



# SAC

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Student Advisory Council (SAC) 2008 Transition Conference Minutes**  
**Friday, April 18-Saturday, April 19, 5:45pm-9:00pm; 8:30am-4:00pm**  
**Clayton State University**

University System of Georgia (USG) Campuses and Representatives in Attendance

Willie Dean	Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Nate Carney	Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Somi Benson-Jaja	Armstrong Atlantic State University
Tony Wright Jr.	Atlanta Metropolitan College
Richelle Issac	Atlanta Metropolitan College
Andre Goodman	Augusta State University
Williams Azubike	Clayton State University
Darius Thomas	Clayton State University
Alex Acton	Columbus State University
David Owens	Columbus State University
Nathan Smith	Dalton State College
Daniel Sanchez	Dalton State College
Tricia Batchelor	Gainesville State College
Katie Taylor	Gainesville State College
Joseph Leach	Gainesville State College-Oconee
Ryan Greene	Georgia College & State University
Zach Mullins	Georgia College & State University
Anu Parvatiyar	Georgia Institute of Technology
Nick Wellkamp	Georgia Institute of Technology
Brandon Cook	Georgia Southern University
Alex Smith	Georgia Southwestern State University
Tiffani Rose Brown	Georgia State University
Kimberly Rathbun	Medical College of Georgia
Eddie Lovett	Middle Georgia College (Cochran)
Cody Thomas	Middle Georgia College (Cochran)
Skyler Hart	Middle Georgia College (Eastman)
Tommy Epps	North Georgia College & State University
Justin Middleton	North Georgia College & State University
Rejoice Jones	South Georgia College
Saint Sweeney	South Georgia College
Kevin Moss	Southern Polytechnic State University
Anjli Patel	Southern Polytechnic State University
Connor McCarthy	University of Georgia
Michael Naghshineh	University of Georgia
Joshua Copeland	University of West Georgia
Rob Kelly	University of West Georgia
Eddie Howard	Augusta State University

Jenny Greyerbiehl	Board of Regents
Tonya Lam	Board of Regents
Martha Wisbey	Board of Regents
Jeff Jacobs	Clayton State University
Wesley Thomas	North Georgia College & State University

USG Campuses and Representatives Not in Attendance

Albany State University  
Bainbridge College  
Coastal Georgia Community College  
Darton College  
East Georgia College  
Fort Valley State University  
Georgia Gwinnett College  
Georgia Highlands College  
Georgia Perimeter College- Clarkston, Decatur, Dunwoody, Newton, Rockdale  
Kennesaw State University  
Macon State College  
Middle Georgia College-Dublin  
Savannah State University  
Valdosta State University  
Waycross College

**Friday, April 18, 2008**

**5:45pm-6:15pm**      **Check-in to SAC Conference at Clayton State University James M. Baker University Center**

**6:15pm-7:00pm**      **Campus Tour**

**7:00pm-7:20pm**      **Welcome**  
*President Dr. Tom Harden and Student Government President Williams Azubike, Clayton State University*

2007-2008 SGA President Williams Azubike and Clayton State University President Thomas Harden welcomed the SAC students to Clayton State University and expressed their appreciation of the student government associations work for the state of Georgia and on their individual campuses. President Harden thanked the students for participating in and attending the SAC conference and representing the University System of Georgia.

**7:20pm-8:00pm**      **Introductions/Icebreaker**  
*Wes Thomas, North Georgia College and State University*

**8:00pm-8:15pm**      **Break**

**8:15pm-8:30pm**      **Your Role as a Member of SAC**  
*Eddie Howard, Augusta State University*

Eddie Howard assisted in dialogue about student's roles and expectations of SAC. The SAC students received a handout containing information that was brainstormed in by SAC students in the spring of 2007:

- 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.
- 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.

After the discussion, Eddie asked the 2007-2008 SAC members if they believed the above information was a good representation of SAC expectations for membership and if they had any suggestions for insight. Some of the suggestions from that conversation included:

- Be more consistent in your representation at SAC Conferences, and if you can not make a conference and must send someone in your place, make sure you educate your replacement about the meetings before they come in your place. (Tricia Batchelor, Gainesville State College).
- Can we bring your President and/or Vice President/Senate member, so you do not have just yourself representing your institution at the SAC Conferences, so others can get SAC experience? (Tony Wright, Jr., Atlanta Metropolitan College).
- Dialogue about this above option ensued, as well as conversation about how to engage in more meetings, possibly virtual meetings.

