



John H. Lounsbury College of Education

John H. Lounsbury College of Education Faculty Meeting

Minutes of the November 10, 2023 College of Education Meeting

Faculty and staff members present: Cynthia Alby, Jim Berger, Alexandra Berglund, Linda Bradley, Rachel Bray, Andrea Christoff, Elizabeth Colquitt, Hiller Crook, Nicole DeClouette, Chris Greer, Jane Hinson, Miriam Jordan, Rui Kang, Bethany McClure, Nancy Mizelle, Kim Muschaweck, Lyndall Muschell, Olha Osobov, Marcia Peck, Joanne Previts, Suzanna Roman-Oliver, Barbara Roquemore, Hunter Strickland, Stacy Waller, and Stephen Wills.

Those sending regrets: J.W. Good, Diane Gregg, Roddran Grimes, Yeprem Mehranian, Bekir Mugayitogklu, Mike Newton, Joseph Peters, Cheryl Reynolds, Rob Sumowski, and Carmen Woodhall.

The faculty of the John H. Lounsbury College of Education convened for the October 13 faculty meeting at 2:00 p.m., in Rooms 226/227. Miriam Jordan welcomed the group and presented updates to our agenda, including a visit from Provost Spirou. Minutes of the October COE meeting were presented and approved. A motion to approve the revised agenda was made. To ensure sufficient time, a motion to move curriculum items earlier in the agenda (to item 4) was made, seconded & approved.

Special Thank You & Hats Off Recognitions: The following faculty and staff were recognized:

- Katja – for her years of service in assessment data. A card was presented to
- Dr. Whitaker for his successful application grant for \$5000
- Dr. Hunter Strickland is presenting with 2 Doctoral students at the upcoming NCTE conference – building relationships between HS and teacher education in secondary education.

Approval of Minutes from October 13, 2023

Move to approve, second and approved.

QEP Updates - Welcome to Cara Smith from Institutional Research, and Emily Jarvis, Assistant Vice President for Student Health and Wellbeing.

- QEP onsite committee coming February 26-29 – faculty and students are most likely needed on Feb. 27th-28th Chances are high that individuals will need to be in an interview with the QEP onsite committee.
- This is an all hands-on deck endeavor for Georgia College & State University
- SACS is verifying all components of our accreditation.

- Compliance certificate – SMART reports were exceptional
- There is a preliminary nod to all 5 parts of our QEP
- See postcard for Bobcats FIRST & Bobcats FIRST pen
- Four domains of the QEP – Social, Intellectual, Emotional, Physical – Year 1 implementation begins Fall 2024; There will be many opportunities for participation in the QEP
- This is a heavy Student Life QEP
- Serenity Den is capturing students’ attention currently. It is similar to a ZEN den; 1st floor of Student Activities Center. Grounding, meditation, sensory zone – learn techniques for coping and surviving as a college student.

Faculty can get involved

- Course tagging for QEP
- Wellness course development
- GC Reads participation
- Gatekeeper training
- Mindful Mondays, Wellness Wednesdays
- Wellness events
- Capstone – 4-year wellness plan
- Workshop series
- Help increase response rates for surveys to ensure meeting the needs of students

There was a question about ways to explain the QEP and have resources specifically designed for online and in person graduate students. (That will be a question that the team will continue to discuss.)

Committee Reports:

- Curriculum: Roddran Grimes presented proposed curriculum changes and initiatives. Cynthia Alby facilitated the process of COE approval.
 - **Course Approvals**
 - Eight Elementary Education Course Proposals
 - Three Literacy Courses for Elementary MAT

All have received documents from Dr. Grimes and the Curriculum Committee. COE addressed these proposals in 3 parts.

