



SAC

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Summer 2008 SAC Retreat:
USG-SAC: Leadership, Commitment and Service
August 3-5, 2008
Historic Banning Mills**

AGENDA

Institution	SGA Representative
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC)	Nate Carney
Armstrong Atlantic State University (AASU)	Somi Benson-Jaja
Atlanta Metropolitan College (AMC)	Richelle Isaac
Augusta State University (AUSU)	Andre Goodman
Bainbridge College (BC)	Chuck Strickland
Bainbridge College (BC)	Robert Thompson
Clayton State University	Darius Thomas
Clayton State University	Audreianna Smith
Coastal Georgia Community College (CGCC)	Jessica Ramirez
Columbus State University (CSU)	Lillian Stephens
Dalton State College (DSC)	Daniel Sanchez
Darton College (DC)	Colt Tallent
East Georgia College (EGA)	Livia Morris

Gainesville State College - Gainesville	Katie Taylor
Georgia College & State University (GCSU)	Ryan Greene
Georgia Gwinnett College	David Horton
Georgia Highlands College	Bassell Rabah
Georgia Institute of Technology (GIT)	Nick Wellkamp
Georgia Perimeter College (Clarkston) (GPC)	Deidra Myers
Georgia Perimeter College (Decatur)	De'Mon Nolan
Georgia Perimeter College (Dunwoody)	Ortilla Perez
Georgia Perimeter College (Rockdale/Newton)	Jesse Gaylor
Georgia Southern University (GSOU)	Brandon Cook
Georgia Southwestern State University (GSSU)	Andrew Robinson
Georgia State University (GSU)	Tiffani Rose Brown
Gordon College (GOC)	Fredrick Bailey
Kennesaw State University (KSU)	Amanda Barnes
Macon State College (MSC)	Cathy Miller
Medical College of Georgia (MCG)	Kimberly Rathbun
Middle Georgia College-Cochran (MGC)	Cody Thomas
Middle Georgia College-Eastman (MGC)	Skyler Hart

North Georgia College & State University (NGCSU)	Tommy Epps
South Georgia College (SGC)	Rejoice Jones
Southern Polytechnic State University (SPSU)	Anjli Patel
University of Georgia (UGA)	Michael Naghshineh
University of West Georgia	Johnathan Atkins
Atlanta Metropolitan College (AMC) - Facilitator	Iris Shanklin
Augusta State University (AUSU) - Facilitator	Eddie Howard
Clayton State University - Facilitator	Jeff Jacobos
Georgia Perimeter College (Clarkston) (GPC) - Facilitator	Angela Avery - Jones
North Georgia College & State University - Facilitator	Wes Thomas
University of Georgia (UGA) - Facilitator	T.W. Cauthen
Board of Regents	Tonya Lam
Board of Regents	Martha Wisbey
Board of Regents	Jill Putman

Sunday, August 3

5:00pm – 5:30pm

Introductions/Schedule Review/Purpose: “Why are we here?”

Tonya Lam, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

- Martha introduced self and Jill. The first video clip, “The Power of One” was shown. Tonya stood up to introduce purpose of weekend and welcome participants. The purpose of the retreat is to learn more about self as leaders and the system. Tonya also asked students to be open and honest, share opinions, state what is important to students, what is important on campuses, and provide opinions on a collective direction for system. Martha reviewed expectations presented on expectation sheet, which was included in student folders. She also reviewed the agenda for the retreat.

5:30pm – 6:15pm

Icebreaker

Wes Thomas, North Georgia College & State University

- Wes asked group members to identify themselves as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, etc. SAC attendees. He also asked all SGA presidents to identify themselves. Wes asked everyone to participate in the “Two Truths and Lie” activity. SAC members were asked to write down two things that are true about themselves and one lie. Wes then asked everyone to make a circle in the corner of the room and count off by 2’s. The 1’s were asked to make a circle within the circle and face the 2’s. Participants introduced themselves to one another. The outer circle then moved to the right and participants re-introduced themselves to each other. Once the circle cycled back to the beginning, Wes asked the 1’s to mingle with one another and the 2’s to mingle with one another to ensure that all participants met. Voting by your feet – Wes had people move to different sides of the room based on question answers: left handed/right handed, eye color, month of birth, favorite color, favorite music, number of siblings, etc. For the final activity, Wes had everyone circle up, introduce themselves, and tell their 2 truths and a lie.

