



The Business Affairs Advisor

A Newsletter by Finance & Administration

Office of the Vice President for Finance and Administration

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A Message from the Vice President Ryan Nesbit:

At the beginning of each new year, The Business Affairs Advisor conducts an interview with the Vice President for Finance and Administration. This year, the conversation with Vice President, Ryan Nesbit, focuses on the budget outlook, the past year's accomplishments and a look ahead.

We begin FY 2015 with some very positive news in the form of the first merit-based raises in five years. What other positive developments have we seen and what might we expect in the coming year?

It was certainly a good sign that UGA was able to provide a merit-based raise pool through the combination of funds allocated by the Board of Regents and other general fund sources. Additional funds were also directed to increasing the minimum hiring rate from \$22,250 to \$22,750 as well as increasing graduate assistantship rates by 5%. Beyond operating budgets, UGA also received positive news pertaining to its capital budget request. Based on support from the Board of Regents, the Governor, and the General Assembly, funds were appropriated to construct the new Science Learning Center that is now underway on South Campus. Funds were also appropriated for an addition and renovations to Baldwin Hall as well as to construct turfgrass research facilities in Athens, Griffin and Tifton.

The Board of Regents also approved an increase to UGA's tuition rates that is helping to underwrite a series of new and expanded initiatives to enhance the academic experience of students and position them for success during their time at UGA and beyond. The Board also approved the third installment of an increase to the ConnectUGA fee to help fund the implementation of Athena, our new integrated student information system that has gone live over the past few months. As UGA continues to place a strong focus on affordability, all other mandatory student fees will remain the same as in FY 2014 with UGA's non-mandatory housing fees, dining fees, and parking fees also being frozen at FY 2014 levels.

In the coming year, the state will be changing the method it uses to calculate funding for higher education by moving from an enrollment-based funding formula to a funding formula that will be performance-based and will be driven by outcomes.

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Sustainability Award



Jeanne Fry, director of UGA Food Services, was honored with the 2014 Outstanding Staff Award from the UGA Office of Sustainability. While many may know Ms. Fry for helping to feed UGA students, she was recognized by peers in the UGA community for her efforts to champion sustainability initiatives at UGA. She has helped UGA Food Services reduce water and energy use and eliminate all plastics from the waste stream. Eliminating plastic makes food waste leaving the dining commons 100% compostable so it can be repurposed in the bio-conversion center on campus.

Fiscal Administration Certificate Training Series

The Fiscal Administration Certificate Training Series (FACTS), designed for faculty and staff with fiscal responsibilities, is currently in its inaugural year. The inaugural FACTS cohort has completed its Core requirements and is currently working through the FAST and GRASP track classes, to be completed in August. Topics covered in the Core include Acquiring Goods and Services, Accounts Payable, Travel, Insurance and Claims Management, Cash Deposits and Cash Activity, UGA Foundation Overview, UGA Research Foundation Overview, Budgets, Ethics, Customer Service, Accounting, Payroll, etc. The series has received positive feedback and planning is underway for the next cohort.

The upcoming FACTS program will begin in September 2014. The deadline for applications for the September cohort was May 31 and the selected participants have been notified. The application process is ongoing and is therefore still open for future cohorts. There will be a new cohort beginning each September and January. More information on the series, course descriptions, and an application can be found [here](#). Please contact [Crystal Rogers](#) with additional questions.



The inaugural Fiscal Administration Certificate Training Series (FACTS) cohort.

EV Chargers

UGA Parking Services recently installed an Electronic Vehicle Charger in the North Campus Parking Deck. The charger comes to UGA as the result of a number of requests for a charger on campus. Through a partnership between Parking Services, the Office of Sustainability, and the Facilities Management Division, UGA is now able to meet the needs of faculty, staff, students, and visitors who live in or travel to the Athens area.

The new charger is a part of the ChargePoint network. Users may pay with their ChargePoint card or with a credit card. Currently, charging is free in the North Campus Parking Deck with the only cost being a fee to access the deck. At the start of the fall semester, charging rates will start at \$0.75 per hour for the first two hours and then increase to \$1.50 per hour.