**8:30pm-9:00pm      2007-2008 Committee Work**

*Jeff Jacobs, Clayton State University*

Jeff Jacobs ask students to break into their committees and encouraged those that did not have committees to break off into the committee their 2007-2008 SAC representative was a part of or to break off into the committee that they were most interested in. The goal for this evening's committee work was to talk about briefly about the accomplishments of the SAC committees this

year, but also to engage in a dialogue about the struggles they faced throughout the year and things that can be improved for next year. This was done in an effort to brainstorm for Saturday's discussion about SAC structure for the 2008-2009 academic year.

### Saturday, April 19, 2008

**8:30am-9:15am**      **Breakfast**

**9:15am-9:30am**      **2007-2008 Goals Review/Accomplishments**

*Jeff Jacobs, Clayton State University*

- Progress since winter meeting (January)  
*Transfer Credit: Alex Acton from Columbus State University gave report  
Got a few more surveys in, we processed those  
Retention/Graduation: Joshua Copeland from the University of West Georgia gave report  
No progress was made, did not receive any emails back from SAC  
Follow-up Committee: Anu Parvatiyar from the Georgia Institute of Technology gave report  
Sustainability project-met with Sandra from the BOR Office-sustainability is not a strategic plan goal, shared that the group was asked by Sandra to come up with a proposal and Anu said she would be asking for additional input on that in the next few weeks  
Financial Aid: Katie Taylor from Gainesville State College gave report  
Tricia went to Washington D.C. and spoke with a representative in D.C. about need-based financial aid  
Connectivity: Eddie Lovett from Middle Georgia College gave report  
Website is up and running: [www.georgiastudentopinion.com](http://www.georgiastudentopinion.com)*
- Review of overall accomplishments  
*Contacted schools-found out who the transfer ombudsman is on each campus is, survey discovered, recommend separate transfer orientation, institutions should look at websites and make information more available, name change from ombudsman to transfer credit advisor  
Would like committee to continue next year, thinks it is an important issue, did not have a lot of success this year, however  
Student health insurance-waiting from a system perspective, Academic advising-the President at Valdosta State is/was working on academic advising, 18 month course availability-working toward that still  
Planning to meet with Sonny Purdue in the future  
Talking to Regents in other states, use [www.georgiastudentopinion.com](http://www.georgiastudentopinion.com), composing a paper about the student regent research they have done, SAC students are attending the BOR meetings-would like to continue that, also would like to continue meeting with the Regent in your area*
- Challenges  
*Difficulty with communicating with all 35 institutions, found the BOR USG Office was making progress on these areas as well  
No/lack of communication, could not move forward without information*

*Same challenges listed above: communication, each institution in the system is different and it is difficult to make broad policies for the entire system*

Lack of communication within the committee, change in committee representatives, and no response from surveys sent out

*Lack of communication*

**9:30am-10:15am 2008-2009 Goals and the University System of Georgia Strategic Plan**

*Tonya Lam, Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and Jeff Jacobs, Clayton State University*

Students were provided with a copy of the USG Strategic Plan document

([http://www.usg.edu/regents/strategic/strategic\\_plan2007.pdf](http://www.usg.edu/regents/strategic/strategic_plan2007.pdf))

Tonya Lam walked through the University System of Georgia Strategic Plan website: [www.usg.edu/strategic\\_plan/](http://www.usg.edu/strategic_plan/) and talked about the Strategic Plan goals, the overview and challenges sections, actions and implementation sections and additional information on the website.

Discussion ensued about how SAC goals connect with the USG Strategic Plan: Goal One matches with the transferability committee and the graduation and retention committee, Goal Five matches with the financial aid committee, Goal Six matches with the sustainable energy committee

**Assigned task before summer retreat: figure out where your campuses are on each of the tasks of the strategic plan and become familiar with the strategic plan as a whole.**

“Student responsibilities for academic advising” document needs to come out of SAC, according to Tonya.

