

## Report to Senate

The USG Faculty Council met on October 28<sup>th</sup> at Darton State College, which will soon become part of Albany State University in a consolidation.

The current chair of the USGFC Victoria Smith-Butler at Darton was our host. Present in the morning were the Executive Vice Chancellor of Administration and incoming Chancellor, Dr. **Steve Wrigley**, and the Interim Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer, Dr. **Michael Crafton**. With us all day was Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. **Marti Venn**. We had a full agenda, and, as you might imagine given our location, we began with concerns over details of current consolidations.

I will **summarize** a few of the high point of the day but I'm happy to answer questions after. Scotty Scott was also at the meeting and I'm sure he would be happy to answer questions as well.

The morning consisted of **General Information**:

There were also questions about other presidential searches and appointments. The Chancellor explained that some of the appointments were made because of extraordinary circumstances, and that he did not intend to make that a normal practice.

Dr. Wrigley explained that consolidations are a continuing effort to try and restructure the USGs outdated 1960s structure. The BOR is trying to be proactive but at this time is currently reactive to change in lieu of the financial strain on the state budget.

**Campus Carry:**

Wrigley thinks that no matter how many times we put off the campus carry bill, it will eventually pass under the current GA government.

He tried to explain the intricacies of the politics we are fighting to get and in many ways all of this is linked, including 1. carry-forward legislation (so that we can roll-over money from year to year) (Dr. Caughman explained later that this passed last year.) and 2. caps on tuition.

-He encouraged all universities to "be nice" to our legislators – take them to breakfast or lunch – invite them to excellent campus moments, show them a good time and make them happy with GA higher education.

-He asked that we check with his office before staging any anti-campus carry anything, and promised to send monthly updates on campus carry and these other issues.

USGFC

Chair sent letter to governor to veto campus carry bill

This is to come back up this year

The Point of contact is Marti Venn  
Religious Liberty bill also coming up this year

**Dr. Michael Crafton took over answering questions.**

**Q on Program prioritization**

His office only monitors programs; and all programming decisions are with the institution; the reports on RPGs are not designed to eliminate faculty or programs but to assist schools with making informed decisions.

It is up to the institution to make the case that they are doing something to improve a program that exists with few or no graduates – and it's his office's job to ask why such programs are there without students. 50% of budget comes from tuition and fees and therefore it is important to keep an eye on how resources are spent. Guidelines are published online: 5/10/5/3 AA/BA/MA/PhD

He suggested several actions:

Other programs can subsidize lagging programs

The board never says no to a justification if the admin at the institution wants to keep the program

One question to keep in mind is that: If institutions are not supporting the programs they have, how can they ask for new programming?

Offered info on Pay: **Conversion to 12 mo instead of 10 mo.**

That will become a reality; move away from ADP and to 1; they can then be paid in 12 equal paychecks (and both options avail); year or two

His office has formed **Task force on Workload**

more consistent policy

extra classes or overloads

There was a general discussion about fewer faculty doing more; as well as the circle of fewer faculty meaning fewer classes, which lead to programs not being supported with new faculty and therefore students cannot finish, programs fail and faculty jobs are lost

Our own **Scotty Scott** was able to give a nice overview of the State-Wide AAUP mtg.  
-guns on campus, they have a "way to get to the legislators" registered lobbyist  
-academic freedom and shared governance  
-red books

Rep from **USG Retiree Council**

-USG will have a defined contribution rather than a percentage with the new system

This works well if you are not ill; otherwise much is expected /

-One good thing: Catastrophic drug coverage now available

-burden of cost shifting to the retiree; & for all employees – lower support; also lower support for dependents

summary: employer subsidy will be the same \$413.03, regardless of the plan the employee chooses. If the employee wants a higher coverage or has a family, the employee will take up the extra amount.

-There is a "total reward steering committee", & sub-committee on this issue has invited faculty input

The Retiree Council and USG are contacting all retirees with new info:

**30 retirees have not been contacted system-wide**

6 institutions have good **retiree orgs**; all others need a retiree group of some kind; they need a representative from each organization to help defend retiree benefits

**Staff Council** working on Communication between staff and admin

Questions?