Depending upon usability and success of this charger, UGA Parking Services will consider installing chargers elsewhere on campus. More information about the charger can be found [here](#).

Business Process Improvements

University Business and Accounting Services and the Budget Division are implementing a plan to address business process changes and policy implementation that utilizes a 'user community' model similar to that used for the implementation of the Security and Immigration Compliance Act. The first step in this plan will establish the Business Services Advisory Group (BSAG) composed of the BAAF Planning Committee members, the chief fiscal officer from each school/college or major unit, representation from internal audit, and other subject matter experts as necessary. Initially this group will work on the items already identified in recent reports from the work of the Finance and Administration Transition Advisory Team and the Research Administration Work Group. On a recurring basis, F&A will bring policy changes or new policy items to the group and a method will also be developed for the group to bring forth needs and ideas on behalf of faculty and staff for continuous business process review and improvement.

As a result of these efforts, already the following business process improvements have been announced:

Travel Policy Updates

The University's travel policy was recently modified to provide more flexibility for certain types of travel expenses. While travelers should continue to seek the least expensive rates available considering proximity and personal safety, they will no longer be required to provide justification when lodging expenses exceed the federal per diem rate by more than twenty-five percent. Additionally, should out-of-state travel expenses exceed the amount approved on the Request for Authority to Travel, the traveler will no longer be required to provide a statement of explanation. The revised policy is available in the [Finance and Administration Policy Library](#).



Procurement 14 Day Report

The UGA Procurement Office is embarking on a new initiative to effectively communicate the management of UGAmart purchase requests. On a weekly basis, a report providing the status of purchase requests that have been in Procurement for 14 days or more will be distributed via email to the unit business leaders. The status on the 14 day report will also be communicated to the shopper, requisitioner, and approver through UGAmart comments. This report is expected to provide proactive and consistent updates to the end users, maximize the escalation path within the Procurement department to assist in moving the purchase forward, and increase interactions with vendors, other stakeholders and governing agencies.



The University of Georgia has received a STARS Gold Rating in recognition of their sustainability achievements from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). STARS, the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, is a program that measures and encourages sustainability in all aspects of higher education.

According to Kevin Kirsche, UGA's Director of Sustainability, "The Gold STARS rating is reflective of the very good work of so many departments, programs and individuals at The University of Georgia. Compiling this report has inspired us and challenged us to continue to conserve resources, improve quality of life and enhance the student experience on our campuses, in our local communities and around the globe."

Message from Ryan Nesbit (PAGE 1): *Continued from page 1*

Recognizing the importance of linking funding to student success, a growing number of states are shifting to some form of performance-based funding. While Georgia's current formula is driven primarily by credit hours attempted by our students, the new formula will be driven by degrees that our students earn. As the Board of Regents staff has been working through the details of this new formula with the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget and the Legislative Budget Offices, UGA has been actively engaged in discussions with the Board of Regents staff. The new formula will be used during the development of the state's FY 2016 budget.

Reflecting on this past year, what were some of the accomplishments you are most proud of for the division of Finance & Administration?

Wow, that is a tough question! Of course we've had a lot of significant accomplishments, but most impressive to me is the work done daily by my 1,700 colleagues within the division of Finance & Administration in support of the University's academic and student life missions. It is their combined efforts that not only provide the daily stewardship of the University's financial, human and physical resources, but also allow the University community to quickly bounce back from major events like the ice storm this past winter. I can not say enough about the efforts of all of our staff and I am sincerely grateful to serve alongside them.