- Motion to approve set of eight courses for Elementary MAT – motion to approve, seconded, and unanimous vote
- Admissions statement for the MAT in Elementary Education - motion to approve, seconded and a unanimous vote
- Literacy Courses for the MAT – 3 new courses; motion to approve, seconded, and a unanimous vote

Update on the Faculty Survey: Linda Bradley

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1j8Iky7wYN7BVdhYNNZkC0Iah5ma5kwTk-AEpmYoduIc/edit?usp=sharing>

Updates from Provost Spirou:

Provost Spirou expressed his visit and desire to share the following university updates:

- **Undergraduate and 1st Year Enrollment** - Many students – 1816 students in Freshmen class; If we look at last 10-11 years – 1430-1475; the current 1816 class is significant for the university. We have 2200 beds; 1st year students must be in dorms; others also want to stay. We are 99% full in housing.
- **Total Enrollment** Last fall we had a total of 6,315 students. This fall we have 6,811 total students. We are #4 in terms of growth in USG. The 6,811 is high. However, enrollment was 7,029 in 2019; our honors college has the largest group of students with significant growth.
- **Graduate Enrollment** was 1,177 in 2021, 1,050 in 2022, and is up to 1,130 in 2023. You have made a significant impact in growth at the university.
- **University Funding Formula** - The challenge we face is that the university funding formula for the USG is based on growth. We have expressed that this not a good idea because workforce preparation. For example, teacher preparation and nurse preparation are both vital. However, if you reward for enrollment, but not retention or graduation, the model breaks down for the state. Some states are shifting their formulas for financial rewards. We get funding for graduate students which is vital. The contribution from graduate enrollment allows the institution to move forward robustly.
- **Test Required Status** - The system decided to move us to test required status. 1800 institutions in the USA are test optional. Find Brown University, Emory University; Test optional is not a focus of academic strength – yet it does impact access and other issues. The USG has GC&SU, UGA, and Georgia Tech listed as test required for the coming year. It presents a challenge for us. We are not Georgia Tech or UGA. We have a great admissions group. As of Monday – we were 252 more applications ahead of where we were last year this time. We are 127 applications ahead of where we were last year at the same time. We do 15-16,000 tours a year. Our recruitment is going well. However, we don't want to be a hidden gem. Admissions is working on filming videos of students who were admitted.
- **Strategic Plan Imagine 2030** – working with Deans for short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals. Have all goals published in the Provost notes in January.
- **Data Dashboards** – We are moving intensely on Dashboards – data on everything; Academic Affairs – data beyond data. We look at data to make decisions.
- **Retention** – certainly important criteria for students' success. Factbook for Institutional Research. 84-85% retention; COVID decline from 85, 82, 77, last year to 80. Thrilled to have 84.4% over the past year. In 2019 analysis – should be 90% retention. Office of student success and career development – to support student retention. IF we get to 85% retention with large class that puts us in a very good position
- **Budget** – this year we are impacted from numbers of the past (2 years later). We are getting through this year and next year, then there will be a boost.
- **CORE Curriculum Redesign** The USG is redoing CORE – impact with specific career outcomes and learning outcomes. APC is working on required syllabi statements. General Ed Committee is working. *There are not fundamental changes on the core* – but advising, course guides, Registrar updates. Expected to implement fully fall 2024.
- **Distinction** - Georgia College received the **Excellence in Innovation Award ASCEW** – for student success GC Journeys, USNEWS and World Report – South Regional

Universities – VA to Florida to Texas. This year we ranked #6 for all public universities in the region. #3 for undergrad teaching; #4 most innovative schools. From 2018-today – moved 15 spots – These broader categories of university. Great examples of distinction.

Questions you have?

