Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2026
Approved November 10, 2026

1. Call to Order

   Called to order by Chair McPhail at 1:04pm.

2. Roll Call

   Present:

   Barnhart, Bergiel, Bertau, Bohannon, Buzon, Campese, Colley, Elias, Ellison, Elman, Fleming, Green, Harte, Hildebrandt, Hopper, Ivory, Joa, Jonassen, Kazeem, Khan, Koczkas, Locchetta, Maggiano, Mendes, Miller, Mobariz, Moon, Ofoe, Peralta, Remshagen, Riker, Robinson, Ruffin, Schoon, Shelnutt, Talbot, Viswanath, Webb, Williams, Yarbrough

   Absent:

   Chen, Dahms, Faucette, Kimbrel, Seong, Yeh, Zot

3. Minutes

   A) The May 1, 2026 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes were approved electronically on May 5, 2026.

4. Discussion with Leadership

   A) President

      a) *USG announced Tom Fanning as next Chancellor (sole finalist with short waiting period). Chancellor Purdue will be in role through the end of December. Meetings will commence after Fanning starts to meet Presidents and set agendas.*

      b) *Student Success. Enrollment is up: just under 17,000 students, 17% percent raise in incoming freshmen numbers. UWG-in-four initiative to get students to register for 15 credit hours per semester so that they can graduate on time; also means more credit hour generation per semester and consequently more LTI faculty lines.*

      c) *UWG Next still in planning phase with listening sessions here and Newnan. Will find common themes to help inform strategic plan.*

      d) *Reorganizing the cabinet. Creating new VP for external affairs to tell story better; advancement improvements and changes to help marketing aspects of our brand.*

Goal to drive enrollment. National searches for these positions. Hope to get positions filled by January first of next year.

e) *Questions:*
   - *Q: Will faculty find out more about strategic plan aspect focused on the arts and if that will impact academic programs in the arts?*
     - *A: Big Rocks are priorities, but not necessarily the themes of the strategic plan or future funding priorities. We will still try and increase opportunities in all areas of the Big Rock aspects even if it is not a plan priority. Cannot speak to programmatic level.*
   - *Q: Feedback from students regarding Pack Cards or increased engagement?*
     - *A: Recent Greek Life meeting had positive feedback: seems like a strong response. One of the requirements is that participation is tracked (through swipes or other means), which will help provide data to support increased participation in events. Way to gamify and provide scholarships to increase participation and get students in campus activities.*

B) Provost

a) *Hearing anecdotally that students are more engaged including course enrollment and activities.*

b) *Already looking into spring and the next year in terms of scheduling. Coordinating scheduling differently in AY 28. Will look at no-fee access in November and see what happens with first generation and new students to evenly distribute sections and best serve new, continuing, and graduating students. Different approach, but goal to avoid double scheduling and follow academic roadmaps: need to meet enrollment demand. Out for review in January and February of next year. If faculty have classroom needs to help accommodate scheduling growth (technology, layout, etc.), let program and Provost know.*

c) *Working with colleges to determine hiring needs and meet university growth. Faculty searches (21 LTI and 28 full-time) with start date of August 1 of next year. Common App is open and seeing strong results in applications. Common*

App used across multiple institutions to increase availability and ease of application access.

d) *The university is in an enviable place: this is a tough time in higher education particularly regarding value. We have a strong answer as the academy and from demographic and enrollment perspectives. Need to keep ahead of the wave and do the right things to maintain strong numbers.*

e) *CHASS Dean search is continuing. More information forthcoming. Hoping to have candidates on site early next year for July 1 start.*

f) *Periodic review of Deans. Two right now (Graduate and UC Honors), ensuring broad representation: faculty input needed for this process since those are umbrella colleges. If faculty have been involved in graduate and honors classes they should endeavor to provide feedback.*

g) *Adding ten student success coaches: not advisors, but ensuring resource access and student perseverance. Goal to help faculty focus on discipline success, advisors provide advising, and these coaches helping additional student needs. For new cohort coming in Fall 2027.*

h) *AI. We help provide authentic experiences that go beyond the struggle to orient ourselves in a new AI landscape. Looking for ways AI can support workflows and using analytics to determine efficiencies and inefficiencies in our systems. It cannot replace the work of faculty in the classroom. Friction points such as scheduling or larger system processes may benefit from analysis.*

i) *Questions*

- *Q: Limited spaces in Newnan and overlapping courses; problems with parking.*
  - *A: Upper administration is looking into this issue. GoWest Early is using some of those spaces, dual enrollment as well: meeting with school superintendent next week and will discuss. Need to serve full-time on campus students first; what campus capacity do we have versus what do we need in the future? Open to discussions and will follow up.*