In addition to the daily support we provide, these same staff are responsible for a number of significant accomplishments. The following offers a small glimpse into the tremendous efforts put forth this past year above and beyond the daily operation of the division:

- University Business and Accounting Services provided resources and leadership for the Connect UGA Project. Successful implementation required collaboration and team work between Finance & Administration units, EITS, student service operations within the Vice President for Instruction, Student Affairs, the Office of International Education, the individual colleges and schools, the UGA Foundation and beyond.
- Campus Transit, in collaboration with Athens-Clarke County and UGA's Office of Government Relations, purchased its first ever Federal-grant funded buses.
- The Office of University Architects provided oversight for the construction and renovation of facilities including: Rutherford Hall; the Health Sciences Campus' Scott Hall, Rhodes Hall, Hudson Hall, Pound Hall and Wright Hall; Bolton Dining Commons; the Veterinary Medicine Learning Center; the Fine Arts Building; the Business Learning Community; and preliminary construction of the Science Learning Center.
- Along with the staff of the Office of the Provost, the Budget Division provided leadership, analytics and recommendations to the Board of Regents for the new outcomes-based formula framework that will be in place for the FY 2016 state budget development cycle.

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In the Next Issue:

- **Benefits Open Enrollment**
- **New Bolton Dining Commons Opening**
- **Progress of Business Process Improvements**
- **Financial, Human Resources Administrative Systems Readiness Assessment**

Bookstore Renovations

The UGA Bookstore is undergoing renovations to refresh the interior space and enhance the store experience. Expected to be complete in July, the renovations include new carpet, paint, fixtures, and more. The Bookstore will remain open throughout the renovation process to ensure the campus community has convenient access to essential products and store services, so feel free to come see our progress and pick up your UGA game day apparel. You can also visit the UGA Bookstore [online](#).



After Renovation

Financial, Human Resources Administrative Systems Evaluation Project Underway

The University has started an assessment to collect and evaluate the expectations and high-level requirements as well as campus 'readiness' for transforming the existing financial and human resource administrative systems environment for a potential next generation solution. An advisory committee worked with Collegiate Project Services (CPS), an external consultant, to collect information from technical and functional UGA representatives. Activities to collect this information included: surveys of technical staff, technology preview sessions to learn about available features and technology provided by administrative systems, and functional and technical discussion sessions. The options and needs assessment phase of the project concluded in June 2014 and the report prepared by CPS is now available on the [project website](#). The readiness assessment phase will now begin and is expected to conclude in September 2014. For more information about the finance and HR administrative systems evaluation project, please visit the [project website](#) or contact [Chris Wilkins](#).

New Transit Buses

Campus Transit recently welcomed several new buses to its lineup, four of which represent the department's first federally funded buses. The buses arrived in early May and began running routes this summer.

With a new exterior and interior design, the buses are custom built to University specifications by New Flyer Industries, which has several manufacturing facilities in the United States and Canada. Seven older buses will be retired, growing the large bus fleet to 56 active buses. The new buses will allow Campus Transit to meet the transportation needs of the growing UGA campus.



Contact Information

For more information, please select a division below, and you will be redirected to its Web site.

[Auxiliary Services](#)

[Budget Division](#)

[Environmental Safety](#)

[Facilities Management](#)

[Human Resources](#)

[University Architects](#)

[University Business and Accounting Services](#)

Message from Ryan Nesbit (PAGE 1):

Continued from page 4

- Human Resources and University Business and Accounting Services partnered with Academic Affairs and EITS to involve deans, vice presidents and functional and technical focus groups in the assessment of solutions for future financial and human resource administrative systems.
- Contracts & Grants and Accounting worked with the Office of the Vice President for Research and faculty on an Ad Hoc Research Administration Work Group to develop a report of recommended improvements pertaining to research administration.
- F&A leadership worked with EITS leadership to initiate plans for a data warehouse and user-friendly reporting tool for financial and administrative data.
- UGA's Procurement Office collaborated closely with Georgia Tech Procurement staff and the state Department of Administrative Services to identify areas where administrative burden may be reduced in state procurement policies.
- As Food Services readies to place the new Bolton Dining Commons into operation, it developed and implemented a plan to keep meal plan fees frozen at current levels in FY 2015.
- In collaboration with many Principal Investigators (PIs) on campus, the Environmental Safety Division completed inspections of all laboratory chemical fume hoods, emergency eye wash stations and safety showers on campus and completed comprehensive safety surveys of over 25 campus buildings.
- Real Estate and Space Management worked closely with the Office of the Provost to support initiatives to improve space management standards, processes, procedures and tools.
- The Office of Sustainability increased UGA community awareness of the University's sustainability efforts by creating a core of sustainability experts, hosting a myriad of educational and participatory events, awarding nine Campus Sustainability Grants and submitting a report to the Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS).
- The Office of University Architects initiated a Historic Preservation Master Plan/Historic Property Stewardship Program in collaboration with the College of Environment and Design.
- The Facilities Management Division investigated, planned and began re-aligning personnel to expand the zone maintenance concept to provide more responsive and efficient services to the campus community.