6:30pm – 7:15pm

Dinner

Representatives from USA Today – Atlanta Circulation

- The USA Today representatives engaged us in a trivia game over dinner and discussed the collegiate readership program.

7:30pm – 8:30pm

Leadership, Commitment, and Service

T.W. Cauthen, University of Georgia

- We began the presentation by viewing “A Perfect Balance.” Martha introduced T.W. Cauthen. T.W. discussed the importance of learning what leadership means, how we can influence change on campuses, and the ways in which service is tied to leadership. T.W. talked about current events and the effects of current events on us as leaders on our campus and our leadership style. SAC members brainstormed characteristics of a good leader including: honesty, integrity, loyalty, level headed, innovation, strict, following social norms, listener, open minded, diplomatic, committed, passionate, enthusiastic, determined, transparent, not self-absorbed, humble, global, servant, compassionate. T.W. challenged participants to think about how to develop these leadership abilities in themselves and others and shared a quote that stated that higher education is the arena where leaders are developed who can address pressing social problems. T.W. then turned to a discussion of the interconnected relationship between leadership and service.
- Definition of leadership: Conviction in action, requires self-awareness of personal values and passions that lead us to action, takes place in context of community to create positive change.
- Sustainability – something that can survive for people who come after us, broad concept.
- Ends of leadership: enhance equity, expand access, encourage respect for difference, strengthen democracy, promote cultural enrichment
- T.W. showed a video clip called “What If”
- T.W. then distributed a leadership inventory for SAC members to complete. Students were split into the 4 groups: creators, planners, connectors, and thinkers.
 - In their groups, students were asked to plan a road trip and create poster paper to describe their trip.
 - Each group shared their plans for the trip.
 - T.W. reviewed the differences between each group’s plans and the strengths and weaknesses that each different “type” of person brings to the team.

8:30pm – 9:30pm

“The Tree is as Strong as its 35 Branches” – Sustainability discussion

Martha Wisbey, Director of Student Affairs and

T.W. Cauthen, University of Georgia

- Due to time constraints, this presentation was moved to Monday evening.

- To start off the presentation, Martha showed the video, “Connections.”
- Sustainability: meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Sustainability is happening at all different types of institutions. More than 400 higher education leaders signed on to climate commitment.
- Students shared some initiatives on their campuses including use of compact light bulbs, LEED buildings, LED lightbulbs (mercury free), and others.
- Martha encouraged everyone to take environment related courses in order to learn more.
- The Board of Regents policy manual section 916 refers to sustainable efforts.
- Save the planet, save people, save a profit.
- Nick mentioned that at GA Tech, buildings are built to LEED standards, but the certification has not been submitted at this point...will wait until funding has been acquired.

9:30pm – 10:00pm Exercising Environmental Responsibility: Reusable Water Bottles
Eddie Howard, Augusta State University

- Eddie introduced the activity by showing the video “Mother.” Eddie invited everyone to come forward to grab markers to decorate their water bottles for the ropes course activity. A contest was held to see who had designed the most creative water bottle, and Tiffani Rose Brown from Georgia State University was named the winner!

Monday, August 4

9:00am – 12:30pm Ropes Challenge Course
Banning Mills staff

- The Banning Mills staff reviewed the expectations for the ropes course activity and explained that all activities would be defined as “challenge by choice.”

2:30pm – 3:30pm Motivational Meetings: How to Effectively Facilitate Meetings and Trainings on Your Campus
Jeff Jacobs, Clayton State University

- To begin, Jeff asked for reactions about the ropes course activity from the morning. After we reflected on the ropes course activity, Jeff had everyone engage in an energizer activity. Then, everyone got into a circle to play “Whoosh Ball.” (whoosh = pass, whoa = won’t take it, freak = dance

in place, superfreak = dance and move places, zap = pass across the circle)

