

Student Advisory Council  
Fall Meeting Minutes  
November 5-6, 2010

In attendance: all schools present except for Albany State, Fort Valley State, Georgia Southern University, and University of West Georgia.

**Friday, November 5, 2010**

Students were given a tour of the Georgia College campus prior to dinner. The Georgia College Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Harshbarger, SGA President, Zach Mullins welcomed the students and introduced the keynote speaker, Georgia College President, Dr. Dorothy Leland.

Dinner was followed by a question and answer session with Chairman Willis Potts. The final session had the staff of external affairs speak about the upcoming 2011 legislative session. Students asked questions about the board's position on several issues and how to work with the legislature.

**Saturday, November 6, 2010**

The morning started out with group breakout sessions by institutional type. Groups were encouraged to discuss issues on their campuses that they mutually share. Topics discussed in each breakout group (recorded by student members) include:

State Universities

- Funding of academic travel by student activity fees
- Open forums: Columbus state has over 200 people at each forum; held bi-monthly
- Alcohol and Drugs: An increasing problem on campuses; possible outcomes include a educational program, use of fines, and other educational sanctions
- Discussed Senate structure: some people have 50+ members while others have much less
- STDs: need to address in dorms through education and free condoms, lots of people step up to provide help

State Colleges

- Immigration legislation: should have a chance to enter any school, undocumented students should have equal opportunity in applying and acceptance; No in-state tuition, no gov't funding for undocumented students
- Student fees: parking, separate from tuition, all different fees; Why are students paying for fees that are not applied? i.e. health fee, no health services?; willing to pay for student based building (student centers); activity fees – how are they allocated? Problems with staff overriding students' decisions (student committee v. administration); more knowledge about where fees go
- HOPE: possible changes/solutions – just pay tuition; once you lose it, you cannot reapply; will not pay for a credit hour if it has been dropped before; LS classes are not paid for

Regional and Research Universities

- Immigration: as long as undocumented students are paying out-of-state tuition, we support

their ability to matriculate – they add money to the system; if someone has the numbers and qualifications to enroll, let them in. Let the top 5 universities be as competitive and diverse as possible; we are disappointed with the current approach and feel it has too many political overtones!

-HOPE: equal “trigger mechanisms” for Pre-K program; we understand the direction the numbers are leading us; options to raise GPA requirement v. percentage of payment

-Fees: extra fee-balances fixed for four program so that freshmen don not have to carry full load in changing economic climate.

-Other issues:

GSU – parking, housing, re-allocating student fees to other areas and even lowering ; smoking ban possibilities

UGA – enhancing faculty/student interaction; inflation of tuition to meet peer institutions; improve relationship with surrounding community

VSU – student services: parking, health services, housing; campus cohesion – we are working to build bonds among students on campus, increasing student voter turnout; increasing school price and student participation

GHSU – new name, more recognition, potential for faculty recruitment; new president – Dr. Azziz recently began his tenure; hospital and physicians practice group under campus oversight; opening campuses in other parts of the state; concerns – tuition increases in the past 10 years, some programs have almost quadrupled tuition, fees, and health insurance.

KSU – establishing a shuttle system; students vote next week on football; SGA will look into a possible ban on smoking on main campus; fee proposal on expansion on current recreation center

### Two-Year Colleges

-Immigration legislation: sympathy for students who are born into this country and find out that they are illegal; will these students really pay back loans?; undocumented students are taking seats from naturally born students; we need to help our own citizens

-Military: feeling that the military should not have to pay for education; the classes that are being taken in the military are being paid for by HOPE? Affecting HOPE?

-Other issues: our schools are trying to grow and be better, but the larger research institutions are dictating what happens on our campus; transfer schools acknowledge that we have better faculty and staff, but we’re not getting outside acknowledgment; small schools need to be known just like larger institutions – we are all part of the same system

-No Child Left Behind: has decreased preparation for college; why do we pay taxes in counties and have to send students to schools that are on “No Child Left Behind”?; We have families that are paying taxes which go to public schools, but yet their children go to private schools so they are paying double; we need to do something to better prepare students for college (several suggestions and concerns expressed about lack of student preparation).

