

9-22-2008

# Summer Teaching Contracts

Robert Costomiris  
*Georgia Southern University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/faculty-senate-index>



Part of the [Higher Education Administration Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Costomiris, Robert, "Summer Teaching Contracts" (2008). *Faculty Senate Index*. 55.  
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/faculty-senate-index/55>

This request for information is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Senate Index by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu).

# Summer Teaching Contracts

Submitted by: Robert Costomiris

9/22/2008

## Question:

---

During the Summer of 2008 faculty did not receive contracts for teaching. I would like to know why no contracts were issued for 2008. I would also like to know how long it has been the policy of the university not to issue contracts for summer teaching. Is the university planning to stop issuing contracts for employment during the rest of the academic calendar? Have other campuses stopped issuing contracts, or is it just GSU? Finally, how can faculty be assured they will receive the compensation they expect if there are no contracts?

## Rationale:

---

All faculty depend on having a contract with the university to assure they will be compensated for their work. The university also benefits from the certainty a contract affords. Without contracts, this reciprocity is compromised.

## Response:

---

From: Marc Cyr: Provost Bleicken answered this RFI at the senate meeting of 10-20-08.

At least as long as she has been here, we have not had contracts for summer. Until 2006, we had what she called a "summer employment form" stating an individual's assignment, pay, & pay schedule, but so many of them (@ 75%) had to be redone at least once, sometimes 5-6 times, due to minor errors (like misspelled names) or changes to assignments that it got to be an expensive bureaucratic hassle, so they went to the "nothing at all on paper" format we have now. The deans and the Provost are working on coming up with another version of a "summer employment form"; this last point seems to also be the answer re: how faculty can be assured they will receive the compensation they expect.

We do not get contracts because summer scheduling is such a broken-field-running situation -- with classes added, subtracted, split, and wild hares like Teaching Abroad & internships & etc. -- that it would be bureaucratically virtually impossible. Also, summer is the first term of the upcoming regular academic year; apparently, summer contracts

could somehow mess up the budgeting process for those terms. (Summer as the first & not the last term of the year is a BOR decision, having something to do with fiscal years.)

Provost Bleicken did not check with all BOR system schools, but of those she checked some give a form of some kind, others have gone to the “paperless” format we used for 2007 and 2008, but it seems no contracts per se are used.

There are no plans to eliminate contracts for the regular academic year.

### **Senate Response:**

---

Request for Information Robert Costomiris had submitted a request of information about summer teaching contracts. Cyr acknowledged Provost Bleicken to address the request:

Linda Bleicken (Provost) indicated that there were several questions in Dr. Costomiris' request for information:

The first question was why no contracts had been offered for summer teaching in 2008, and how long has been since we have issued contracts?

According to Dr. Bleicken, GSU has never had what we would call a contract for summer teaching since she has been at GSU. Instead, the document that faculty sign and then is signed off on by the President is something called a “summer employment form,” which has taken several different forms over the years.

These paper documents, were prepared initially in the Department office, forwarded to the Dean for the Dean's signature, forwarded to the Provost for the Provost's signature, and forwarded on to the Controller for payment.

These forms often required corrections and updates. A lot of times we would have a paper form that was bouncing back and forth as many as five and six times before we got it right. In 2007, someone suggested that we use electronic means to actually track this sort of thing and make the updates electronically. However, the information on that spreadsheet did not necessarily get back to faculty in a document form, so the Deans' Council has been looking at a standardized form that can very easily be forwarded to faculty that would describe:

- A. What you are going to be teaching,
- B. What you are going to be paid, and
- C. When you are going to be paid that amount.

Dr. Costomiris also asked whether we intended to stop issuing contracts for the academic year, and Bleicken stated that GSU does not intend to stop issuing contracts. She acknowledged that there's been a lot of discussion about the interesting nature of summer because summer is not guaranteed to anyone. It is based upon enrollment and an approved budget. Because summer pay comes out of the following fiscal year's budget, and the following fiscal year's budget is not actually signed off on until sometime in May, we don't for sure know what we have in the budget for the coming year. So, we're always projecting ahead when we are building summer school.