In each and every one of these instances, we are most pleased to note the partnerships formed with various campus constituents to ensure the best possible outcomes for the entire university

As the new Vice President for Finance and Administration, what goals do you have in the coming year for the division?

A single guiding principle and a few key objectives will direct our attention to the needs and expectations of the students, faculty, staff and other constituents we serve and support. As a guiding principle, Finance and Administration will enhance and align all services and support to better meet the needs and expectations of the University's academic and student life missions and the institution as a whole. We will continue to rely on the very valuable advice and guidance we have been receiving from the F&A Transition Advisory Team, formed in April and made up of four deans, four vice presidents and seven members of the faculty.

University Architects receive 2014 Preservation Award for Outstanding Restoration

The Office of University Architects was the recipient of the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation's 2014 Preservation Award for Outstanding Restoration in recognition of the work done on the Thomas Courtyard at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education.



Message from Ryan Nesbit

- Enhance Student Services and Academic Support
- Enhance Financial, Administrative and Human Resources Support
- Enhance Capital Planning and Infrastructure Support

This guiding principle and these three simple pillars represent the goals and objectives of seven divisions and a multitude of specific goals and tasks the division will strive to achieve.

What do you most want the University community to recognize Finance and Administration for during the next several years?

First, I must say, I truly believe in the mission and core values of the division and the very core of my hope for the future centers on furthering the mission to support UGA's academic and student life missions by providing exceptional service and stewardship of the University of Georgia's financial, human and physical resources. To that end, it is my sincere hope that Finance and Administration might always be viewed as a true partner and trusted advisor by our academic colleagues and our countless other constituents. In the coming years, I hope the Finance and Administration team will continuously strengthen and improve how it partners with UGA's academic enterprise - instruction, research, public service, student life, etc. - to continue to elevate the academic stature of UGA as a world-class institution and that we do this through active participation, enthusiastic collaboration, and an intentional focus on service, efficiency, adaptability, flexibility and transparency.

Research Administration Process Improvement Initiative

The University of Georgia strives to continually grow its research enterprises. To do so, UGA continues to support process improvement initiatives that facilitate the conduct and administration of research and other sponsored projects. Through a collaborative effort by the Office of the Vice President for Research and the Vice President for Finance and Administration, a work group comprised of research faculty and staff was assembled to focus on key operational processes and organizational activities and make recommendations for business process improvements to enhance support for UGA's research and sponsored project activities.

As a result of the Work Group's efforts, a report was issued containing forty one recommendations to improve the infrastructure for the administration of sponsored programs. These recommendations encompass four areas of emphasis:

1. Customer service and training;
2. Research administrator support and distribution;
3. Communication between central offices and with campus units; and
4. Institutional risk tolerance

To build on the valuable efforts of the Research Administration Work Group, a group of UGA faculty and administrators will be working with a consultant to complete an independent review of UGA's research and sponsored project administrative infrastructure and the business processes supporting research and sponsored projects. The information gleaned from this independent review will inform and guide UGA in creating and implementing a plan for improving sponsored project and research administration infrastructure throughout UGA.

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Finance and Administration Recognition Week

Finance and Administration staff celebrated their hard work and contributions to the University during the annual F&A Recognition Week, held this year on May 12-16.