-Fees: athletic fee – some schools are forced to pay this fee, but they don’t have teams; students need to know that we control the fees and our students could have a voice where they can decide how this money is spent; printing fee – we need better control, putting certain amounts of money for printing rather than having a set fee; meal plan fee – some require to have this fee, but they never use it wasting money; health services – low, just provides needs like Advil, close by, basic needs only; should

be required for all colleges to have at least someone that can give an opinion and advise for what to do (nurse or doctor); student activities – pays for fax, events, clubs, newspaper, intramurals, student life; issue with SGAs and newspapers

After a break, Regent Ben Tarbutton III joined the students. He gave some words of advice and then opened the floor for questions. Some questions that Regent Tarbutton asked the students for input on how they feel about institutional fees? Students asked about: what the immigration decision made by the board and what was considered in making the decision; what his thoughts were from the diversity summit and how diversity plays into the future plans of the system; what his thoughts are on the students' concerns about student preparation and learning support courses, and his insight into the budget decline and the future state of the budget.

Before lunch, Bettie LaDuke of Georgia Perimeter College and Gabby Grant University of West Georgia joined the students in a discussion on the Learning Management System. Students expressed concern that the survey either didn't work when they tried to fill it out or they didn't know what it is so they deleted it (name of the survey was confusing since some institutions have renamed their LMS). The students were asked for input on:

1. What types of services would you want in a new LMS?
2. Who likes using their LMS and why?

Students are asked to send additional feedback to Bettie LaDuke at [bettie.laduke@gpc.edu](mailto:bettie.laduke@gpc.edu) or to Gabby Grant at [ggrant1@mywestga.edu](mailto:ggrant1@mywestga.edu)

Lunch provided times for the subcommittees to meet.

In the afternoon, Tonya Lam and Heidi Leming from the Office of Student Affairs led the group in an activity to design a new university. The students shared ideas on how classes would be designed, what the campus would look like, how student life would be structured, etc. Some of the general comments and ideas were shared.

\*Detailed notes will be given to Chairman Potts.

### **SAC Business Meeting**

1. Update on Board Actions since last meeting
2. Board Agenda for November
3. Work Group Reports

**A. Regent Potts Leadership Award Criteria** - proposal submitted by LaTanya Abbott; **proposal PASSED**

Revised qualifications: award will be the highest award given by SAC; awarded at the SAC transition; Committee to decide award: Associate Vice Chancellor and 4 SAC members

Criteria: Attend all 4 SAC meetings, show leadership about USG System, and demonstrate professionalism throughout all SAC, single most influential individual in SACs academic year

**B. SAC Community Service Project**—proposal submitted by Anni Skurja; **proposal FAILS**

Questions:

Q-Ali Kamran- Commend important proposal. Undue distress with community service projects to be completed by institutions. Time effectiveness could become an issue.

Skurja- Other ways to volunteer: monetarily or writing campaign; Locations to volunteer:

Riverdale, Morrow, Ellenwood

Q- Martin Erbele- What do we do now? Skurja- Give a trial with universities

Q-Corey Boone- What will our institutions be doing to help? Skurja- Efforts through volunteer and donations; By accepting proposal, you are acknowledging that you wish to serve the program in some capacity

Q- Philanthropy event for SAC but particular college may not be able to become active as others. Is there a way to adopt but doesn't penalize others?

Q- Inability to participate because of regional locations in GA

Q- Yearly collective community involvement

Q- Better representation as a collective group effort through service

Q- Big Brothers/ Big Sisters as SACs project

Q- Something that we collectively can do as a group (ex. Habit for Humanity)

A- Skurja's ideas give freedom from doing as a collective but still contributing to the overall scope of the project

Motion to approve; Motion unanimously fails.

