

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

Department of History

February 8, 2007

The UGA chapter of AAUP finds the following aspects of the Chancellor's policy of criminal background checks sufficiently problematic to warrant reconsideration: (1) the process of its formulation without consultation with the affected constituencies; (2) its general imprecision and absence of defining parameters of scope and procedure; (3) its potential for abuse and misuse from unwarranted invasion of privacy and identity theft; (4) its potential to impair the University's reputation in general and recruitment of international faculty in particular; and (5) the likely disproportionate costs in regard to benefits and to liabilities that the system may incur as a result of its implementation.

In light of the Chancellor's receptivity to the intervention of Georgia AAUP Executive Secretary, Professor Hugh Hudson of Georgia State, we urge that the present statement of policy become the basis for system-wide discussion and formulation of a policy that will protect not only the system but also the rights of its constituents.

Submitted to the University Council on behalf of the UGA Chapter of the AAUP by

John H. Morrow, Jr.

Franklin Professor of History