[New to F&A Day](#) kicked off the week with 64 recently-hired staff members participating in a full day of activities. The participants learned more about Athens in a community overview featuring Mayor Nancy Denson and Chuck Jones from the Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau. They got a chance to explore North Campus on a tour hosted by the Visitors Center and heard how Finance and Administration supports the academic mission in a special presentation by Vice President, Ryan Nesbit. The day also included a tour of the Georgia Museum of Art and the opportunity to take the field and glimpse behind the scenes at Sanford Stadium.



Employees with 30 years of service are awarded a University of Georgia rocking chair. Pictured with Ryan Nesbit is Linda Sims, an Accounting Technician for the UGA Automotive Center.

The Recognition Ceremony was held on May 14 at Hodgson Hall. F&A staff members were honored for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service. In addition, employees nominated by their colleagues for merit awards (in the categories of Tough Dawg, Unsung Hero, Customer Service and Newcomer) were recognized and the awards were presented to the top nominee in each category. Following the ceremony, everyone enjoyed refreshments outside in the sunny weather. The nominees and award recipients can be found [here](#).



Yee-haw! The annual Ice Cream Social was held May 15 in the Grand Hall of the Tate Student Center. The western-

themed event featured cowboy attire and "best of the old west" live music by the Border Hop 5. Some adventurous employees tried their hands in the lasso corral. Over 600 F&A staff members enjoyed ice cream, root beer floats, music, and fellowship with their coworkers from around campus. View pictures of the ice cream social [here](#).

The University Bookstore Reception was held May 14 from noon to 7:00 p.m. During the event, F&A staff members enjoyed refreshments, door prize drawings, and special discounts on bookstore merchandise.



Auxiliary Services Awards

From national conferences to design competitions, Auxiliary Services has recently received the following recognition:

- Jeanne Fry, Executive Director of UGA Food Services, received the Southern Region Distinguished Service Award at the National Association of College and University Food Service (NACUFS) Conference in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The award salutes individuals for their excellence and dedication to college food service and recipients are nominated by their peers. Ms. Fry was recognized for her hard work and commitment to the college food service industry and is an integral member of NACUFS.

- Two UGA Food Services Chefs competed and received awards in the NACUFS Culinary Challenge at the 2014 NACUFS Southern Region Conference in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Chefs are selected to compete at the regional level after preparing a dish from a predetermined mandatory ingredient and submitting a photo and description of their dish to the regional challenge chair. Chefs Tim Neal and Don Law placed fourth and sixth respectively in the competition for their lobster dishes. This is the first American Culinary Federation (ACF) medal for both Neal and Law.



- Wendy Glenn, a Parking Services Senior Monitor, was the recipient of the 2014 Parking Staff Member of the Year from both the International Parking Institute and the Parking Association of Georgia. Both recognized her exceptional attitude in her interactions with her customers and the professional manner in which she presents herself, leaving a positive impression on thousands of University visitors.



- The UGA Golf Course was recognized by *Golfweek* magazine as the fifth-best public golf course in the state of Georgia. Every year, the magazine ranks golf courses throughout the country, both public and private.
- University of Georgia Printing received a Silver Award from the International Publishing Management Association (IPMA). This award was from IPMA and In-Plant Graphics for the Annual Report Category and recognized the 2012-2013 Honors Program Foundation Fellows Annual Report that was designed and printed by University of Georgia Printing.



Ed Hoard Tournament

With support from the UGA Foundation, the UGA Golf Course recently hosted the second annual Ed Hoard Memorial First Tee Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament. This tournament supports the lasting memory of Georgia Golf Hall of Famer Ed Hoard. An internationally recognized rules official, Hoard chaired the PGA National Rules of Golf Committee, and also officiated at all four major professional tournaments, including the Masters and U.S. Open. He served as the director of golf at Athens Country Club for 26 years before ending his career as the teaching professional at the UGA Golf Course.



Ed Hoard

Proceeds from the tournament go to the Ed Hoard Memorial First Tee Scholarship Fund. The First Tee program aims to improve the lives of young people by providing educational programs to build character, instill values, and promote healthy choices through the game of golf. The Hoard Scholarship Fund helps make the dream of a college education at UGA available to First Tee graduates. The first recipient of the Ed Hoard Memorial Scholarship, Maya S. Turner-Jones, is a graduate of the Atlanta First Tee Program. She will be attending the University of Georgia this fall.