Willing to spend additional time for a community service project at the next meeting

Directive to Planning Committee for Atlanta Metropolitan service project

C. Transition

**C. Transition in Spring**

A few things should be addressed:

Introduction ceremony and accomplishment of schools

Description as SAC members

Breakout session (Outgoing members reflective in past and Incoming to throw around ideas)

**D. Communication within SAC**

No tools were available originally but now are invaluable for communication (ex. Listserv)

Discussion could be held outside of common group meeting through facebook or other ways

Tools are available, it's the responsibility to utilize them to be productive and provide feedback

Use the tools, and you'll receive feedback

#### 4. Plans and Feedback for Feb. Mtg. (Heidi)

##### **February Meeting**

Looking to have opportunity to meet and greet with members of Governor staff  
Formal dinner with Regents and special guests  
Early optional tour, meet and greet at capitol on Friday  
Chancellor will be in attendance

##### **Advisor Training**

Working to create training opportunities that will encourage a smooth transition and education  
Policies and Procedures to be adopted

#### 5. Campus Announcements:

##### **Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College**

- SGA recently donated \$5,000 to the ABAC alumni for the Celebrate ABAC Rodeo.
- We polled the campus to see how students would feel if ABAC became a tobacco-free campus.
- All of our parking lots around housing have been re-lined.
- ABAC SGA is hosting a Campout for the Homeless to raise awareness and funds for a children's homeless shelter.
- ABAC SGA hosted the annual Fall Carnival for our community at the Agrirama and the Georgia Museum of Agriculture.

##### **Armstrong Atlantic University**

- AASU SGA has been working on a clean air resolution, to address smoking through-out campus, with the target being smoking at entrances to building
- Increasing recycling
- Holding Financial Aid forum to assist students to better understand the process in which financial aid operate. This also allow individuals the opportunity to personally ask questions about the process, and their account. Finally this allow the students the opportunity to assess Financial aid, and make suggestion to better their roles as a department.
- The SGA is very influential in the strategic plan that Armstrong is completing.
- Increasing school spirit and moral by supporting all aspects of campus.

##### **Augusta State University**

- We had a Ku Klux Klan (KKK) rally at our campus on the 23rd of October, 2010. The rally was to support the young woman who had sued the university back in the summer. The rally was peaceful and did not result in any violence.
- SGA Senate just passes a resolution (Resolution 001-1011) to create a new Student Activity Fee of \$145. 00 to raise fund for the building and construction of our very first Recreation Center and Health Center on our West Campus site.
- Also we are planning a Town Hall meeting so students can have the opportunity to ask questions, voice

their opinions, and comments on the new Student Activity Fee.

- SGA helped sponsor this year Violence Awareness Week.
- Before the end of this semester, SGA is planning on having “Meet the Senators” social for the school community to know their representatives.

### **Bainbridge College**

- Ribbon Cutting of Student Wellness Center on October 26, 2010
- Submitted three possible candidates to BOR for president of Bainbridge College
- Implemented our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Our QEP is improving online classes.

### **Clayton State**

- October 1, 2010 marked the inauguration of our 4<sup>th</sup> President, Dr. Thomas J. Hynes Jr.
- November 4, 2010 is our SGA Annual Student Concern Day.
- November 11, 2010 is our SGA Safety Walk

### **College of Coastal Georgia**

- Our SGA officers are the first elected officers in more than two decades.
- This first year also marks a significant change as SGA will operate as its own governance organization; historically our SGA and programming board had been all done in one organization but now we are working to establish an identity of our own.
- This organizational change drove SGA to revise our Constitution; members are currently drafting policies and procedures to fit the needs of the students we represent.
- Currently our campus is under going massive expansion. In addition to a new Science Building, new Campus Center as well as our first ever residence halls will open next fall.
- As President, I have been working with several committees on everything from choosing new furniture to campus safety and security issues.
- We are experiencing record- breaking enrollment every semester, which is expanding the diversity of our student body so we are charged to represent.

