



## INSTRUCTIONAL FACULTY CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE (IFCC)

### ECONOMICS MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021

**Time:** 10am-12pm

**Location:** WebEx

**Meeting Facilitator:** Jack Wiesner

**Recorder:** Dr. Nathalie Dames

**Attendees:** Jack Wiesner- Wiregrass Technical College,  
Emmanuel Welbeck- Augusta Technical College,  
Nick Bergan-Southern Crescent,  
Carrie Fowler- Athens Tech,  
Laura Jenkins Department Chair of General Education North GA Tech,  
Margaret Long- Dean of Education at Gwinnett Tech,  
Michael Yeboah – Chattahoochee Technical College,  
Amit Dave-GA Piedmont Math instructor.  
Heather Ramsey-Department Chair Savannah Technical College,  
Sean Brumfield-Southern Crescent Dean Arts and Sciences,  
Alice Zimmerman- TCSG,  
Jason Kennedy-WGTC Department Chair  
Dr. Nathalie Dames-TCSG

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#### **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Jack Wiesner called the meeting to order at 10am.

#### **DISCUSSION SUMMARY:**

Dr. Nathalie Dames introduced herself to the IFCC as their new curriculum program specialist at the system office.

Participants introduced themselves.

**IFCC officers were elected:** Chair: Jack Wiesner, Vice Chair: Nick Bergan

**Discuss Faculty Transition to OER Resources:** Positive response from Welbeck, Nick Question banks are very light we need a larger pool available in their Blackboard shell Bank. , access textbook and cost are great. Be sure to check answers to question to test bank. A conversation was had about the ability of students to access test

banks online at Course Hero, Quizlet, Chegg and other similar sites. Margaret Long presented instruction on how to get their course material removed from the site. An email will be sent to the group with a sample letter. Michael book is Substandard OER textbooks. Missing critical information. Suggestions were made to supplement missing materials. Textbooks used prior to OER implementation included: Essentials of Economics and using Eric Change. Athens uses Cengage "Manqkiw" for 2105/2106. Concerns about using the same books for the introductory course and the micro/macro courses were expressed.

Discuss e-Campus Courses: What success have other institutions had for the e-campus economics courses. Savannah Tech has a few students enrolled in the course this semester. Jack has not had anyone to enroll in their e-campus courses. Jason Kennedy has 25 people that have signed up for their micro course. This may be a way to help faculty get enrollment. .

**Discuss Current Student Enrollment for Arts and Sciences within TCSG System and What Role Economics Faculty Can Play to Support It:**

Augusta reported 150 students and about 30% dual enrollment. Most of their dual enrollment students have had a previous economics course.

Athens reported has 11 classes each fall and spring, 9-10 in the summer term. Around 200 students each term. They have 2-4 dual enrollment courses taught at a career academy. Other dual enrollment students take the course on campus. Most of the students are in the 2000 level course which allows for a better articulated course. Better outcomes on campus/online as opposed to career academy.

Southern Crescent's typical econ enrollment is 200 per semester. They have an AS in Consumer Economics that articulates to UGA Athens that requires ECON. They also have an AS in General Studies that requires ECON. They get quite a few dual enrolled students taking ECON.

West GA has about 175 students each term. They also have an AS degree with West Georgia that will allow them to accept all of their ECON course. They do not require econ for any of their business programs.

Savannah uses e-campus for their students since their instructor has retired.

Question was raised about the economic course requirements for the business management programs. Several programs include economics courses as an elective or requirement. The program level differences in these requirements is college based.

The question was posed about TCSG as a stepping stone to entrance into four year institutions. TCSG's stance is work force development. The articulations that are created are mainly college driven. The need for the general education courses is at the demand of the program. So to increase selection of the economics courses there needs to be more communication between various programs and their elective selection. Suggestions were made to make program chairs to aware of various general education courses.

Athens has an articulation agreement with UGA and Southern Crescent had an articulation agreement with UGA Griffin that is now only at UGA Athens since the program was removed from that campus.

**Discuss Process to Add Additional Economics Courses within TCSG System:** Additional Courses are created at the need of the program. These courses are created to meet the demands of the program. The process of course

creation, review and process was explained. Having a conversation with the program chairs about the value of the course was also recommended.

**Discuss Desire to Create Business and Economics Club State-wide Within TCSG:** Question was posed about a state wide organization for students that were interested in a Business and Economics club. No one had a local club dedicated specifically to this aim. There were some groups that were similar to FBLA. Skills USA was mentioned as well as Phi Beta Lambda. Georgia Piedmont has a group, which is typically active with a lot of members. Currently the group is not active due to the pandemic. Dr. Dames will follow up with TCSG student affairs about the possibilities of a state wide group.

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**Minutes Submitted By:** Dr. Nathalie Dames