**10:15am-10:30am Break**

**10:30am-11:30am 2008-2009 Goals and the University System of Georgia Strategic Plan Continued**

*Tonya Lam, Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and Jeff Jacobs, Clayton State University*

Brainstorm took place about ways SAC can and should be structured for the 2008-2009 academic year. Ideas that were discussed include:

- More diverse representation on committees (not just two year institutions on one committee and four year institutions on another committee)
- Think about proximity for committees as well (e.g. Atlanta institutions on one committee)
- Serve on more than one committee
- Two representatives on SAC per institution
- Work on one or two strategic plan goals each meeting
- Create chairs within each committee (some more formal structure)
- Set less goals per year (three or less)

- Set action items at the end of every SAC meeting
- Communicate within your committee in between meetings
- Meet more often (physical or video/tele conference), SAC as a whole or regionally
- Brainstorm agenda items ahead of time

**11:30am-12:30pm Presentation by the Alternative Media Access Center**

*Tamara Rorie*

Ms. Rorie shared information about the Alternative Media Access Center (AMAC) and students with disabilities. AMAC started as a pilot program approximately three years ago and spends a lot of time transforming text into alternatives such as Braille, e-text, audio, etc. The BOR decided it would be a good idea to have a central unit that would transform text, and now AMAC for the last two years, has been funded by the state permanently. Institutions within the system do not have to use AMAC to provide text alternatives for students, but a lot of institutions do. Armstrong Atlantic State University, Darton College, Fort Valley State University, Georgia Gwinnett College, Georgia Institute of Technology, Medical College of Georgia, South Georgia College, and Waycross College are institutions that are NOT members of AMAC. AMAC is not able to provide books in Braille currently because of the costs associated with it, but would like to in the future. AMAC is currently located in Athens, Georgia. Ms. Rorie inquired into whether SAC students have students with disabilities on their student government associations that they are aware of. Ms. Rorie also talked about the importance of connecting with students with disabilities in an effort to reach out to students.

Faking It, a book written by Ms. Rorie's supervisor, is a fascinating book, she recommended students read if they are interested in learning more about students disclosing "hidden" disabilities.

Students and Ms. Rorie engaged in a question and answer format for the last 15 minutes on her presentation.

The AMAC website is: <http://uga.edu/amac/>.

**12:30pm-1:30pm Lunch**

**1:30pm-2:30pm Legislative Update**

*Tom Daniel, Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia*

2008-2009 SGA President Darius Thomas from Clayton State University introduced Mr. Daniel. Mr. Daniel provided handouts of the "Agenda-Committee on Finance and Business Operations" from the BOR meeting on April 15, 2008 at Columbus State University. He also provided a handout of the presentation done by a member of the System Office titled, "Board of Regents University System of Georgia, FY 2009 Budget Allocations, Tuition and Fees" which was presented at the April 15, 2008 Board of Regents meeting at Columbus State University as well. The FY 2009 Budget was presented, and is a total of \$2,301,077,851. Mr. Daniels's presentation showed that money is being allocated/invested in the Strategic Plan as well as in many other initiatives. For more information about the information listed above, please refer to the information handed out at the conference.

See, [http://www.usg.edu/student\\_affairs/tuition/](http://www.usg.edu/student_affairs/tuition/): to provide feedback to Martha Wisbey about ways to improve the website: [Martha.Wisbey@usg.edu](mailto:Martha.Wisbey@usg.edu).

In terms of legislation, Mr. Daniel spoke about the following:

- No legislation adopted this year that will have a negative impact on students.
- The USG can now operate more like a business: tuition revenue can now be carry-forwarded from year to year.
- Faculty member working on your campus is given opportunity to join TRS or ORP (retirement plans) and ORP will stay competitive.
- Academic freedom will be handled through policy, not through state law. USG currently conducting a survey, randomly selected students asked to participate.
- House Bill 89 proposed that individuals who have permits to carry concealed weapons be able to carry them everywhere, including campuses. The BOR took the stance that they did not want House Bill 89 to be passed. State law and USG law states you can not bring a weapon onto campus. The bill was passed, but will not affect college campuses: House Bill 89, as passed: look it up.

