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8-30-2020

## Facilitating and Encouraging Outdoor Course/Group Meetings

Scott Beck

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## Senate Executive Committee Request Form

SEC via campus mail: PO Box 8033-1

E-Mail: [fsoffice@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:fsoffice@georgiasouthern.edu)

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**Request for Information**8/30/2020 **SHORT TITLE:****(Please provide a short descriptive title.)**

Facilitating &amp; Encouraging Outdoor Course/Group Meetings

**QUESTION(s):****(Please state your request or requests in question form as concisely as possible.)**


Question:




Can the GA Southern administration create a list or map of reservable locations using GIS, 25Live, and/or Banner that will encourage & facilitate the shift of course & group meetings into outdoor spaces - as judged appropriate by faculty members & their department chairs? Relatedly, can the GA Southern administration make sure that classes and faculty are given priority access to existing, particularly appropriate locations, such as pavilions controlled by the RAC, Wildlife Center, Gardens, and Athletics? Can the university step up WiFi access in at least some of these outdoor locations?

**RATIONALE(s):**

**(Please explain why this issue is one of general concern for the Faculty Senate or for the University and not a matter concerning only an individual college or administrative area. Please note what other, if any, attempts you have made to garner this information before submitting this request to the Faculty Senate.)**

First, as compared to the risks of indoor spaces that lack adequate ventilation or high-end filtration, the science and research regarding the reduced transmission of COVID among socially-distanced, masked individuals in outdoor settings deserves consideration.  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7255254/> ;  
<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.02.28.20029272v2> ;  
[https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/8/20-1274\\_article](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/8/20-1274_article) ;  
<https://academic.oup.com/jid/article/222/2/214/5841129> ;  
<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.04.20053058v1> ;  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412020317876> ;  
<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.07.20.20158238v1> Second, This past week, UGA emailed their campus community the following message, which included a link to a GIS map: "Online Interactive UGA Study Space Map Now Available: We are pleased to announce the launch of an online interactive map ... Faculty may find this map useful to discover outside venues to hold a class." MAP: <http://usg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=4f501e66d68645048cb9972f19466646> SOURCE: <https://dar.uga.edu/apps/htmlemails/viewinbrowser/17773> Third, recently: Statesboro turned an ominous corner with the local daily count of new COVID cases suddenly increasing from 21 to 64 to 133 from 8/26 to 8/28; The EGRMC lingered in ambulance diversion and overcrowded ER status; The count of students who are ill/quarantined/COVID+ in many classes passed 10%; and Multiple athletics teams have experienced outbreak/quarantine situations. Fourth, my outdoor class meetings have generally gone well thus this semester. Thank you, Scott Beck, Professor, MGSE, COE

**If you have an attachment, press the button below to attach to form and send.** Click here to attach a file

-  Click here to attach a file
-  Click here to attach a file
-  Click here to attach a file

SUBMITTED BY:	PHONE NO:
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**Note to faculty users: Double-check your data before submitting, because the data cannot be edited afterward**

**SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION**

8/30/2020 

Response:  
Approved 

**Executive Committee Response:**

This RFI was sent to Carl Reiber, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. His response was: There are currently several outdoor locations in 25Live - In Statesboro there are Sweetheart Circle, RAC fields, MC Anderson Pavilion, Magnolia Gardens, Wildlife Center; International Gardens at Armstrong, just to name a few. All are available for booking through 25Live if professors choose. All other open areas are available for professors to use but will not be on 25Live for booking. Faculty would be encouraged to take into account the weather when choosing to move the class outside as well as any accessibility needs of their students. Tables and chairs would not be provided and there is limited to no WiFi in most areas. Social distancing would still be required even in an outdoor environment and while not mandatory, face masks would continue to be encouraged. Faculty need to be considerate of student issues when scheduling classes outside. Weather must be considered as well as student sensitivities to grass, dust, insects and allergies. If students file complaints that their learning or health is impacted by any of these issues the class must have a regular indoor classroom assigned.