### **Dalton State**

- Officially named our mascot “Rage the Roadrunner”
- DSC is currently going through an evaluation process regarding the possibility of acquiring sports.

### **Georgia College**

- We are approaching the 75<sup>th</sup> year of student governance here at Georgia College.
- SGA is spearheading fundraising efforts for the construction of a bell tower designed to hold a historic Navy bell given to the college in 1989. We hope the bell will be used to ring during home games and other celebrations to cheer on the Bobcats and build school spirit.
- The renovations of our student lounge (The Den) are continuing.
- SGA now hosts the Bobcat mascot program “Thunder” and has designed a “penthouse suite” for our mascot and his crew on the third floor of the Student Activities Center.
- SGA is pushing toward establishing a campus-wide recycling program that will not only reduce waste output but also generate revenue for the university. We recently placed nearly twenty-five bins around

campus and coordinated with the Physical Plant to establish two transfer stations. University-wide collaboration has been key to our outstanding progress.

- Georgia College SGA recently participated in the first ever student led gubernatorial debate of Georgia, broadcast across the state on Georgia Public Broadcasting.
- SGA has begun hosting bi-monthly town hall meetings in order to better interact with the student body as well as address the projects and concerns of the university.
- We broke ground last month for the new Wellness and recreation center.

### **Georgia Gwinnett College**

- Currently working on a smoking resolution (Resolution has been passed through Senate).
- Currently working on a printing resolution (Resolution has been passed through Senate).
- In discussions of a "Discount Card" in order to further brand SGA
- First ever collaborated Halloween Party with an attendance of 450 students (up from last year's 100).
- Made the campus "more green" with the increase in trash and recycling receptacles around campus

### **Gainesville State (Oconee)**

- SGA is looking to have a separate constitution from the larger institutional constitution. Currently, the SGA on the Oconee campus is trying to make some changes.

### **Georgia Highlands**

- Working on making our organization more transparent and open to the students by using our new blog, twitter, and Facebook page.
- Recently voted on having Athletics at GHC and I am happy to say that come 2013 we should have a Chargers basketball team.
- We are working on a Student Center on the Cartersville Campus and meeting with a committee every other week to ensure that it is done correctly and with the student's blessing.
- We are also starting to work on our new constitution and hoping it will be finished by the end of the year.

### **Georgia Perimeter College (Alpharetta)**

- First meeting held on October 12, 2010 with seven officers inducted.
- Currently developing the SGA identity on campus and ways to build the student life program.
- A proposal is in the works to be sent to the school to change the designated smoking area at the GPC Alpharetta campus .
- SGA has had several trainings to get underway as a new organization and has met with senior administrators to get ideas on where they would like student input.

### **Georgia Perimeter College (Decatur)**

- Implementation of a business center for students
- Free Hugs Campaign
- Implementation of study center
- Science and mathematics book bank for students
- Improving infrastructure of SGA

### **Georgia Perimeter College (Dunwoody)**

- Breast Cancer Fundraiser
- Tailgate with the Community
- ASGA Conference
- Leadership Conference
- Free Hugs Campaign
- Surveying at least one student a day
- Going into the classrooms and hallways and speaking to students
- Auxiliary Services (Inner workings and how they affect the students)

### **Georgia State University**

- Stopped fee increases
- Began expansion of panther card use to include off campus restaurants, parking, ets
- Stopped the expansion of the CoC jurisdiction to off camps
- Co-sponsored several campus events
- Started a WINNING football team and willing to advise other SGAs on how it is done.
- Created a fee council to be able to put more money towards the academic teams; model United Nations, Model Arab League, Mock Trial, Model African Union.
- Helped to craft our University's Strategic plan
- Paid for student buses to the GSU v. Alabama game.
- Recommended that a no smoking policy proposal be put to a referendum of all students this year

