

BOBCAT SPOT

— More of what's going on at your hometown college!

September 2020

Volume 2 • Issue 9

September Senior Staff Meeting Recap

Important Dates

SACSCOC On-Site Review:
October 6-8, 2020

Healthcare Open Enrollment:
October 21 – November 6

Virtual Live Benefits Fair:
October 14
from 1 – 4 p.m.

JAM Ribbon Cutting:
Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 11:30am
Chancellor Wrigley will be on campus for the event. Invitations were recently mailed. Only a limited number of guests can attend in person due to required social distancing. As an alternative, EGSC will be livestreaming the event so that everyone in our college community and surrounding communities can participate.

Major enhancements to the MyEGSC portal implementation:
Target date is October 20

Ethics Awareness Week 2020:
November 9-15, 2020

Retirement

Jean Schwabe, a distinguished colleague and friend to all, will be retiring at the end of December following 10 years of service to the college as Director of the Sudie A. Fulford Community Learning Center. EGSC will hold a search to fill the director position and will recognize Jean for her service closer to her retirement date. Congratulations to Jean and to Mayor Schwabe on what lies ahead for both of them!

Fall 2020 Dual Enrollment Update

EGSC currently has **313 dual enrollment students** for fall semester. EGSC received 290 applications for Fall term and 180 of those were able to be registered. The final enrollment should be around 315 students, which increases Fall 2020 enrollment over last fall, which was 309 students. We are currently teaching onsite at Brentwood, Evans High School, Screven County and Jefferson County High School. Hepzibah and Harlem High School converted to online classes with us due to course delivery changes associated with COVID-19.

Enrollment Report

Prior to the census for nonattendance, EGSC's **enrollment was at 2,609 students**. That number took a 5% decrease following the non-attendance drop, which has historically been a 3% drop. Enrollment Management staff are working diligently to enroll students in the 12-week term, which

will help with countering the drop for non-attendance. **EGSC is currently at 2,530 students**. EGSC still has the 12-week term coming up, as well as the 8-week term in October.

The next drop in enrollment will occur with the drop for non-payment. Historically this is a drop around 9%. The EGSC Foundation has also provided assistance by contributing \$50,000 to the college to provide student scholarships in an effort to help reduce the melt/drop for non-payment. It will not solve our enrollment crisis, but it is estimated that those funds will **save approximately 60 students** making satisfactory academic progress that we otherwise would have lost.

Housing Report

Currently there are **338 students** living at Bobcat Villas. Housing still has 20 students reserved for the 12-week term. Angela Storck, Director of Housing, is predicting an 80% occupancy for Fall 2020, still within the census projection.

SACSCOC Decennial Reaffirmation Process

EGSC's **SACSCOC On-Site Review is scheduled for October 6-8, 2020**. The visit will be entirely virtual and no visiting committee members will be on site. I.T. is working through technical logistics for the virtual visit to ensure it is a success. We are putting together all of the components to make the visit a success. All EGSC employees should remain available in case they are

needed for interview during those three days. It is important for interview participants to have a computer video camera and audio. **In the event that someone does not have video capabilities, there will be video conferencing in all conference rooms on campus.**

Dr. Boehmer emphasize three things in preparation for the virtual visit: **availability, flexibility and preparation**. He also said it is important that everyone understands and uses the SACSCOC language. The most important terms to remember are the Principles of Accreditation (those are the principles that all members of SACSCOC comply with), the Compliance Certification (the document we filed in March showing our compliance with all of the principles), the off-site review (where SACSOC identified 9 principles they need more information about), which was provided in the Focused Report. The Committee will also be interviewing employees about the ed-erally-mandated Principles. Also, the Committee will be reviewing our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). All of this will preparation and the interviews will hopefully lead to the reaffirmation of our accreditation with SACSCOC.

REMINDER: Please be familiar with the college's Quality Enhancement Plan! To view information about the QEP, visit <http://www.ega.edu/qep>. SACSCOC expects everyone on campus (students, faculty and staff) have at least a general understanding of the topic and purpose of the plan.

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COVID-19 Reporting Process

People who have exhibited symptoms of COVID-19, people who have direct exposure to someone with COVID-19, or people who have actually tested positive should complete the online COVID-19 self-reporting form. The link to this form is located at the top of the EGSC homepage. As of last week, 275 people filed a report. EGSC removed about 35 of the notifications from the report because the individuals did not meet the reporting criteria. EGSC is working under a guideline and protocol established by the CDC and GDPH and collaborated with GDPH, GS and AU. On the website, there will also be aggregate data provided daily, by campus, student, employee, etc. This reporting is ONLY for positive cases. An asterisk by a number means that the positive case never came to campus, so it was not a risk to the campus. Also, the does not mean it is currently an active case; it could reflect a quarantine period or some other reason.

Process to be followed when a faculty or staff member becomes aware that an individual has tested positive, exhibited symptoms, or has had direct contact:

If students report to faculty or staff that they have symptoms, the student should be told to stay home, take care of themselves, and complete the self-reporting form. Faculty and staff are also encouraged to complete the online report. The committee will then directly contact the student to find out additional information. After communicating with the student, EGSC will make the faculty aware if a student needs to be absent from class and also when a student has been cleared to return to campus.