- After the energizer activity, Jeff asked everyone to reflect on the leadership and service discussion presented by T.W.
- Basic components to designing meetings: purpose (constitution, vision/mission), plan (setting goals and objectives, tools/SWOT analysis), process (by-laws, Robert's Rules, action plan)
- Obstacles to productive meetings: unmotivated members, arrogant senators, tabled items not being followed through, lack of organization, leadership versus followership, attendance, personal conflicts, distractions, disregard for parliamentary procedure, lack of preparedness, time membership, having one's own agenda, no leader or chair to lead, unwillingness to change, poor communication
- Meeting must haves: rules of dialogue, consistency, agenda, order, professionalism, set goal for meeting time, continuity, starting on time, bringing copies of materials, good communication, enthusiasm, participation, respect
- Beyond the Basics: Cool ideas for more productive, more enjoyable meetings: Pass the gavel – at the end of the meeting, the chair will pass the gavel, you pass it and the person with the gavel can address the group; SGA Member of the Month and get that to be a motivator; Leader training workshops/personality tests for people to know how each other work; Host for each meeting – be responsible for running a 5 minute leadership program and bring refreshments; One meeting out of the month, bring a friend to SGA and we play games and have fun; bring senators into our offices and talk to them about their own goals and ideas; teleconferencing with other campuses to communicate (multi-campus); give out STARS when we are in charge of an event or do community service, the one with the most STARS, get an award at the end of the year.
- Prepared - Spending the necessary time, be thorough, be informed, connected to discussions, anticipate what people want to know and they will ask, take care of business forms, expect the same from your SGA colleagues, hold them accountable.
- Punctuality – Don't be late, be responsive in a timely manner, if you are late, don't make a habit of it, build time into your regular schedule to get SGA tasks done
- Polished – wear appropriate attire for proper occasions, make your proposals and presentations look professional; use powerpoints, proofread – eliminate errors, speaking – know what you want to say and say it concisely, You never

know who's watching..the University President or your advisor

- 3:45pm – 4:15pm Vision, Issue, and Initiative Individual Reflection
Iris Shanklin, Atlanta Metropolitan College
- Iris asked everyone to reflect on what they want to accomplish as an SGA leader. She then distributed chart paper so students could graphically represent their vision, issues, and initiatives. Students were instructed to work independently on ideas for their campus community.
- 4:15pm – 4:45pm Issues Showcase and Gallery Walk
- After students had completed their posters, students posted their work around the room so others could walk around and view everyone's ideas. Students were instructed to write comments and give feedback to each institutional representative about their vision, issue, and initiative.
- 4:45pm – 5:45pm Taking it to the Next Level
All SAC Facilitators
- Students were divided into small groups to discuss action planning based on topics of interest with facilitators. The groups and issues were as follows:
 - Collaboration (Jeff Jacobs): Clayton, GA Tech, Columbus, Gainesville, GA Southwestern, Armstrong
 - Involvement (Angela Avery-Jones): GHC, ABAC, AMC, Augusta, Kennesaw, GGC
 - Sustainability (Wes Thomas): EGC, NGCSU, Dalton, UGA, Southern Polytechnic, GPC
 - SGA (Iris): Darton, Clayton, GA College and State University, GPC, Middle Georgia College, Gordon College, University of West Georgia, South Georgia College
 - Campus wide policy (Eddie Howard): Medical College of Georgia, College of Coastal Georgia, GPC
 - Community relations (Martha Wisbey): GA Southern, GSU, GPC
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm Issues and Initiatives Share-Out
Angela Avery-Jones, Georgia Perimeter College (Clarkston)
- Basel at Georgia Highlands – wants to build community within the campus. Students don't seem to care. Wants to place pictures and SGA posters up. Has to work with the administration. Use chalk on a walk-way to get students attention. Talk with IT to create a Website. Suggestions for a facebook page, or bulletin boards. Use stallwalls.

- Katie, Gainseville State – have representatives from different services come to SGA meetings to talk about resources for students. Use SOAR for recruiting freshmen when they go through orientation. Junior Achievement connection to help with notoriety. Students for a Progressive Society – connected her to a professor to help with sustainability. A suggestion to get faculty to help identify students to get involved. Talk to people face to face.
- Frederick at Gordon College, increase awareness of SGA. SGA has a presidential ball and we may do a few outreach activities. Suggestion to work with elementary schools in the community. Centralizing the logo and make sure you have sponsored by SGA. Small things with names on it and maybe get faculty involved it. Get a team that is word of mouth and get people who you want to be involved. We have a book program. We do study breaks that work well.

