

**Weekly Notes by East Georgia State College President
March 01, 2013**

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Here are some of the things on my mind this week:

Materials from Complete College Georgia Summit (2013)

Materials distributed at this summit (discussed in an earlier weekly update) are available at the following location:

http://www.usg.edu/educational_access/complete_college_georgia/summit

In particular, I find the data presented by Patrick Kelly concerning the "economic index" (left hand column under "Presentations") and the regional economic data (see right hand column) (zone 9) to be useful and interesting as we think about the future. This data makes some of the challenges and responsibilities facing us quite clear.

Digital Scavenger Hunt

A very interesting student event is scheduled tomorrow. It is a digital scavenger hunt. I am excited about this event. It sounds like lots of fun. Additionally, the students will interact with community members in downtown Swainsboro, think critically, and think creatively. Thanks to the organizers for the vision and leadership to plan this event.

Promotion and Tenure Policy

I believe that it is time to carefully review and update the College's promotion and tenure policy. We need to examine policies of our peer institutions and then ask:

- Does the current EGSC policy clearly articulate what must be accomplished to be promoted and tenured?
- Does the current EGSC policy establish a clear process for making decisions in individual cases?

- Due to differences in missions among institutions and other factors, each institution's policy must be unique. However, we can learn from others.

Due to differences among disciplines, it is not possible to quantify the standard for promotion and tenure. However, we can articulate standards which will assure consistency, fairness and quality.

Due to differences in institutional cultures, there is not a single process which is best for all institutions. However, we can assure that the process we choose provides a clear roadmap at EGSC.

I have personally gone through the promotion and tenure process twice at another institution. Neither experience is high on my list of things I would like to do again soon. However, I do believe that the process provided me with valuable guidance as I made choices about use of my time. Also, the process provided me with a fair opportunity to make my case. I think we should review our process with a critical eye to assure that it provides the same for our faculty.

Faculty Senate

I met with the faculty Senate officers this week. I can't overemphasize how much I appreciate this opportunity to communicate about issues facing the College.

Standing Committees

As you all know, the College updated its Statutes this year. A Faculty Senate and a President's Cabinet were created. In addition, standing committees were reorganized. Some are committees of the Senate. Others are committees of the Cabinet.

I met with the standing committee chairs this week. Our meeting focused on two themes:

- Communication
- Transparency

I asked the chairs to let me know:

- Do any committees need to be abolished?

- Does the purpose and function of any committee need to be modified?
- Does the membership of any committee need to be modified?
- Do any new committees need to be created?

I also asked all committees to post minutes on the President's Office website (excluding, of course, any confidential information) under the "standing committees" heading.

This process will help to assure that our processes are open and that our committee structure changes as the environment changes.

Vision Series

Another outstanding Vision Series lecture was delivered this week. It provided an excellent window to the research process used by historians. I hope this will be used in many classes to help students understand and appreciate the research process.

We are working on making all Vision Series lectures and performances available on the web. This will provide all of us with an excellent teaching tool in our classes.

Honors Night

Just as we cheer our athletes, we should cheer our outstanding academic achievers. Let's do that together at Honors Night. This year's event will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium on the Swainsboro Campus.

State of the College Address

Each year, the President of a College should formally update the entire campus community about the state of the College. I will do that this year at 11 a.m. on Thursday, May 2, 2013. This will be presented in the Auditorium on the Swainsboro Campus and by simulcast in Statesboro.

I can promise that this will not be compelling drama or oratory. It will, however, be a frank assessment of the successes and failures of the last year and the opportunities and challenges of the next year.

Movies on Campus

Thanks to so many of you for sending lists of your favorite movies to me. As you know, I think that showing more movies on campus would be positive for many reasons:

- Provide great discussion material for classes
- Encourage students to stay on campus and interact with faculty and staff and other students and the community
- Encourage community to come to campus and interact with students
- Broaden intellectual horizons
- Watching movies is great fun

It is more expensive to do this than one might imagine. Also, it is a challenge to get people to attend. Nonetheless, we are working on this and I hope the 2013-2014 academic year will bring more movies to campus. Film at 11.

BOR Policy (Proposed) Concerning Intercollegiate Athletics

I would like to introduce an even wider range of athletic programs at EGSC. This means it will likely be necessary to increase student athletic fees. I do not take any fee increase lightly. However, I believe that the positive impact on student recruiting and campus life makes this worth pursuing.

The Board of Regents is considering a new policy which would substantially increase the responsibility on a college seeking to increase these fees. For example, much more evidence of student support will likely be required.

As a result of this likely new direction, we will be beginning conversations with students about their interest in bringing new sports to campus.

If we do bring new sports to campus, it will likely be sports which do not require significant capital investment. Examples would include cross country and golf (men's and women's for both sports). Other possibilities would include soccer and tennis.

Recycling on Campus

As a newcomer to the area, I have been confused about the lack of recycling options. There are ways to do this, but Joyce and I have found

that the available options do not encourage recycling. As a result, Joyce and I tend to acquire large stacks of recyclables and then find ourselves putting them in the trunk of our car and taking them to Athens for recycling when we go there to take care of personal business.

A college should be a leader in addressing issues like this. A place to start is our own campus. I will be forming a recycling task force to make recommendations about recycling on campus. Should recycling options be provided which encourage convenient and large volume recycling? Is it feasible? Could it perhaps even be a source of income for the College?

If you are interested in this issue and willing to spend some time looking into it in depth, please nominate yourself to the task force.

Planning for a Fall 2013 Convocation

I very much like the idea of holding a fall convocation each year. For example, many academic institutions choose a specific topic for discussion along with a written work or film which addresses that topic. The entire academic community then spends time on a shared day discussing that topic and weaving it into the curriculum. There are many other approaches to a convocation. However, they all serve to set the academic tone for the coming year.

Once again, I will be forming a small task force to recommend an approach to this matter. If you are interested in service on this task force, please nominate yourself to the task force.

We have tentatively identified September 26, 2013 for this convocation.

Hope you all have a great week. I will be travelling to Alabama on SACSCOC business. However, I hope to be back in time to watch Bobcat basketball victories on Friday and Saturday.

Sincerely,

Bob Boehmer
President
East Georgia State College