

GEORGIA COLLEGE RETIREE ASSOCIATION (GCRA)

Executive Council Meeting Minutes

Date:	June 16, 2026
Time:	9:00 AM – 10:10 AM
Meeting Type:	Monthly Executive Council Meeting — Final Meeting of the Academic Year
Presiding Officer:	Cindy Bowen, Chair

*NOTICE: This was a Virtual meeting using the Microsoft Teams software application. The meeting was recorded.
All members present acknowledged and consented to the recording at the time of call to order.*

1. Members Present

The following Executive Council members were in attendance:

- Cindy Bowen (*Chair*)
- Sandra Gangstead (*Chair-Elect*)
- Ken Farr
- Craig Turner
- Kelly Pope
- Carol Ward
- Robin Harris
- Artis Williamson
- Mike Augustine
- David Groseclose

2. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cindy Bowen at 9:00 AM. Chair Bowen announced at the outset that the meeting was being recorded; all members present acknowledged and consented to the recording. Chair Bowen further noted that this meeting would serve as the final Executive Council meeting of the academic year.

3. Agenda Items and Reports

3.1 Human Resources Update

Presenter: Carol Ward

- Ms. Ward indicated that she has not yet received the list of Fiscal Year 2026 (FY'26) retirees and will follow up on the status of that list.
- It is anticipated that a listing of retirees will be received by the GCRA on an annual basis going forward.
- Ms. Ward said that she will meet with Neil Jones and Elizabeth Ruark about possible partnership opportunities for the coming year.

3.2 USGRC Spring Meeting Update

Presenter: Sandra Gangstead

- Sandra Gangstead reported that she attended the University System of Georgia Retiree Council (USGRC) spring meeting held on May 1, 2026.
- The meeting was described as highly informative and well-executed overall; however, some technology issues were noted as detracting from the experience.
- The USGRC website is currently undergoing a transition to a new format and was noted as difficult to navigate in its present state.
- The USG shared an information letter promoting and encouraging retirees to join their local retirement association to Human Resources (HR). HR shared the information via email to all retirees receiving benefits.

- Information regarding the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) was shared with all member institution associations within the University System of Georgia. AROHE is proactively sharing relevant information and is scheduled to hold a national meeting in Gainesville, Florida in October 2026. Ms. Gangstead stated that it is her intention to attend.
- Chair Bowen requested that Paul Jahr be added to Dorothy's distribution list. He is the GCRA's designated AROHE contact.

3.3 Budget Summary

Presenter: Kelly Pope

Kelly Pope presented the fiscal year-to-date budget summary for the Executive Council's review. The summary reflected the following:

Original Budget Allocation	\$1,465.00
Remaining Balance	\$476.05

Following review of the summary, the council agreed that Mr. Pope will request the same budget allocation for the upcoming fiscal year.

3.4 Physical Plant Outreach Update

Discussion Led by Chair Bowen

- Chair Bowen requested a progress update from David Groseclose regarding outreach efforts to retired Physical Plant employees.
- David Groseclose reported that he held an initial meeting with Susan Daniels, who agreed to provide him with time to meet with members of her Grounds Department in late June 2026.
- Mr. Groseclose indicated that he would provide the council with a summary report following that meeting.

3.5 GCRA Website Update

Discussion Led by Chair Bowen

- Chair Bowen sought consensus from the council on previously recommended changes to the GCRA website.
- Craig Turner proposed a wording revision to one of the items under consideration; the suggested change was briefly discussed among council members.
- All members present agreed to the proposed wording change, and consensus was reached on the full set of recommended website updates.

3.6 Newsletter Update

Presenter: Chair Bowen

- Chair Bowen reported that Bob Wilson is currently preparing an article on the history of the Train Depot, which is slated to be featured in the next edition of the GCRA newsletter.

4. Open Discussion: Plans for the Coming Year

Led by Chair-Elect Sandra Gangstead

Chair-Elect Gangstead led an open discussion among council members regarding plans and priorities for the coming year. The following points were raised and discussed:

- A heartfelt expression of thanks was extended to outgoing Chair Cindy Bowen. All council members voiced appreciation and acknowledged that she performed an exceptional job in her leadership role.
- The importance of re-establishing a Chair-Elect position on the council was discussed and identified as a priority.
- The spring meeting was recognized as an excellent event that was well-attended by members.
- It was suggested that future events be structured to allow additional time for social interaction among members and attendees.

- Maintaining open and consistent communication among council members was identified as a primary goal for the coming year. Chair-Elect Gangstead stated that she is accessible via text message, email, telephone, or in person.
- The council will continue to host four main events per year. It was noted that the fall event will be social in nature only and will not include a formal business meeting component.
- President Cox is anticipated to host an event for retirees in December 2026.
- The council expressed interest in reviewing the practices of peer associations for ideas that may be considered for adoption.
- Monthly Executive Council meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM.
- All council members are encouraged to actively advocate on behalf of the GCRA within their personal networks of retired colleagues and friends.

5. Action Items

The following action items were identified during the course of the meeting:

Action Item	Responsible Party	Deadline / Notes
Meet with Neil Jones and Elizabeth Ruark regarding possible partnership opportunities	Carol Ward	TBD
Follow up on the status of the FY'26 retirees list.	Carol Ward	TBD
Attempt to attend the AROHE national meeting in Gainesville, Florida.	Sandra Gangstead	October 2026
Submit request for the same budget allocation for the next fiscal year.	Kelly Pope	Next budget cycle
Meet with Susan Daniels' Grounds Department employees and provide council with a summary report of the meeting.	David Groseclose	Late June 2026
Follow up on the current plan for the Depot to be included in the newsletter	Kelly Pope	End of July 2026

Action Item	Responsible Party	Deadline / Notes
Submit 1–2 ideas for advocating for the association to Chair-Elect Sandra Gangstead via email.	All Council Members	End of July 2026

6. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM by incoming Chair Sandra Gangstead.

7. Certification

These minutes are a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Georgia College Retiree Association Executive Council meeting held on June 16, 2026.

Minutes Prepared By: David Groseclose, Secretary

Reviewed and Approved By: GCRA EC Members present at the August 26, 2026 Council Meeting

Date: 08/26/2026