7:30pm – 8:15pm

History of the Board of Regents and the University System of Georgia Strategic Plan

Tonya Lam, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Angela Avery-Jones, Georgia Perimeter College (Clarkston)

All SAC facilitators

- Angela kicked things off with an icebreaker activity game. Tonya went through her presentation on the history of the Board of Regents and the strategic goals. The apply to college program is working to develop a website, and they should have one up and running at the beginning of September. Check the SAC website for more information this fall.
- The SAC members then played a Jeopardy game to review the material presented by Tonya. Team 3 won the game with a score of \$4199.

8:30pm – 9:15pm

Review of Old Business

Martha Wisbey, Director of Student Affairs

- Martha reviewed old business as discussed at SAC events from 2003 to the present. Previously discussed issues included connectivity, the HOPE scholarship, course availability, advising, etc.

9:15pm – 11:00pm

University System of Georgia Issues of Interest

Martha Wisbey, Director of Student Affairs

All SAC facilitators

- Students broke into small groups to discuss the issues of interest including connectivity (Martha), sustainability

(Jill), advisement (Iris), veterans issues (Wes), and the guaranteed tuition plan (Eddie).

Tuesday, August 5

9:00am – 9:30am

Forum with Regent Potts on University System Issues of Interest
SAC members

- Martha went over some “last day” business. Anjali Patel from Southern Polytechnic State University introduced our guest, Regent Potts. The issues of interest groups started their presentations to Regent Potts.
 - The first group to present was the sustainability group. Bassel, Kimberly, and Cody presented their ideas on sustainability initiatives including incorporating green standards into construction of new facilities, using recycled office materials, developing a student survey for sustainability, changing textbook buy back plans, and implement new programs on campuses.
 - The second group, Veterans Affairs, gave a powerpoint presentation on their ideas. They encouraged us to better inform Veteran Affairs representatives about current benefits, promote awareness of current benefits (maybe through USG publications, attendance at transition classes, or website), enhancement of benefits such as HOPE, and review of academic credits awarded for military training. The students also gave suggestions for SGA’s including volunteer service, tutoring programs, and care packages to deployed students.
 - The third group, Guaranteed Tuition Plan, presented the following ideas and areas of exploration: greater explanation of the transfer process, length of time a GTP plan is accepted across different institutions, issue of dual majors and GTP, comparison of tuition increases over the years, and the HOPE and GTP relationship. Regent Potts has concern that cohorts might not be able to graduate in time under the GTP because of course scheduling conflicts, encouraged group to investigate whether or not this will be an issue. Tonya challenged all groups and participants to come back to the fall meeting with examples of how these issues are being addressed on their campuses. Eddie asked about 18-month schedule and the impact that might have on scheduling and graduating on time. Bassel shared an idea that his campus is going to implement called “scholarship day.” Deidra also encouraged SAC members to

consider ways to integrate this information into orientation sessions.

- The fourth group, Advising, discussed: problems on their campuses with advising, a potential advisor training program for advisors and faculty members, the benefits of an 18-month schedule (not as beneficial for 2-year schools), possibly hiring faculty advisors who do not teach, advising requirements up to senior year or 90 hours only, course requirement checklist to be distributed at orientation (gives responsibility to the students). Somi also mentioned that SGA's have a duty to inform students of their responsibilities within the advising process (checklist ensures it's not all on the advisors!) Most of the suggestions geared toward 1st and 2nd year students...make sure that students are informed at the beginning of their experience. One idea for smaller institutions – a verification system that checks that students have registered for classes recommended by advisors. Each institution should consider their unique needs when designing their advising process. Ryan mentioned a program called “Degree Works” that is working well on his campus. Tonya stated that previous SAC suggestions were incorporated into USG plans. Institutions should be submitting their advising plans by August 8th. Tonya asked all SAC members to review their campus plan prior to the fall meeting and to bring any kind of advising tools used by their institution to the fall meeting. Lillian mentioned the advising requirement at Columbus State University, Clayton State also has advising requirement. David mentioned tying advising to career services, which is an initiative at Georgia Gwinnett College. Katie agreed with David. At Gainesville, career services and advising work together on programming. At GPC, course catalogues are available across campus with core requirements listed.
- The final group, Connectivity, explained their purpose as finding ways to enhance the relationship between students and the Board of Regents. Members asked Regent Potts for his opinion on how students can best reach out to the Board. He advised students to connect with the Regent that represents their district and establish rapport, attend Board meetings, sit in on standing committee meetings, and communicate with the Regents in an