### **Georgia Southwestern**

- Posted Speed Signs for Students
- Our Town Hall Forum Informed Students of Student Fees and What They Pay For
- We helped the Americus Chamber of Commerce advertise for an Event to bridge the Campus and Community
- A Blood drive was Co-hosted by SGA and Chi Phi Fraternity
- A meeting was set with the Director of Auxiliary Services to discuss more appropriate business hours

### **Gordon College**

- The SGA at Gordon College voted in October on the possibility of making our campus tobacco free. We voted against it, the staff voted in favor, and we are now waiting to hear from the third party, faculty.
- We are being asked to make recommendations for a new proposed student center. Our Vice-President of Business Affairs is asking us to vote on the fee that would be charged over a certain length of time to pay for the building. Gordon College's added fees are voted on by a committee made entirely of students.
- Our SGA is hosting the first club banquet, where our interim president, Shelley Nickel, will be speaking. It is a dinner that all club presidents were invited to. We will be having discussions similar to the roundtable discussions at the past SAC conference.

### **Kennesaw State University**



- Sending out a Referendum to all students regarding the implementation of Football at Kennesaw.
- Achieved highest number of SGA officers this semester in KSU history. (50)
- Creating a Late Night Social Event Policy for use of KSU facilities past midnight.
- Approved a fee increase in order to fund a shuttle system.
- Attending American Student Government Association Conference in November.

### **Macon State College**

- Construction is well underway for the New Education Technology Building
- Public Safety has been in full force and things such as parking and Decals have been better supervised
- Recreation and Wellness is proposing for a new facility and will be submitting information to the BOR
- Proposal for a New ConnectEd which is an emergency alert system that allows people to be contacted via email, text message, or other form of communication to be alerted in the event of emergency.
- Also the new outdoor alert system has been installed and tested.
- President Bell is retiring as well as the Director of the Warner Robins Campus
- Also increasing lake size on campus to match run off capacity.

### **Medical College of Georgia**

- SGA met with MCG's new president, Ricardo Azziz, and conveyed student concerns.
- SGA supported renaming MCG as Georgia Health Sciences University and changing the schools of allied health, dentistry, graduate studies, medicine, and nursing to colleges.
- SGA celebrated the unification of the MCG Health System Inc. (the hospital), the physicians practice group, and the Medical College of Georgia under Dr. Azziz as of July 1.
- SGA supported Dr. Azziz's vision to close Laney Walker, a major road through the middle of campus, to increase student safety, green space, and to improve the campus environment.
- SGA has hosted informational sessions about our the University's Quality Enhancement plan for cultural competency.
- SGA has participated in numerous service projects including a Bundles of Books campaign, an expired drug drop off campaign, a clothing drive, and habitat for humanity.

### **Middle Georgia College (Cochran)**

- Homecoming (Today) Bigger, more student involvement
- Changing our Mascot—Currently warriors
- Coming up with a community service project
- Equitable distribution of student activity monies
- Amended Club budget requests

### **Middle Georgia College (Dublin)**

- One of our main goals is to do at least one community service event each year throughout our SGA term. In the Month of October we held a Can food drive which went well for a commuter college. In the month of November we will be collecting small items for Veterans to show our thanks and honor for their hard work.
- Hosted a successful Family Fun Day Event for the Middle Georgia College students and the surrounding community.

- We Established a Suggestion box outside of the student activities director office accessible to the student body every day. This allows us to stay informed on what's really important to the student body.
- Provided games and activities for the student during the fall festival week at Middle Georgia College. The activities on campus included a madden tournament, a trivia night, a pool tournament, a costume contest, a pumpkin carving contest, and a Thursday night grill.
- We have also provided funds for different organizations on campus focused on improving student life on campus.

