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# Approval of the Amended USG Faculty Council Bylaws

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*Approved by the Senate:11/19/2008*

*Not Approved by the Senate:*

*Approved by the President: 12/1/2008*

*Not Approved by the President:*

# Approval of the Amended USG Faculty Council Bylaws

Submitted by Patricia Humphrey

10/8/2008

## **Motion:**

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I move that the Faculty Senate ratify the amended bylaws of the Faculty Council for the University System of Georgia, dated August 20, 2008.

## **Rationale:**

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The Senate ratified the initial set of Bylaws at the April 2008 meeting. With over half of the institutions in the USG ratifying the draft bylaws, the organization is established. A subgroup met in August to further refine the bylaws. The modifications include revisions and clarification as to voting procedures (whomever is designated by institution, each institution has one vote), approval of recommendations (must receive majority approval from each of the tree tiers), and officers of the council.

## **Response:**

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9. MOTION: "Approval of Amended USG Faculty Council Bylaws"  
Pat Humphrey (COST) formally recommended that the Senate approve the amended University System of Georgia Faculty Council Bylaws as amended by the committee on August 20, 2008.

Marc Cyr (CLASS) Senate Moderator then asked for and received a second before opening the floor for discussion.

Pat Humphrey (COST) explained that the initial version of the Bylaws was introduced to the Senate last April. However, those initial Bylaws were turned down at the Board of Regents level because the big four (Georgia, Georgia Tech, Georgia States, and the Medical College of Georgia) were not in favor. Associate Chancellor Susan Herbst then reconvened the committee behind the USGFC and they drafted revised Bylaws. Three of the big four have approved the revised Bylaws. She added that a provision in the current draft of the Bylaws is that any vote taken by the USGFC requires a majority of the institutions in all three tiers in order to pass. She then recommended approval of the motion.

Marc Cyr (CLASS) Senate Moderator clarified that research is one tier, four-year institutions are another, and two-year schools are a third. Georgia Southern belongs among four-year institutions. For a motion to pass, there would have to be a majority among each tier so any tier can veto any move. This was based upon the fact that the four big schools have the majority of the faculty and their voice is commensurate with the numbers of their faculty members.

After opening the floor for further discussion and receiving none, the motion passed unanimously.

## University System of Georgia Faculty Council Bylaws

Revised on: August 20, 2008

### Drafted By:

Alberto, Paul (Georgia State University), Combier, Elizabeth (North Georgia College & State University), Hancock, Thomas (Georgia Gwinnett College), Johnson, Kerri (Darton College), Lightfoot, Robert (Waycross College), Settini, John (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College), Smith, Margaret (Bainbridge College), Turner, Craig (Georgia College & State University), Vencill, William (University of Georgia), West, Leanne (The Georgia Institute of Technology)

### Section I: Name

The name of the body hereby constituted is the University System of Georgia Faculty Council (USGFC).

### Section II: Mission

The purpose of the University System of Georgia Faculty Council is to promote and foster the welfare of system faculty, in non-collective bargaining issues, through the combined creativity and expertise of faculty representatives from system institutions.

### Section III: Responsibilities and Functions

The USGFC will participate in the process of University System of Georgia governance by advising, recommending, and consulting with the Chancellor or the Chancellor's designee(s) concerning the establishment of rules and regulations deemed necessary or appropriate for the promotion of the general welfare of the University System of Georgia.

The USGFC will formulate and recommend to the Chancellor or the Chancellor's designee(s) University System of Georgia policies and procedures related to but not exclusive to system faculty.

The USGFC will develop and maintain a system-wide communications network to provide for efficient transmission of relevant information to faculty.

### Section IV: Voting

1. Each institution within the USG shall have one vote on any matter brought before the USGFC and that vote shall be cast by the voting representative or designee.
2. A voting member may designate an alternate to a meeting that the member cannot attend.
3. Any decisions or recommendations by the USGFC must receive majority approval from each of the three institutional tiers (research, four-year, and two-year school) groupings.
4. Voting normally takes place during a meeting of the USGFC. However, voting may also take place by electronic communication or other means as determined by the officers in consultation with the membership of the USGFC.

### Section V: Membership

Membership of the USGFC will be comprised of one voting representative from each participating system institution. The representative for a participating institution must be a member of that institution's faculty body and selected by a process determined by the faculty unit of that institution. In addition to attending USGFC meetings in person, the council also permits participation via video or phone conferencing methods.

### Section VI: Officers and Duties

1. Officers: The officers of the USGFC shall be a Chair and a Chair-Elect, who shall become Chair the following year. The officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the USGFC.
2. Eligibility: Only voting members of the USGFC are eligible to serve as officers.
3. Nomination and Election: At any meeting the USGFC will nominate at least one candidate for any vacant office. The officers shall be elected as described above in

#### Section IV.

4. Terms of Service: The term of service of an officer of the USGFC shall begin at the conclusion of the meeting at which (s)he is elected and end when his/her successor is named, and shall typically be one academic year.

5. Duties: The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the USGFC. The Chair-Elect shall prepare minutes of each meeting. The primary duty of the officers shall be to communicate recommendations and decisions to the USG Chancellor or Chancellor's designee. The chair and chair-elect shall prepare the agenda in consultation with the USGFC members.

#### Section VII: Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the USGFC in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the USGFC may adopt.

#### Section VIII: Amendments

Any proposal to amend or repeal these Bylaws shall be submitted to the officers in writing at least 30 days prior to the meeting of the USGFC at which they will be discussed. The voting shall be conducted in compliance with Section IV.