Facilities Requests

It is extremely important that we all remember to **complete a facility request if utilizing any space on campus**, especially a conference room so that Plant Operations can adequately disinfect the space. Employees should also observe the current guidelines for maximum capacity and once your meeting concludes, **everyone should wipe down the space they inhabited prior to leaving.**

Title IX: Revisions of BOR Policy

In April/May, new federal regulations were received, and the USG rewrote its policies on sexual misconduct, student misconduct and employee misconduct to be compliant with the new regulations. **On August 14, the Office of Civil Rights' new policies went into effect.** EGSC is updating its associated policies and these will be presented to the Cabinet for vote at their meeting on September 22. To implement these policies thoroughly, the Office of Title IX will need more employee volunteers to serve as investigators, panelists, and hearing advisors. If interested in serving in one of these important roles, please contact Robert Jones at rhjones@ega.edu.

Academic and Student Affairs

EGSC is managing many things in Student Affairs, one of which is enrollment. Despite the challenges, there are also **many positive things happening due to strong teamwork.** Counseling and Disability Services are being provided virtually, Student Conduct reports are fewer, and although things are looking new and different, they are going well.

Nursing Program

Update

For Fall 2020, we had **14 students accepted** into the program. Of those students, 10 students started the program. A lot of applications have received, even from out of state. EGSC has a limit of 24 students per cohort under the current staffing model.

Humanities and Social Sciences

Fall Convocation was held this month with Dr. Patrice Jackson as the guest speaker. The topic of the virtual event was "Leading with Civility." Other events are being planned and a list of potential speakers is being developed. The first presentation was presented by Dr. Di Lorenzo on September 10. More information will be available soon.

FESA Program Update

In the FESA program last Fall (Fall 2019) there were **14 students in the associates program.** Three graduated in the spring and transferred into the bachelor's program. For Fall 2020, there are **nine students** in the associate's program.

Last year, Fall 2019, **28 students were enrolled in the bachelor's program.** Five of those students graduated in Spring. For Fall 2020, **32 students** are enrolled in the bachelor's program. In addition to the students who are Georgia residents, we have students enrolled who are from five other states: Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Louisiana. Director of the FESA Program, Beverley Walker, will participate in a virtual EMS conference in October for recruitment opportunities.

Bobcat Villas Mentoring Program

EGSC-Swainsboro is gearing

up for the Bobcat Villas Mentor Program again. This program is for faculty and staff who are interested in helping students in the residence halls to feel more comfortable and involved. Dr. Deborah Kittrell recently sent an email to everyone about this mentor opportunity. If you are interested or would like more information, email Dr. Kittrell at dkittrell@ega.edu.

Library Information

Using a grant, EGSC was able to purchase hotspots that can be checked out from the library. The library started loaning the hotspots out the first day of fall semester and noted that they are constantly in use. Library staff have received a lot of positive feedback from students about the devices.

CHOICE Program Update

Over the summer, 10 potential new students for the CHOICE program were interviewed. Seven were accepted and four second-year students were anticipated to return. In mid-July, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation, who has been a funding source, **changed the funding structure** for all students across the state, which is now \$3,000 per student if they meet the new funding was formerly between \$6000-\$8,000. Lack of funding caused us to lose two new students and one returning student. Teresa Davis, Director of the CHOICE Program, is talking to other similar programs at USG institutions to determine if the funding cuts are localized or state-wide. Comparatively, enrollment is down across the state for students in the inclusion program. Other funding sources are being explored through the Georgia Council for Developmental Disabilities.

Theresa also reported that the CHOICE students have settled into the college routine very well

and are immersing themselves into college. They are introducing themselves to everyone, and they're proud to be an EGSC student. The new students this year indicated that they chose EGSC because of the personal attention they've experienced here. They come from Emanuel county, Toombs county and the Atlanta metro area.

12-Week Term Numbers

Enrollment numbers for the

fall 12-week term are looking very positive. **EGSC set a goal of enrolling 75 students. We are at 80 students so far.** EGSC Augusta's term began September 8. Swainsboro and Statesboro's term begins on September 14.

J-Term Classes

Mike Moran, Director of Admissions, said he is very confident that we'll do well in the J-Term. We are implementing a variety of tactics and are sharing information about the term

with other institutions. Last year we provided 209 credit hours and would like to double it this year.

Student Life Updates

Club Week – September 14-18, 2020 – Each club hosted a Zoom meeting to invite students to learn about the club and join.

SGA Special Elections – September 8, 2020

Game Room Updates – soft

opening September 14 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Only 10 students are allowed in the game room at a time and only six at a time are allowed in the movie theater. Student Life is making sure student workers are trained on getting students in and out and cleaning and sanitizing, as well as designing a system for students to reserve a time to use the game room.

Bobcat Bridge Scholarship Awards – Total awards for Spring & Fall 2020: \$7500

Join us for Constitution Day September 22, 2020

The New Imperial Presidency and The Constitution
Presentation by Dr. Bruce Frohnen



Presented via Zoom and Livestream
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
EGSC Students, Faculty and Staff, please log in to D2L and click the announcement to access the Zoom session.

www.ega.edu/2020ConstitutionDay



MASK UP, BOBCATS!