- *Q: Who are the student success coaches? How will they be certified? Integration into campus and programs will need to be prioritized.*
    - *A: Will be full-time staff, not students. Working on job descriptions now. Will not reduce current academic advising capacity; additive. Will have training and certification: they will need onboarding to understand UWG supports. Faculty who are interested in this approach or mentoring opportunities, reach out to the Provost. Waterfall model where coaches have them in the first year, then it transitions to academic advising, then faculty mentorship, then career services.*
- *Q: More demand on infrastructure and need to hire more faculty: is more information coming?*
    - *A: Yes, and will be pitched to Deans next week. Need for more faculty has been sustained over several years. Backfilling is a separate issue and will also be addressed.*
    - *Q: By full-time do you mean tenure-track or 7 year term? Who determines growth and need?*
        - *A: Will leave that to local decisions. Credit hour production in area: there is the possibility to request positions and add justification.*
    - *Q: Will staff hiring also be increased?*
        - *A: Yes, CHASS has already received a staff increase. Open to hearing further needs. Increased numbers of students and then proportional staff increases is a more nuanced ratio. Talk with Deans first.*
    - *Q: Will CHASS receive an associate Dean?*
        - *A: Will take note of this point.*
    - *Q: If increased hiring is connected to credit hours, what about areas like the library where resources are provided, but credit hours are not specifically connected?*
        - *A: Need to have conversations and see what is needed.*

- *Q: Salary compression on new versus existing faculty?*
    - *A: Addressing and having those conversations. The President has also demonstrated commitment to this issue and the need to be competitive. Not an adversarial conversation, need to be addressed. Will retain excellent people.*
- *Suggestion to advocate for more staff, not just faculty.*
- *Q: Need to re-evaluate staffing across the institution. Physical and mental health support services for students also have need to support students best. Student support, mental health counseling, etc. Service supports also needed to online graduate students.*
    - *A: Noted. Also mentioned that these points should be brought up in the strategic planning listening session. What should UWG be and how do we best serve students? We have multiple and different constituencies to serve. Faculty are encouraged to reach out to the Provost with any comments or issues.*
- *Q: Increased ITS support? Also increased need for IT administrative support.*
    - *A: IT is now supported by Scott McElroy; need is noticed, hopefully that can scale. Open to discussions regarding need or other issues.*

5. Committee Reports

Information Items (Martin McPhail, Chair):

1) General Information Updates
    a) Summer full-time student status.
        i) Had been 9 credit hours required for summer full-time enrollment. Impacts international and athlete students most, which can be a burden for the students. Changed to 6 credits in summer for full-time status. Will be in effect December 2027.
    b) *New Chancellor is a Georgia Tech alum and has industry experience; will be a good advocate for us. Chair McPhail is also our representative on*

faculty council: talk with Chair McPhail with any advocacy needs or concerns.

2) Committee Chair General Updates

Committee IV: Faculty Affairs Committee (Levi Ofoe, Chair)

Information Items:

A) Workload Committee Updates. (Will be standing information item for the next few months.)

1) Working with Dr. Reber on workload policy: has been looking at literature and other university policies. Policy is in draft stage. Meetings are open to all. Not determining workload at a program level, only at a university level. Will need to be approved and finalized then it will be sent out to faculty for program-level discussions. Determining factors across colleges that can inform the policy. Survey will be sent to faculty, two weeks to complete, then the committee will send this back to programs to aid the discussion.

2) Dr. Jeff Reber: deadline is hard as is in place for the senate November meeting. Program discussions should be happening in tandem with the work of this committee. Dr. Reber is open to work with programs to help with workload policy. Need to prioritize faculty development and needs over time: goal to help faculty flourish and remove barriers to growth.

3) Questions and Comments:

i. Meeting dates were announced in the faculty affairs newsletter. Next September 28 at 2pm.

ii. The President noted that a townhall would be possible to answer questions across disciplines to ensure all are heard.

iii. Comment that President's statements often do not translate down to Deans and Department Chairs.

1. A: The President has met with Deans and Chairs, happy to have them in the townhall as well. Reiterated these comments at last Provost's Council. Individual faculty have individual needs that may not generalize to other faculty: these decisions are controlled at a local level in programs. Wants to avoid

confusion at all levels. The Provost also reiterated that messaging has been consistent.

2. *Thank you extended to Dr. Ofoe by Chair McPhail. He also noted that faculty need to be involved at the local level.*

4) *Also working on the emeritus policy and the status of clinical assistant professors. Also working on policy on dismissal of non-tenured faculty. Contact Dr. Ofoe if faculty would like to contribute or be involved.*

6. Old Business

   A) None

7. New Business

   A) Strategic Planning Listening Session

      i. *For confidentiality, a summary of this session was provided only to the relevant parties as required. Further, this portion was not recorded in the livestream.*

8. Announcements

   None.

9. Adjourn

   Adjourned by Chair McPhail at 2:16pm.

Respectfully submitted by Laura McCloskey Wolfe, Executive Secretary and Art Program faculty member.