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Georgia Southern University Presidential Search Committee Holds First Meeting

FEBRUARY 24, 2009



The Georgia Southern University Presidential Search Committee held its initial meeting on Monday, Feb. 23, 2009. The nine-person search committee received its formal charge from University System of Georgia Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. The campus-based committee also announced the launch of a presidential search Web site: www.georgiasouthern.edu/presidentsearch.

'The entire committee is excited to get to work and we have already received some inquiries," said Trey Denton, Ph.D., professor of Marketing at Georgia Southern University and chair of the search and screen committee. 'Georgia Southern University has experienced tremendous growth and achievement during the past ten years and this open position should attract a tremendous amount of interest. We all believe that this will be a very attractive opportunity for the right person."

During the meeting, Chancellor Davis and Susan Herbst, executive vice chancellor and chief academic officer of the University System of Georgia, discussed the general search process and the specific duties of the search and screen committee. During the meeting, there was agreement that the committee would employ a 'modified confidential process." The committee will not release the names of prospective finalists until the candidates agree to participate in the official on-campus visit. 'This decision will boost the quality of the applicant pool as it ensures privacy for each of the candidates during the initial phases of the search," said Denton.

The committee's first task will be to draft a position description and then advertise the position. While the position is being advertised this spring, the committee will meet with members of the university and community for the purpose of identifying both the desired attributes of the ideal candidate and specific questions to include in the screening process.

This summer, the committee will interview a limited number of candidates at an off-campus location. Finalists will be invited to participate in on-campus interviews during the fall semester. During these interviews, there will be opportunities for the university and community to meet each of the finalists.

The campus-based committee has been asked to forward the credentials of three to five unranked candidates to a Special Regents' Search Committee. Regents Felton Jenkins, William H. NeSmith Jr., Benjamin J. Tarbutton III and Richard L. Tucker will serve as members of the Special Regents' Search Committee chaired by Regent Donald M. Leeborn Jr. This committee is responsible for recommending finalists to Chancellor Davis, who will make a recommendation to the full Board of Regents.

For more information on the search including the latest news and information, please visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu/presidentsearch.- See more at:
<http://news.georgiasouthern.edu/pressrelease.php?id=1769#sthash.QHL4aGX4.dpuf>

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Georgia Southern's College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences administers degrees in more than 50 majors, concentrations and emphasis areas. In his new role, Smith will direct more than 250 faculty members in 10 academic departments and

‘Michael has a distinguished academic record and brings a wealth of experience to his new position at Georgia Southern,” said Linda Bleicken, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. ‘Alumni, faculty members, staff and students will find Michael to be a leader who will work with them to grow and enhance the college not only within the state of Georgia, but in the Southeast, nationally and internationally.”

Smith is currently a tenured professor and the chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C.

During his distinguished career, he has held faculty positions at the University of South Carolina, Washington State University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Sam Houston State University and the University of Colorado at Denver.

He is the author of more than 25 articles published in social science and law review journals and is a nationally recognized speaker and presenter on the topic of criminal justice practices and their social implications.

He received a B.S. in Administration of Justice from Virginia Commonwealth University, a J.D. from the University of South Carolina, School of Law and a Ph.D. from the School of Justice Studies at Arizona State University.

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University, offers 116 degree programs serving nearly 18,000 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelors, masters and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. The University, one of Georgia's largest, is a top choice of Georgia's HOPE scholars and is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit www.georgiasouthern.edu.