

Georgia Southwestern State University

General Faculty Meeting

Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 10:00a.m.

Nursing Auditorium

Attending: Abbott, Amarachintha, Argo, Bachhofer, Berggren, Bragg, Brown, Bryan, Carter, Cheokas, Cho, Comeau, Cotter, Dahlgren, Dearmin, DiPaula, Dickens, Duckworth-Chambliss, Fisk, Ford, Gary, Ghimire, Ghosh, Godoy, Gosa, Greene, Gugg, Hart, Harvey, Hasbach, Hobbs, Hodges, J., Huey, Iordanova, Jacobs, Jenkins, Johnston, Jones, B., Kaus, Laughlin, LeJeune, Long, MacLennan, McLemore, Meador, Megginson, Mellinger, Martin, L., Merritt, Miller, Moir, 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, Stovall A, Stovall, J., Swords, J., Swords, S., Tolbert, Tu, Waldrop, Waller, Watford, Watson, Wright, L., Wynn, Yeung, Yemelyanov, A., Zarzutski.

1. Call to Order - 10:03 am

- a. Approval of Agenda
 - i. Moir moves to approve, Gugg seconds
 - ii. Passes unanimously

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. May 1, 2025
 - i. Sandra Swords moves to approve, Waldrop seconds
 - ii. Passes unanimously

3. Brief Reports

- a. President Michelle Johnston
 - i. Strategic plan – information on forming working groups will be sent to the faculty next week with the plan be implemented Fall 2026
 - ii. Master plan – 10-month process to be completed in Spring 2026
 - iii. GSW Accolades
 1. Chancellor's Award for Largest Increase in Retention
 2. Lowest average loan rates
 3. One-year post-graduation median income for GSW alums is ranked third highest among USG institutions.
 4. Low employment turnover rate among USG institutions
 - iv. Events
 1. Holiday Party 4 to 6, today
 2. Visual Arts Open House, today
 3. Graduation Friday, December 12 - 550 graduates
- b. Provost Rachel Abbott
 - i. Thankful for the new role, looking forward to collaboration
 - ii. Faculty achievement recognition

- iii. NISS Working Groups – Four working groups focused on standard of care for students. Drs. Davis and Jenkins meeting with NISS
- iv. Noted faculty professional development and scholarly achievements
- v. Student success – Spring 2026 enrollment up, advisors should reach out to advisees
- vi. Engagement – holiday break clarity – faculty should be available for meetings with prior notice
- vii. AI Taskforce submitted policy to the USG System Office – training course will be added in Georgia View - potentially available in Spring 2026
- viii. Web accessibility – deadline to comply is April 24, 2026 – training the first week of January
- ix. Welcome to Dr. Lettie Watford as the Interim Dean - College of Education
- c. **Question and Answer Session** – Johnston and Abbott
 - i. Discussion of AI usage and detection – Options on how to develop policies and address student misuse
 - ii. Writing Center will remain in its current location for the time being, and a permanent location to be determined later.
 - iii. Master Plan – utilization of campus spaces

4. Standing Committee Activity Reports

- a. Academic Affairs – Brian Smith
 - i. Handled 39 proposals for new courses and course revisions
- b. Business and Finance – John Stovall
 - i. Met twice
 - ii. Dr. Johnston covers new faculty/staff lines that should be funded
 - iii. Jeff Hall updates for campus activities
- c. Faculty Affairs – Benjamin Meador
 - i. Met four times
 - ii. Updated the Faculty Release Time Policy
- d. Faculty Development – Sally Merritt
 - i. 34 applications for Faculty Development Grants
- e. Global Engagement and High Impact Practices – Nedialka Iordanova
 - i. Met four times
 - ii. Reviewed dynamic forms used by Office of Professional and Experiential Learning, including study abroad and study away proposal and interest forms
 - iii. Reviewed and made recommendations for changes to the committee charge.
 - iv. Discussed study abroad and study course descriptions and associated hours, including lecture-lab-credit hours for each course
 - v. Organized events for the International Education Week
 - vi. Graduate Affairs – Drew Huey
 - 1. Master of Public Health degree program approved
- f. Institutional Effectiveness – David Jenkins

- i. Met once
 - ii. Next semester the committee will review annual reports
- g. Institutional Review Board – Debaleena Ghosh
 - i. Reviewed 16 applications
 - ii. Thanked committee members
- h. Instructional Technology – Justin Hodges
 - i. Worked on AI Policy and training
 - ii. ADA compliance
- i. Student Affairs – Jonathan Carter
 - i. Met once
 - ii. Reviewed two new student group constitutions
- j. Faculty Senate – Jamie MacLennan
 - i. Met three times
 - ii. Participated in a Strategic Planning exercise with Wendi Jenkins
 - iii. Evaluation Task Force – Rubrics are being developed with a focus on how evaluations relate to promotion and tenure.
 - iv. MacLennan encouraged faculty to reach out with suggested improvements on faculty evaluation language in the Faculty Handbook.
 - v. The Ad Hoc General Education Committee on Coordinating Assessments in Impact Domains will become a standing committee.

5. Special Reports

- a. USG Faculty Council – Michael Crosby not in attendance
- b. HAIL – Paul Dahlgren
 - i. Discussed success with HAIL efforts
 - ii. Thanked various faculty members for their help in making Hail a success
 - iii. The grant program for HAIL is funding 9 projects
 - iv. Wish list – more project-based learning, more connection with student affairs, more experiential learning, more HAIL redesign with K-12, and develop Vertically Integrated Projects
 - v. Will update D2L shell during the break

6. New Business

a. Academic Affairs

- i. Curriculum Changes
 - 1. Curriculum revision – Marketing Minor
 - a. Carter moves to approve, Gugg seconds
 - b. Motion passes unanimously
 - 2. Curriculum revision – Sociology Major
 - a. Gosh moves to approve, Comeau seconds
 - b. Motion passes unanimously
- ii. New Curriculum
 - 1. New Certificate – Visual Arts Studio
 - 2. Gugg moves to approve, Carter seconds
 - a. Friendly amendment under Justification - Palmer

- i. Remove the reference to learning disabilities from the student learning outcome section
 - ii. Remove the reference to autism from the Other Section
 - b. Motion passes unanimously
 - 3. New Program – Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration
 - a. Sandra Swords moves to approve, Gosa seconds
 - b. Motion passes unanimously
- b. Faculty Affairs**
 - i. Policy revision – Faculty Release Time for Professional Development -the word “written “explanation added to the document
 - 1. Palmer moves to approve, Waldrop seconds
 - 2. Motion passes unanimously

1. Additional Concerns – none

2. Announcements

a. Undergraduate Research Symposium, Spring 2026

b. Sumter Players production of A Christmas Carol, Rylander Theatre, December 11

to14

8. Adjourn – 11:36 am

Minutes by Dawn Hart