

The University of Georgia
2016 Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium
Unicoi Conference Center
April 1-2, 2016

Libby V. Morris, co-chair
Teaching Academy Symposium Planning Committee

Good morning, my name is Libby Morris, and I am pleased to welcome you to the 2016 Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium. This year, I had the pleasure of co-chairing the Symposium Planning Committee with Joe Broder, and I regret that Joe could not be here this year. Joe not only leads the planning for this event each year, he also serves as the chair of the executive committee of the Teaching Academy. In fact, I don't think he has missed a symposium in more than a decade, if ever.

Today's symposium is the 26th in a series of symposia that were initiated in 1991 at the recommendation of UGA's Senior Teaching Fellows. I invite you to review the list of topics from past symposia in your packets. Many significant academic initiatives at the University have been explored and developed at these events. The impact of these events are often not immediate, but regularly new ideas are set in motion, take root, and over time spread to build new opportunities at UGA.

Before we begin this morning, let me take a moment to thank those who made this symposium possible. First, I want to thank Provost Pam Whitten for the financial support from the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. Without that support, we could not convene without charge to all of the participants. Plus, we appreciate the Provost taking time from her busy schedule to be with us for the entirety of the symposium, and I know she is looking to you for good ideas on this our topic.

Also, I want to thank Vice Provost Russ Mumper for representing the office of the Provost on our planning committee. Dr. Mumper was an active participant in the program planning process, and we are grateful.

At this time, I would like to thank the members of the Planning and Coordinating Committee whose names can be found on the back of the program. I will ask the members of the Planning Committee to please stand and be recognized.

Stefani Hilley, Administrative Associate and Executive Secretary of the Teaching Academy, deserves a round of applause and a sincere thank you for her fine assistance in planning the symposium. She spends many hours each year to make sure that every detail is considered and every request honored. She is dedicated, conscientious, and always supportive. Thank you, Stefani.

Finally, I would like to recognize the members of the UGA Teaching Academy for their support and participation in the symposium. Would the members of the Teaching Academy members please stand? Let's give them a round of applause.

The UGA Teaching Academy has been invited to plan and coordinate these symposia since 2004. These symposia have become an integral part of the University's annual conversation on academic affairs. A brief description of the UGA Teaching Academy can be found on the back of the program.

The symposium this year is titled, Integrative Teaching and Learning: Within and Beyond the Classroom.

Today and tomorrow, we will explore through panels, presentations, and breakout groups the strategies and activities to achieve excellence in integrative teaching and learning using the lens of high impact practices. At UGA, those high impact practices have evolved into substantive programs, including study abroad, undergraduate research, service learning and internships. We are pleased that the campus leaders of those important programs accepted our invitation to serve on a panel for this symposium.

The theme of this symposium, integrative learning, was prompted by the experiential learning initiative launched by the Provost in 2015. When the University Council passed the experiential learning requirement in April, 2015, UGA became the largest public university to make experiential learning a required part of the undergraduate experience for all students. There is a lot of excitement on and off campus about the experiential learning initiative, and we are pleased to have opportunities for thoughtful discussion of experiential learning and other high impact pedagogical practices at this symposium. Dr. Linda Bachman, Director of Experiential Learning at UGA, will be our luncheon speaker, and she will field questions about the initiative and its relationship to our topic.

Our discussion of integrative teaching and learning will take place within small groups formed around those high impact practices that are so visible at UGA. Participants will explore how the university might ensure that students can synthesize and integrate the varied elements of their academic experience within and beyond the classroom.

Finally, our discussions will be enriched by a student panel providing their perspectives on integrative learning and their experiences with high impact practices.

And, always a highlight of the symposium is the Fireside Chat by President Morehead. We will welcome him later in the day.

And, lest I forget our most important attendees, you---the faculty, staff, directors, students, others---thank you for your interest in this topic and for accepting our invitation to attend. I believe we have participants from all but 2 or 3 of the schools and colleges, and we have newly arrived UGA colleagues, and those who have been around for a few years. Thanks to you all.

Please spend a moment reviewing the “Overview of the Academic Affairs Symposium.” You will see that there are multiple ways to benefit from this convening over the next two days. I hope your experience here will be enjoyable and productive. I hope you will meet and make new connections here at the symposium and that you will have the opportunity to work together back on campus.

And now to officially welcome you to the 2016 Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium is Pam Whitten, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.