- *Is there talk of retirement incentive?* We cannot do that on our own. We did that because of COVID and potential impact. Must have USG system approval to do that. The system can force to move institutions in that direction. We have no plan to do that. We are dealing with a funding mechanism that is difficult.
- *You mentioned undergraduate applications – how are graduate applications?* – We are a little bit ahead on that. For undergraduates, the season of applications is fall. Summer is critical for graduate applications – and we are holding. Much of this has to do with the pipeline. We are holding and moving ahead. Graduate up from 1050-1130 for Fall 2023; All time high 1268 for graduate; We need more resources in infrastructure and faculty for graduate growth.
 - Tried to absorb a line in COE, so summer funds do not have to be used – We recognize the efforts that you are exerting. We want to expand within reason.
- *What are we doing to attract a more diverse student population?* Test optional helps with that. Now, we are trying to do some of the following: launch the adopt a student program– adopt and admit – pursue students once they apply; when you get a student to apply who has tested – many options – they get pulled by many private institutions. We cannot discount tuition. However, private institutions can. They don't have to have investment dollars to discount tuition. We have to have dollar-for-dollar scholarships in place. So, it is a challenge we face to compete against how the packages of support appear to compare. We are also starting a multicultural conference for HS students across the state. In May, 60 students came for F, S, S; more outreach. We face some challenges. This year is the most diverse class in history. Initiatives with Javier and Joel are ongoing in Admissions.
- *Is there anything we can do about becoming test optional?* – Every year since 2020 we have argued for test optional status. These are all outside the policy. Problem – HS Counselors don't know who is test optional and who is test required. It is continuously a challenge. We will continue to work on it. In addition, 93% of our students are Hope Scholar recipients. They have to take the test regardless of our test status.

In closing, I recognize the lift you are doing and want you to know how critical the lift is. As we move into financial strength again – that will be helpful. I appreciate all that you do. Please feel free to write additional questions you have to send for later.

Notes from Dean Peters:

There will be an election for two 2 Senator positions at the January meeting. Please review the email I sent with the eligible faculty from each department and expectations for the roles.

Associate Dean Declouette's Updates

- **Reporting Outside Activities** – we must fully disclose; apparent or potential conflicts of interest (COI). This involves reporting of any outside income; New form will be available electronically; Must have approval before you do the activity.

- **Core Curriculum** - The refresh will be much more manageable than what was originally expected.
Area B with GC1Y, GC2Y
Spring 2024 – copy into syllabi
Competency updates
EDUC 2110, 2120, 2130 updates
- **Ed.D. Program** Provost Spirou sent permission to pause admissions for the Ed.D. for summer of 2024; Admissions will resume for summer 2025
- **Graduate Admissions Staff** Kate Marshall is leaving her position in Graduate Admissions
- **Thrive** – one student decided the program wasn't for her and is not continuing. In October – we presented at engagement scholarship program at Michigan State
- **Welcome** - We want to welcome Dr. Eric Karlyle – an educator and leader with 29 years of experience on P-12 side. Dr. Karlyle - “I'm excited to *learn and grow with you, to join you in this lift the Provost was describing.*”

Senate Report

Be ready for the January COE meeting when we will be electing two new senators.

Rob Sumowski reported on the following current issues: Things moving along – nothing critical.

APC: looked at syllabus statement for syllabi – next week – connected to the Core Refresh

RPIPC: Schedule for staff and faculty in the summer – official – and follow up regarding mandate vs. beneficial for saving money in terms of the M-F with Friday half days.

Announcements:

Professional Learning & Innovations (PLI) – We appreciate Dr. Carlyle's visit with Program Coordinators

Doctoral Students presenting in December at Literacy Research Association with faculty (Kimberly Driskell and Marine Feronleabeater). Marde Ray is presenting at GERA in February
Nicole mentioned the pause in Ed.D. Admissions.

Curriculum changes will be coming in January.

Teacher Education (TED) – Lots of searches happening – 2 Elementary Education

Search for Department Chair, Search for Dean

Kudos to Middle Grades and Dr. Rachel Bray's seniors – at Association for Middle Level Educators (AMLE) in Washington D.C. last week

Elementary Cohort juniors are presenting spring

Special Education candidates will be headed to Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) in San Antonio for presentations.

2nd Elementary Education candidate coming this Wednesday.

Search for Teacher Ed chair is moving forward as quickly as possible Dr. Brian Newsome is chairing that search. Be on the lookout.

Save Date Feb 8 Lounsbury Lecture

The John H. Lounsbury Lecture Series is scheduled for Thursday, February 8, 2024. Peter Johnson, author of *Open Minds* will be the guest speaker.

Visiting Scholar We will be welcoming Dr. Lee Ann Salizar Montoia

Adjourn

The motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Golson Bradley
for the Purpose and Direction Committee