appropriate manner. The group thanked Regent Potts for his suggestions. They also suggested that incoming SGA presidents write introductory letters to their region's Regent. The group plans to continue to do research on having a student regent on the Board. Regent Potts mentioned that a few state systems currently have student regents; he does have some concerns about having students on the Board because of students' lack of experience, the time commitment, the learning curve that takes place as a Board member, and their need to represent the interests of their specific institution. Decision making on the Board can be difficult because of the need to balance the interests of all 35 institutions within the state system. Regent Potts also mentioned that there are many groups (faculty, staff, family, etc) that do not have a designated regent on the Board.

9:30am – 10:15am

The Financial State of Affairs for the University System of Georgia

Regent Willis Potts, Board of Regents

- Regent Potts stated that the 5 areas of interest addressed are very important. He especially emphasized the important need to recognize and appreciate the services of veterans. He stated that it is a credit to everyone to be here and to be willing to serve in a leadership position. In serving in corporate America, Regent Potts looked to hire candidates to see if individuals had given service to others and if they had been able to stick with tasks. People are the most important instruments and assets that individuals need to be able to work with. Service is an integral part of proving that you are a leader.
- Regent Potts then turned to a discussion on the financial state of affairs for the system. The current economy has an impact on the money available to the system. Regent Potts referred students to the graphs presented as he outlined the breakdown of income and expenses. GTP is not a cost-saving tool, but it is really a predictability and leveling device for students and families. Concern with GTP is that once 4 years has passed, the next semester's cost is going to be very high. Since we are predicted to have 100,000 additional students by 2020, it is a concern how we will provide necessary resources (faculty, facilities, etc) to meet the needs of those students. Even in economic crisis, USG continues to grow. USG must acquire more national research dollars and endowments. Schools rely on state funding; state schools do not have large endowments.

Personal services (people) comprise 2/3 of educational budget. Impossible to do budget cuts without affecting people employed within the system. Pay raises for all educators were already approved for the upcoming year; consequently, open positions are not being filled within the system. If open positions are not filled, classes could be cancelled, retired professors could be asked to return, grad students could teach, or classes take on additional students. Budget cuts influence national standing, ability to acquire outside funding, etc.

- Every year, approximately \$250 million worth of new facilities are built or acquired. It is important to look at how and how often these facilities are used. LEED certification is very expensive, and it's hard to make a case for LEED when new faculty members are not being hired. Buildings also require maintenance costs. Schools within Atlanta Metro area will be first to expand. Existing facilities will be acquired to expand campuses as opposed to initiating new building projects.
- USG does not invest money. All funds are received from the state. Private endowments for each university can engage in investing; this money is not coordinated by USG. Partnerships between foundations and USG are very important, but they often have strings attached. Great challenge for system presidents is to grow private contributions. Regent Potts suggested that interested students contact their development department if you would like to help with private fundraising.
- 6-10% will probably be cut for the upcoming year. Once legislature decides budgets, USG will appropriate money to each of the 35 institutions based on strategic plan and institutional mission. Certain schools will be hit harder by budget cuts than other schools within the system.

10:30am – 11:00am Personal Reflections

Jill Putman, Graduate Assistant

- Jill introduced the letter writing activity. Students were instructed to write one letter to themselves and one to a fellow SAC member. The letters will be mailed out a point later this year.

11:00am – 11:30am Evaluations and Future Planning

Jill Putman, Graduate Assistant

- At this point, we assigned SAC members to serve as representatives for the 2008 Board of Regents meetings. We also assigned the locations and dates for the 2008-2009

SAC events. Upcoming information will be sent out regarding these events.

- Fall conference: October 17-18, 2008 at Georgia Southern University
- Winter conference: February 6-7, 2009 at Georgia State University
- Spring transition meeting: April 17-18, 2008 at the University of Georgia

12:15pm – 12:30pm Closing

Martha Wisbey, Director of Student Affairs

Wes Thomas, North Georgia College & State University

- Participants were asked to read quotes about leadership, service, and commitment. Wes showed everyone a slide show that he put together with pictures from the retreat.

See you all at Georgia Southern University on October 17th for the SAC Fall Conference!