### **Middle Georgia College (Eastman)**

- Getting Involved with the Community
  - Building houses for Habitat for Humanity
  - Collecting Toys for Tots
  - Setting up volunteer programs with the local Boys and Girls Club
- Improving Campus Activities
  - Hosting various event nights like poker, ping pong, trivia
  - Making the annual flight line picnic more hands-on
- Supporting Club's Events
  - Aviation Fraternity (AHP) has been raising money help build a local animal shelter
  - Women in Aviation has connected with local elementary school mentoring program

### **North Georgia College & State University**

- Dr. Potter has announced his plans to retire. A committee composed of members from the BOR, community, faculty, administration, and one student will begin searching for a replacement immediately. I'm very proud and excited to have been named that student on the committee.
- Alcohol Abuse - The executive board of Student Government is pairing with the student leaders from our Corps of Cadets, Student Athletic Advisory Committee, IntraFraternity Council, Panhellenic, Commuter Council, Student Activities Board, Resident Hall Association, and Resident/Community Assistants and have created an all student Alcohol Task Force. We're working to formulate ideas, examine policies, and look at programs that will hopefully reduce the number of alcohol related incidences that involve North Georgia students. Any programs or ideas from other schools are GREATLY appreciated.
- Construction - Despite opening two new dorms and a parking deck last year, a new library, parking deck, and recreation center within the past 4 years, our campus is still in the midst of construction. We are in the process of constructing a new dining hall and will begin working on another new military dorm, both are expected to open next fall. We are also remodeling 4 buildings on campus and will be doing so over the next 2 years. Growth is a continual concern as well as accommodating the student's needs with all the disruptions.
- Smoking On Campus - With respect to updating our smoking policy: though we recognize some campuses are moving to entirely smoke free, per overwhelming student request and support, we've decided to continue allowing designated areas on campus for students to smoke that are both out of the way for nonsmokers, but provide reasonable access for those that choose to smoke. We're working with campus administration and have identified 6 locations for designated smoking areas around

campus. We had lost all previous designated areas due to construction and were facing a growing problem with litter and people smoking anywhere and everywhere.

### **Southern Polytechnic State University SGA**

- Created an Honor Code for the university that should be implemented in Spring 2011
- Unveiled our mascot, Sting, who is now making appearances
- Serving on the Transportation Advisory Committee
- Serving of the Diversity Council
- Serving on the Academic Integrity Committee
- Implementing OrgSync on our campus

### **University of Georgia**

Highlights, full report will be sent out in e-mail form after the meeting:

- Worked with External Affairs Committee to promote the Okefenokee Oar exchange following the Georgia-Florida game in Jacksonville—included press release sent to local media and a special presentation involving both Student Government Associations following the game
- Gubernatorial Debate: Event took place on October 16th with tremendous success and involvement from students within UGA and across campuses throughout the state
- Currently working on: DVD kiosks located at Tate and residence halls; Transportation Visualization System; Improvements on wireless connections; Intersection of Lumpkin and Milledge—additional crosswalk; Dessert with the Deans event; Professor Recognition Banquet; Replacement of Student Financial Aid and Information system; changes to student fees; Fall only meal plan; “Tailgate with a Dream: Lighting the Torch of Diversity” event set for November 6th to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the university’s de-segregation.

### **Waycross College**

- We opened up the semester with an increase in enrollment which has gone up the past 6 semesters.
- We began our Campus Turf Wars toward the end of September. This event was held in the summer, but because of a high demand we decide to have it again this fall. This helped our students to be more involved and to also get to know each other.
- We have voted on our first SGA logo!! We are in the process of making a few minor changes, but we are hoping to have it finished by the beginning of December.
- SGA also has a website that is already built. We are waiting for the IT department to give us the okay.
- Our annual WAYSTOCK event is was Nov. 1-5. Each day is packed with giveaways and loads of fun. Many students have been involved, which is so very promising because one of Waycross SGA's goal is to make the students aware of what SGA is. So far I must admit we are doing a fabulous job!
- This sort of goes along with Waystock, but on Nov.2 SGA put on Waycross College's first ever pep rally!! We had over a 100 people come out and show support for our Swampfoxes opening season. These numbers were very encouraging because that is almost 10% of our student body! We are making progress!!