**2:30pm-2:45pm      Break**

**2:45pm-3:45pm      What is Your Institution Doing?**

*Martha Wisbey, Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia*

SAC students shared two or three things that have happened on their campus that either fell under: leadership, commitment, or service this past academic year:

- Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College: celebrating our 100th birthday, building an academic advising center, three new four-year degrees
- Armstrong Atlantic State University: BOR approved fee for new student center going to begin building in July, transitioned email to Gmail as email server, trying to maintain seats on faculty standing committees
- Atlanta Metropolitan College: all clubs and activities will have own student email accounts, increase in student activity fee approved by BOR, beginning women's basketball team (men's basketball team began this year), continue and improve book loan program, continued family fun nights (once per month), completed service project: Dance Till Dawn
- Augusta State University: completion of amphitheatre: dedication Tuesday, road construction nearing completion: allows for traveling around campus, BOR approved BS in Nursing, NCAA National Finalist, Enrollment 2007 (F): 6,588, 2006 (F): 6,573
- Clayton State University: made recommendations for student activity fees for next year, new student housing opening this fall, student activity center new, hosted the SAC conference! ☺
- Columbus State University: searching for new president, voting on student rec center proposal, have new student success center, trying to bring main and downtown campuses together, go green campaign, campus-wide community service day to celebrate 50th anniversary, Tri-Beta chapter won award for best chapter in the country, BOR came in April

- Dalton State University: building new parking deck, foundation finished-up capital campaign: collected \$21.1 million to the college, bell tower construction, have new president
- Gainesville State College: working on academic calendar-fighting for fall break, getting new student activities center, new parking deck, helping out neighboring schools through SEIF, debate team won award, donated land to DOT
- Georgia College and State University: got fall break, moved to on-line elections (increased voting by 500%), homecoming was very successful, building student wellness/recreation center
- Georgia Institute of Technology: acquired North Ave apartments, pursued international service learning initiative, campus portal work, renovation Tech Rec, funding to start innovation learning research center, selecting new president, focusing on sustainable issues and online football ticketing
- Georgia Southern University: City Counsel work: non-voting member, city council meeting being held on campus; knocking down three residence halls to create University Village; support possible fee to support new student union; marketing and university communications department created Eagle Alert
- Georgia State University: football team, student fee increase for concerts, etc., ground-breaking ceremony for new residence hall and Greek housing, Chancellor visited
- Medical College of Georgia: expansion in Augusta and in Athens, smoke-free campus, SGA working to get back some of their power like input on student fees, started community service organization for the entire institution
- Middle Georgia College: new residence halls, creating and maintaining aviation program, presidential search, absentee ballots for presidential election in 08, STD awareness day-students get free AIDS test, working to build new sports/athletic conference
- North Georgia College and State University: connect-ed: emergency notification center, new parking deck, new rec center, and new library, new SGA website, recycling on campus, club sports beginning and being funded
- South Georgia College: new president this year, debate team beat the five-time champion Morehouse, Quiz team ranked fourth in nationals last weekend, SGA constructing an advising plan to advise students more, more student activities, more student involvement
- Southern Polytechnic State University: construction-engineering building, parking deck, parking lot, new entrance, American Institute for Architecture Student: President now national President for that association, started new safe ride program, celebrating 60th anniversary
- University of Georgia: studio art classes now available to all students, passed a sustainability campaign, looking at summative evaluations for faculty during mid-term time, posting grade distributions online-are open records, and also want to get evaluations online, calculator rentals, campus safety number on back of id, looking at email change to Gmail, get GPS added to bus system

Also, University of Georgia and Georgia State University piloted a plus-minus grading system... They are currently in the second year (of three), will be re-evaluated in the next year... If you have opinions about it talk to your Academic Affairs unit on campus... (UGA Vice President for Instructions Office has PDF about it). Plus-minus does not apply to HOPE calculation.



Proposal of the fourteen week semester instead of a fifteen week semester through the University Council at UGA, BOR mandates a fifteen week semester... would like more reading days and less class days... (goal to get on-par with peer and aspirational institutions, get more time to prepare for finals, two less days of energy consumption on campus (aka less class days)): would like to consider creating a resolution in the fall through SAC, Connor would like more details about how campuses academic schedules look like:  
<http://www.usg.edu/studentaffairs/faq/calendars>: look at to learn more about academic calendar date information.

**3:45pm-4:00pm**

**Evaluations & Wrap-up**

*Jenny Greyerbiehl, Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia*

Jenny Greyerbiehl thanked Clayton State University for hosting the Spring 2008 SAC Transition Meeting.

Evaluations about the meeting were filled out.

An announcement was made about the 2008-2009 SAC Retreat, which will be held on August 3-5, 2008 at Banning Mills.