A quick recap of the 2014 tournament follows:

- The tournament had 92 players
- Tournament net profit was approximately \$12,500
- A total of 61 sponsors supported the event

The UGA Golf Course would like to thank everyone who supported the tournament through funding, time, and effort.

Renovation of the Historic H.H. Tift Building

Last spring the Georgia Legislature recommended funding to support a Small Capital renovation of the historic H.H. Tift Building on UGA's Tifton Campus. A sum of \$4.7 million was included in the Governor's FY14 budget.



The project consists of a complete renovation of the 1922 Tift Building to accommodate faculty and departmental offices. To date the Tift building has avoided a major overhaul and still retains a good degree of historic integrity. A complete system and code compliance upgrade, the installation of an elevator, and the construction of an external utility building to house a chiller and fire pump will be part of the renovation. Systems within the adjoining support facility will be sized to accommodate not only the Tift Building but also the future Turfgrass Research & Education Facility and an anticipated future renovation of the adjacent Animal/Dairy Sciences Building.

The project is currently in design with construction scheduled to begin later this year.

UGA Food Services Recognized among 'Healthy 15'

UGA Food Services is one of 15 food service operations in the U.S. featured in *FoodService Director* magazine for promoting healthy food.

The magazine's "Healthy 15" list highlighted UGA Food Services' ability to provide nutritional standards even with more than 300 menu options. It also mentioned UGA Food Services' use of a registered dietitian to educate students on nutritional principles and the innovative menu labeling system created by the university dining staff. The full article may be found [here](#).

Training and Development Course: Securing Your Financial Future

What should you be considering when you make your benefits elections each year? How can you maximize your savings options at UGA?

The Human Resources Training and Development department now offers "Securing Your Financial Future," a program designed to help staff members make better benefits choices during their time at UGA. This program, offered four times a year, teaches participants about tax-savings options, including options related to health and dependent care expenses. Employees will examine the various benefits choices available in order to select the best fit for them and their families. The program includes specific information about the Teachers Retirement System and the Optional Retirement Plan elections. Faculty and staff at any point in their UGA careers will benefit from this session. To view more information and register, visit the Training and Development [homepage](#).



Auto Liability Insurance Cards for FY2015

The Georgia Liability Insurance Card for FY2015 can be downloaded from the UGA Insurance and Claims Management website: [Georgia Liability Insurance Card FY2015](#). The coverage date for the FY2015 insurance cards is July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015. The Auto Liability Insurance Card should be placed in each state vehicle and should be presented as insurance verification when asked by law enforcement personnel.

Employees who use personal or rental vehicles while engaging in official state business should also keep a card in their vehicle in case of an accident. The University of Georgia is self-insured through the Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) Risk Management for liability insurance, which provides coverage for injuries and/or property damage that you cause others while acting in the course and scope of employment. Coverage does not apply when you deviate from your official course and scope of duties. Please keep in mind that collision or comprehensive coverage for your personal automobile is not provided by UGA or DOAS Risk Management.

Regardless of who is at fault, all accidents must be reported within 48 hours to the Claims Center. This requirement applies to all accidents involving state vehicles and all accidents involving state employees operating personal or rental vehicles while on official state business. Additionally, the Georgia Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) Risk Management recommends that all employees view the Auto Program Training videos. Please encourage those employees that have not yet seen these videos to view them at this link: [DOAS Risk Management Insurance Services](#). To locate the videos, scroll down to Auto Program Training videos.

If you have any questions about Auto Liability, please contact Vance Silcott at vsilcott@uga.edu.



Business Affairs Advisory Forum

The most recent meeting of the Business Affairs Advisory Forum (BAAF) took place on June 18, 2014 at the Special Collections Libraries Building. The BAAF meetings are a place for business managers throughout the University to discuss important issues and policies.

