

Provost Notes

Georgia College & State University

February 2017

Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) Update

Since its formation in the Fall of 2016, The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) has engaged in numerous initiatives to fulfill its vision of developing a premier center that embraces outstanding teaching and learning practices. Two new committees guide CTL activities:

- *The Academic Coordinating Council* - membership includes Ed Stanley, IT; Shaundra Walker, Interim Director of the Ina Dillard Library; and Steve Jones, Assistant Director for Faculty Development.
- *The Academic Coordinating Council Advisory Committee* – membership includes two faculty from each of the four colleges with a two-year rotating membership and two new faculty with a one-year membership.

There are many other initiatives that are currently underway in CTL, including:

- Support faculty efforts designing new courses.
- Develop of *GeorgiaVIEW LMS* tutorials and quick guides.
- Recruit two instructional designers to the CTL staff to support faculty in developing face-to-face, blended and online courses.
- Support Quality Matters Instructional design for blended/online courses.
- Distribute a weekly newsletter.
- Develop websites for Faculty and Student Resources on the GC Intranet.

The new home of the GC Center for Teaching and Learning will be in Room 375 at the Ina Dillard Library. A renovation of the current space will provide a central campus location and will accommodate space for offices, a conference area, and an instructional support area. The primary small group instruction will take place in Room 376. Room 376 will also be utilized for committee meetings associated with CTL. In addition to these initiatives, CTL now supports all the services provided by the former departments of IDEAS and the Center for Faculty Development. Dr. Doreen Sams continues as Coordinator of Mentored Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors (MURACE). To learn more, visit the MURACE website at <http://www.gcsu.edu/murace>.

Congratulations...

Andrei Barkovskii, PhD., Professor, Biological and Environmental Sciences received \$16,385 from IMERYS for “Impact of pH and Cations on Sorption Capacities of Kaolin Products.” Dr. Barkovski also secured \$31,588 from IMERYS for “The Efficacy of Calcined Clay against Biofilms.”

Sandy Baxter, Executive Director, Communities In Schools secured \$10,000 for the Housing Authority Tutoring Project from the Milledgeville Housing Authority.

Jim Lidstone, Ph.D., Professor, Health and Human Performance was awarded \$80,000 for Healthy Living by Design from the Healthcare Georgia Foundation.

Leadership Development...

The Office of the Provost is supporting the following leadership development initiatives:

USG Dean/Chairs Workshop
Carrie Cook, COAS; Chavonda Mills, COAS; John Harrison, COE; Warren Hope, COE.

AASCU Millennium Leadership
Chavonda Mills, COAS

HERS Leadership Summer Institute
Holley Roberts, COE

HERS Women Leaders Conference
Kristin English, COAS; Diana Young, COAS

Key Upcoming Events

- MURACE Spring Symposium - March 31st
- GC 20th Annual Research Conference - April 7th
- 2017 GURC - October 27th and 28th

B.O.R. Submissions: Following GC’s internal review and approval policies and procedures, and in accordance with the USG guidelines, the Office of Academic Affairs submitted the following to the BOR:

- Geographic Information Science Certificate
- Sustainability Certificate

Water Outages & Building Closures Information

In the event the City of Milledgeville Water Authority experiences a disruption in their services resulting in a water outage or boil water advisory that affects our campus, a notification will be provided either through GC Alert or, in some instances of isolated impacts, through building managers. Decisions regarding the closing of campus will be made by GC executive leadership and campus closures will be issued through GC Alert as well as other established means of notification. As always, you can refer to *FrontPage* for additional information. Public Safety along with other applicable departments will coordinate the appropriate actions and accommodations including but not limited to bottled water distribution, restroom accessibility, hand sanitizer availability, signage, etc... If there are any special needs for assistance, they should be reported to Public Safety dispatch (unless otherwise directed) and they will be routed appropriately. As it relates specifically to operations within Academic Affairs, procedures outlined by the Office of the Provost regarding the closure of specific offices or buildings shall be followed. Please note that in situations in which the University closes campus due to water outages, there are additional safety measures applicable to occupied buildings and therefore Public Safety asks that the campus community follow instructions regarding the use of the buildings.

GC Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting, 2017

Twelve Georgia College Honors students will be presenting at the upcoming Georgia Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for February 17-18th at Columbus State University. Thank you to the following faculty for mentoring our students: Ann Caldwell, Steve Elliott-Gower, Heidi Fowler, Kalina Manoylov, Ian Sargent, Ben McMillan, Susan Manrodt, Indiren Pillay, Melanie DeVore, Jennifer Green, Allison VandeVoort, and Samuel Mutiti.

HOPE/STEM Classes

The final list of BOR approved courses was communicated in January 2017. The change concerns how GPA is calculated for STEM classes to determine HOPE. Specifically, the cumulative GPA now includes weighted grades for specific STEM courses. The result is an increase in the grade assigned by the instructor to the student for any course by an additional 0.5 if such grade is a B, C, or D. No extra weight would be given for an A or F.

From the B.O.R....

Rising costs in higher education require that financial funding decisions at the federal, state and local levels are closely examined. Georgia College is strongly encouraged by the system office to evaluate **all fees** assessed to students to determine their appropriateness; this includes both mandatory and elective fees. Recent revisions to Board policy now require Board approval for fees charged to significant populations of students. Georgia College has been asked to "right size" mandatory fee supported programs and activities based on current enrollment levels. Additionally, graduate and professional programming and distance education tuition rates are to be examined closely while exploring other options for addressing fiscal issues before requesting tuition increases. This will necessitate that we continue to evaluate and prioritize programs and activities and make adjustments to stay within our budgets.

Student Ratings of Instruction Survey (SRIS)

Improving teaching effectiveness is a key institutional priority and Georgia College has invested significant resources to improving student achievement. The Student Ratings of Instruction Survey (SRIS) is an important tool for measuring teaching success. Research has consistently shown that student feedback is essential since it can positively contribute to strengthening the learning experience. The SRIS results are also employed for merit salary, tenure and promotion. During the Fall 2016 completion rates by department ranged from 25.64% to 76.04%. Given the importance of the SRIS and our continued efforts to improve these rates, faculty can schedule a time to complete the evaluation. Students can be reminded via D2L or PAWS to bring to class a mobile device, tablet or laptop. This practice is similar when paper and pencil was employed during each semester. In the end, our continued efforts in this area will help us achieve higher rates of student participation and greatly contribute to student and faculty success.