

USG Faculty Council Report to the UGA University Council Executive Committee

Good afternoon, fellow members of the University Council EC.

I serve as UGA's representative on the University System of Georgia Faculty Council, now in the second year of my three-year term. The Faculty Council is an advisory body to the Chancellor of the University System of Georgia. Its members represent all USG institutions, and we meet monthly on Zoom with two in-person meetings each year.

Two major issues have occupied much of our attention since my last report.

First, the posting of syllabi and CVs.

Over the summer, we devoted significant time to discussing changes to the Academic and Student Affairs Handbook, Section 2.8. On May 15, 2025, the Board of Regents approved a requirement that all institutions post course syllabi and faculty curriculum vitae on their public websites. The aim is to ensure that students have ready access to key information to guide course selection and academic planning.

Since UGA has already been requiring public syllabi for some years, I was frequently asked to explain how we implemented this policy here. Many of the questions raised by colleagues at other institutions were similar to those we faced at the outset at UGA. USG schools are currently working toward compliance.

Second, the formation of the Commission for Public Higher Education, or CPHE.

The Faculty Council has been actively providing feedback on the development of CPHE's accreditation standards. Drawing on faculty conversations at UGA and a close reading of the draft standards, I submitted comments that were then included in a meeting on September 8, 2025 led by CPHE President Cameron Howell. That meeting brought together faculty and administrators from across multiple university systems across the South.

The central purpose was to examine **academic freedom, viewpoint diversity, shared governance, institutional independence, and student success** as guiding principles for forthcoming CHPE accreditation standards.

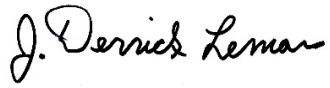
Some key takeaways:

1. On **academic freedom and viewpoint diversity**, we agreed on the importance of preserving faculty autonomy while remaining open to diverse perspectives.
2. On **shared governance**, we stressed the need for a clearer definition and stronger protections for genuine faculty participation, independent of external influence.
3. On **student success and return on investment**, we recommended flexibility in definitions that account for the wide range of student populations and programs, while maintaining affordability and transparency as priorities.
4. On **accreditation reform**, there is strong interest in streamlining processes compared to current agencies—standards must remain rigorous but also practical and efficient.

I should note that at UGA we are accredited by SACSCOS through 2032 with no plans to change accrediting agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your representative on the USG Faculty Council. I will continue to keep this body updated, and I invite you to route any faculty concerns or comments to me so I can incorporate them into my feedback.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Derrick Lemons". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

J. Derrick Lemons

Chair, UC Executive Committee