Topics covered during the June 18 meeting included:

- Research Administration
- Affordable Care Act
- Business Process Improvements
- Theft Prevention

The archive for the meeting can be found [here](#).

Vending and Solicitation Manager

Please welcome Jonathan (Jon) Hall, the new manager of Vending and Solicitation. Jon has worked at the University Bookstore for nearly seven years and will be a wonderful addition to the Auxiliary Services team.

A graduate of Syracuse University, Jon has enjoyed working in different roles including IT project and operations management, manager at Athens Blueprint, and most recently the General Merchandise Department Manager at the University Bookstore.

Outside of work, Jon enjoys spending time with his wife, Jody, and two sons ages 12 and 14. He also spends his time coaching the 4H BB Shooting Team that is headed to the 4H National Championship this summer.



Jonathan (Jon) Hall

The Science Learning Center

The **Science Learning Center** will provide approximately 122,500 gross square feet of new modern learning space for core undergraduate science courses. It will be located at the south-west corner of D.W. Brooks Mall, just to the south of the College of Pharmacy building. The Science Learning Center will offer 33 separate undergraduate instructional labs and will accommodate Chemistry, Biological Sciences (Cellular/Molecular, Organismal, and Plant Biology), and Physics. The Center will also house two 280-seat tiered lecture halls and two 72-seat SCALE-UP classrooms as well as building and lab support areas and offices.



The **Science Learning Center** will address the deficit of modern teaching laboratory space, ensure lab course availability through FY 2026 based on current enrollment trends, enhance the undergraduate experience for UGA students and enhance the campus as a whole. Furthermore, this new facility is expected to free up existing space to be repurposed as attractive research lab space for prospective students and faculty.

The **Science Learning Center** directly supports the UGA 2020 Strategic Plan in Strategic Direction VI, Improving and Maintaining Facilities and Infrastructure to Provide Excellence in Instruction, Research and Service. The project also supports USG strategic goal ONE of renewing excellence in undergraduate education to meet students' 21st century educational needs.

The project budget for this facility is \$48 million and it is scheduled to open Fall 2016.

Proposed Facilities and Grounds Project Authorization Request Form

In 2012, the Board of Regents staff implemented new procedures for the consideration and approval of facilities projects from the 31 institutions within the University System of Georgia. These procedures are known as “Integrated and Capital Reviews” and are required for any project that exceeds \$1 million in construction costs. Major Repair and Renovation (MRR) projects that have already been approved by the Board of Regents through the annual MRR process do not have to go through this Integrated Review process. Since the implementation of the Board’s Integrated Review process, there have been no significant or formal updates to how projects are approved here at UGA that would complement the procedures established by the Board of Regents.

In partnership with the Office of the Provost, Finance and Administration will engage campus to help develop a policy statement regarding the Authority to Perform Work in UGA facilities. It is expected that a policy and more formalized process will provide a number of benefits to include:

- Increase the deans, vice presidents, and central administration’s knowledge and awareness about the depth and breadth of proposed UGA projects and the sources of funding for those projects;
- Provide greater transparency to our campus partners minimizing any misconception regarding the type of work or projects that can be done within university facilities or on university properties statewide;
- Eliminate potential safety mishaps as well as code or regulatory violations;
- Provide a better tracking mechanism for the variety of projects that are underway at any given time and the impact this work may have on campus operations and scheduling;
- Provide a campus-wide protocol and focus to bolster more effective space utilization, helping to ensure that limited resources are being targeted to institutional priorities and are consistent with strategic plans; and
- Improve planning and preparation for projects, including those UGA will need to submit to the Board of Regents for review and approval.

In order to successfully develop and implement a policy and related procedures, an advisory group comprised of university units with significant facility, property, and space oversight has been formed and includes representatives from the Vice President for Research and the Vice President for Student Affairs, as well as several colleges including the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, the College of Journalism, the College of Veterinary Medicine, and the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. Representatives from the Facilities Planning Office, the Facilities Management Division and Real Estate and Space Management will also be involved as members of this advisory group. The group will begin work this summer with a goal of October 1st to ‘roll-out’ the recommended process.