

Georgia Southwestern State University

General Faculty Meeting

Thursday, April 30th, 2026, at 3:15 p.m.

Nursing Auditorium

Attendance: Abbott, Amarachintha, Argo, Bachhofer, Berggren, Bragg, Brown, Bryan, Carter, Cheokas, Cho, Comeau, Cook, Cotter, Cribbs, Crosby, Dahlgren, Davis, Dearmin, DiPaula, Dickens, Duckworth-Chambliss, Dykes, Fisk, Gary, Ghosh, Godoy, Gosa, Greene, Grimes, Gugg, Hart, Harvey, Haru, Hasbach, Hodges, J., Huey, Iordanov, Iordanova, Jacobs, Jenkins, Johnson, Johnston, Jones, B., Kaus, Laughlin, LeJeune, Lorenz, MacLennan, McKie, McLemore, Meador, Megginson, Mellinger, Martin, L., Merritt, Miller, Moir, Nan, Nichols, Orton Grissett, Ouzts, Palmer, Parker, Parkinson, Peavy, Pfeiffer, Pritchett, Qi, Ragsdale, Richardson, Rogers, Ross, Russell, Ryer, Sha, Shiller, Short, Smith, B., Smith, K., Snider, Stanley, Stefancik, Sexton, Stovall A, Stovall, J., Swords, J., Swords, Taylor, Teasley, S., Tolbert, Tu, Waldrop, Watford, Watson, Wilson, Wright, L., Wynn, Wu, Yeung,

1. Call to Order, Dr. MacLennan at 3:16

a. Approval of Agenda - unanimous

2. Approval of Minutes - unanimous

a. December 4th, 2025

3. Brief Reports

a. President Michelle Johnston

- Table Talk Topics:
 - Budgetary discussion
 - Other Board of Regents news
 - Campus Strategic Plan updates
 - Master Plan updates

b. Provost Rachel Abbott

- 2 successful accreditation visits, no formal report yet. ABET and CCME were both successful.
- Web accessibility/ADA Compliance– extension until April 26, 2027.

- NISS have two working groups that have been meeting: Data and Academic Advising
- ASPIRE – March meeting, discuss campus strategy, program reviews, and low producing programs and certificates. Today's meeting focused on program health.
- Study Abroad – Proposed programs are currently funded on a first-come-first-served basis. GSW is developing a system for prioritizing travel.
- AI Policy – GSW received recommendations. AI Policy will be added to all GSW Course Syllabi by the Provost's Office for Summer 26. Summer 26 must have a statement in the course guidelines for how students may use AI.
- Open faculty positions – some positions filled and others in progress

4. Standing Committee Activity Reports

- a. Academic Affairs – Brian Smith – met three times with 71 proposals
- b. Business and Finance – John Stovall – no report – work in progress
- c. Faculty Affairs – Benjamin Meador – met three times
- d. Faculty Development – Sally Merritt – met once with 41 applicants, all funded. Be sure to check applications for accuracy when submitting.
- e. Global Engagement and High Impact Practices – Nedialka Jordanova – met four times, discussed Taste of the World, Study Abroad classes
- f. Graduate Affairs – Drew Huey, new classes for Computer Science
- g. Institutional Effectiveness – David Jenkins – met twice
- h. Institutional Review Board – Debaleena Ghosh – 33 applications
- i. Instructional Technology – Justin Hodges – met once – feedback for AI Policy and technology fees
- j. Student Affairs – Jonathan Carter – met a few times to discussed student constitutions, student groups, and free speech policy
- k. Faculty Senate – Jamie MacLennan – met three times – encouraged faculty to attend. Jon Carter will be the 2026-27 President, and Michael will be the Vice-President.

5. Special Reports

- a. USG Faculty Council – Michael Crosby – faculty/staff compensation and evaluation process discussed
- b. HAIL – Paul Dahlgren – Highlighted HAIL Teaching Showcase attendance and innovation, GSW student success, and HAIL grant program funding. Camp HAIL is in May.

6. New Business

a. Academic Affairs

i. Curriculum Changes – approved as a block – unanimously

1. Research Applications and Methods Certificate -
2. Media Production and Culture Certificate
3. Chemistry Major
4. History Major
5. Math Minor
6. Math Major
7. Math with option in Computational Science and Engineering

Major

8. Project Management Certificate
9. Entrepreneurship Certificate
10. Computer Science Minor
11. Information Technology Minor
12. Marketing Minor
13. Human Resources Minor
14. Accounting Minor
15. Management Minor

ii. New Curriculum - moved to approve as a block – approved unanimously

1. Respiratory Care Major

iii. Program Deactivation – moved to approve as a block – approved unanimously

1. B.S. in Education with Concentration in English
2. B.S. in Education with Concentration in History
3. B.S. in Education with Concentration in Math
4. B.S. in Education with Concentration in Political Science

iv. Program Reactivation – moved to approve as a block – approved unanimously

1. B.S. in Secondary Education (correct title)

v. Policy Revisions – moved to approve as a block – approved unanimously

1. Revisions to the GSW Academic Integrity Policy

2. Revision to the Policy on Double Majors

b. Faculty Affairs

i. Faculty Handbook updates –

- Carter moves to consider revisions in blocks, specifically 1-10 as one vote: item 11 as a second vote. Brian Smith – seconds
- Item 11 referred to the committee (annual evaluation appeals). Moved to approve – passes unanimously
 - Item 11- suggested change: Expectations for on-campus presence during the summer shall be (strike through included in annual contracts). On-campus expectations for summer shall be set on in the summer agreement held on file in the Provost's office and communicated to all faculty when contracts are circulated.
- Summer advising policy discussed. Refer questions to Human Resources.
- approved unanimously as amended 1-10

c. Global Engagement and High Impact Practices – approved unanimously

i. Revision to committee charge

d. Faculty Senate

i. New Standing Committee Proposal – HAIL – approved unanimously

6. Additional Concerns - none

7. Announcements

McLaughlin – congratulates retirees

Sumter Players Production May 7 – 10

A few spots available for China study abroad

Sumter Trust Kentucky Derby Party May 2

Retirees congratulated

8. Adjourn – Maclennan - 4:52 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Hart