks.

A question about how can SAC help Mr. Daniel was asked and he responded by saying talk to members of the legislature-you are leaders and you are respected. Tell them if you are satisfied with the USG (helps shape how legislature view the system) and how they support the system. Reinforce that the USG is striving for excellence.

1:00 p.m. Institutional Round Tables-Eddie Howard, Director of Student Activities, Augusta State University

Broke up into institutional sizes and discussed issues common to their campus to make students aware of the issues faced by each institution size.

The following issues were discussed in each group:

2-year schools- communication/apathy, higher-one cards (getting refund checks on time)

5,000 students or less- apathy, student involvement/responsibility (advising, financial aid sessions-no one knows), difficult time communicating to students via advertisement on campus, elimination of undergraduate teaching certification program: MAT implementation program is where the shift is going, not enough professors to teach programs that are popular

5,000-10,000 students- communication/apathy issue (non-traditional students, issue with community), parking, retention, mandatory meal plans, higher-one card contract/fee issues



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10,000 + students- communication/apathy (UGA looking to pass a student bill of rights-grievance policy), textbook pricing (Georgia Southern: looking at textbook exchange program-blog system)

1:30 p.m. What is Your Institution Doing?-Al Harris, Director of Student Activities, Armstrong Atlantic State University

This session was to provide a place for institutions to share what was happening on their campuses.

North Georgia College and State University- Rec Deck Project update.

Atlanta Metropolitan College- book loan program (donate books or loan for a semester) & 24-month scheduling (president mandated it for their school)

Armstrong Atlantic State- Discount card composition-gives them out free *in the SGA budget*-ease of it (can pick and choose), new VP of SA.

Valdosta State University- public relations for SGA: Examples “spotlight senator” in newspaper, passing out flyers, t-shirts, booths set up outside.

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College- become a 4-year institution next year, revamping constitution (language with freshman/sophomore) and working on recruitment

Macon State College- Stress relief seminar being hosted toward end of the year.

Middle Georgia College (Travis)- Smoking ban project/Advising issue-students do it on their own.

Middle Georgia College (Dublin campus)- class availability for night classes-causing enrollment to decline & no daycare (students bring their children to class).

Augusta State University- SGA constitution re-vamp, have to have 10% of student body vote and the majority of those need to approve it.

Georgia Southern-Working around the clock-willing to share notes.

University of Georgia-Passing state-wide issues resolutions (passed handouts), wanted to share how important it is to communicate within the system and other institutions.

Georgia College and State University- Asking students to participate in both local and university government because decisions are being made that are not necessarily student friendly.

Columbus State University- Project backpack philanthropy project.



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Gordon College- on an advertising track. They recently launched two commercials to attract students to come to Gordon College. They are also starting their first four-year program in early education in the fall of 07.

2:30 p.m. Wrap-up: Board of Regents SAC Presentation in May, Tonya Lam, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

Tonya asked SAC for volunteers to give a SAC update at the June Board of Regents Meeting and Isaac, Bernie, and Travis volunteered to work with her on the report.

A big thank you went out to Atlanta Metropolitan College for hosting the conference, especially to Sonya and Iris for all of their hard work! Also, thank you's went to the other SAC Team Advisor's for assisting with the conference.

Evaluations were completed.

A reminder about the SAC Transition Meeting in April at Coastal Georgia Community College was given as well as a reminder that when SGA elections take place on campus this spring it is an expectation of current SGA presidents to contact Jenny and let her know who has been elected.

3:00 p.m. Atlanta Metropolitan College Campus Tour-Sonya Ingram, SGA President, Atlanta Metropolitan College

Tours of campus were given to those who were interested.