

The University of Georgia
2010 Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium
Unicoi Conference Center
March 26-27, 2010

Welcome and Introduction

Jere W. Morehead

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost



I am pleased to be a participant in the 2010 Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium. It is an event that I look forward to each year. As I recall, I have participated in eighteen of the twenty, and always leave the symposium feeling reconnected and rejuvenated.

I cannot overstate how much faculty and administrators benefit from this annual gathering.

Staging an event of this scope and consequence requires many months of careful thought and planning. We are indebted to the symposium planning committee for its work.

I particularly want to thank Joe Broder for serving as chairperson. Joe is one of the University's leading citizens. His contributions to his college, the Teaching Academy, and the University as a whole are greatly appreciated.

The annual Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium provides faculty with the opportunity to explore methods for advancing the University's mission, enhancing faculty involvement, and addressing current issues that affect the academy.

When we met here last March, we examined methods for maintaining quality programs through synergy in adverse economic conditions. This year, our topic is "The New Normal in Higher Education: UGA after the Current Economic Crisis."

As the themes of the last two symposia indicate, it is difficult to discuss issues affecting the higher education community without factoring in the economic downturn that we are experiencing on both the national and state levels.

Today and tomorrow, we will explore how declining financial support has impacted instruction; research; public service and outreach; graduate education; university citizenship; and our professional and personal life balance. We also will discuss the appropriate processes for exacting the changes that will bring us through these challenging economic times with the best outcomes.

I want to use this opportunity to quickly summarize the economic situation we face and mention a few of the political forces that are at work. First – the state portion of the UGA budget is steadily declining. When we began FY10, 34% of the University's total \$1.36 billion budget came in a direct appropriation from the state. In FY02, the percentage of state funding was 46%. During this same time, UGA enrolled 2,500 more students.

The message is clear - as a university, we are being asked to do more - with less support from the state. Indications are that state support for the University will not improve in the near future. This is largely due to Georgia's depressed economy. Unemployment in the state is at an all-time high and revenues continue to decline. The most recent revenue numbers show that the state took in nearly 10% less in February than it did in the same month in 2009. ...and this was the state's 15th consecutive month of declining revenues.

As you are well aware, there has been a lot of speculation concerning state support for higher education. This began when Governor Perdue released his proposed budget in January and continued through the contentious legislative Higher Education Committees' hearings. However, it is important for us to remember that we will not have a clear picture of the UGA budget until late April at the earliest.

Currently, the FY10 amended budget and the FY11 budget are working their way through the legislative process. When the state budget is finalized and the University System of Georgia state allocation is known, then Board of Regents must meet and act on the System budget and set tuition rates, which will give UGA its final budget figure.

Although the budget is not finalized, it is safe to assume that the University of Georgia must continue to advance its mission with decreased state funding, and as we devise methods for achieving more with less, we must respond to the increasing demand for accountability from our constituencies.

We are not alone; public universities around the nation face the same situation. In his book, *"Changing Course"* Dr. Peter Eckel addresses this situation. He writes, *"Higher education is facing large challenges on two fronts – one from new fiscal realities ...and the other from increased public demand."*

Eckel observes that those who pay for public higher education – that is, the taxpayers, state legislatures, and tuition-paying students – are demanding more from their investments and increasing their scrutiny. In my many trips to the state legislature during the past two months, I have heard these points over and over again.

The Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium is an excellent venue for examining how we will teach, conduct research, and continue our outreach programs within this new reality. Defining the "New Normal" – will require the creative input of the University Community.

As we "work the problem" – we should not look backward. Universities are dynamic organizations. Even without the current economic pressures, our methods of teaching, research, and public service should be constantly evolving.

For example, I recently appointed a Task Force in Distance Education and a Working Group in Interdisciplinary Research and Teaching to develop recommendations for me. I am certain that through enhanced interdisciplinary approaches, utilization of technology, and other innovative approaches, we can emerge from the current economic crisis a stronger institution.

To the extent possible in this economic climate, as Provost, I will continue to direct funding toward recruiting and retaining quality faculty. ...and I will continue my support of faculty development programs like the annual Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium.

Finally, I want to announce I have recently directed funding toward the publication of “*Chalk Talk: Teaching Tips from the UGA Academy.*” I believe that this will be a valuable resource that will support the University’s instruction mission.

Our symposium keynote speaker is no stranger to the impact of the economy on public universities. Dr. Susan Martin is the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She served as an educator, researcher and administrator at UT Knoxville for twenty-nine years before she was named provost

Susan began her tenure as Provost in May 2009, after serving in the position on an interim basis since July 2008. Prior to her current role, she served as the senior vice provost.

She was associate dean of the UT Knoxville College of Arts and Sciences from 2000 to 2004, and prior to that spent nine years as a department head. She joined the faculty at UT Knoxville in 1981.

Born and raised in Berkeley, California, Dr. Martin received B.A. degrees in comparative literature and classical philology (*phil ol OH gee*) from the University of California, Berkeley. She earned a master’s degree and a doctorate in classical studies from the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on the legal history of the Roman Empire with particular emphasis on its relationship to the society and economy of Rome. Since taking up administration full time in 2000, she has continued to teach courses in her area of specialization, including Roman law.

She has served as president of the Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Association (TFLTA) and as president of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South. She and I serve together on the board of SECAC, the Southeastern Conference Academic Consortium, which is the SEC’s Academic extension. It is my distinct pleasure to introduce our keynote speaker, Dr. Susan Martin.
