

The University of Georgia
2017 Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium
Unicoi Conference Center
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Introduction by
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Teaching Academy Executive Committee

I am pleased to welcome you to the 2017 Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium. Good morning, my name is Joe Broder and I have the pleasure of chairing the Symposium Planning Committee. I also have the pleasure of serving as Executive Committee Chair of the UGA Teaching Academy. Today's symposium is the 27th, in a series of symposia that were initiated in 1991 at the recommendation of the Senior Teaching Fellows. I included an article on our very first symposium in your packet along with the list topics of past symposia. Many significant academic initiatives at the University have been explored and developed at these events. Often, the impacts of these symposium are not immediate but new ideas are certainly set in motion for future opportunities.

Here are a few examples. The Office of Service Learning was first recommended by a break-out group at the 1999 Symposium entitled, *Citizen Scholars: Engaging Students with Their Communities*. The 2005 symposium on "*Greater Expectations for Student Learning and General Education*" gave new directions to the Center for Teaching and Learning which was previously know as OISD, the Office of Instructional Support and Development. Note, the addition of the word "Learning."

The need for greater communications between students and faculty the focus of the 2007 Symposium on "*Enhancing the Undergraduate Experience through Discovery, Engagement & Transformation*" and gave rise to the "Compact for Responsible Scholarship: A Joint Resolution for Academic Excellence" This Compact would later be endorsed by The UGA Student Government Association and The UGA Teaching Academy. The Teaching Academy Fellows program was a recommendation from the 2011 Symposium, *Understanding our Students: Ethos, Experience and Expectations*. The Fellows Program is accepting nominations for its fifth class to begin this fall.

Recommendations and new initiatives from the 2014 symposium, *Changing Roles, Perceptions & Expectations: Faculty in the American Research University* gave traction to changing the faculty culture on advancing the University's stature and ranking as a major research university. At that particular symposium, the University's limitations on recruiting, training and retaining administrators were addressed. This led, in part, to a more proactive office of faculty affairs along with training and development programs for new administrators.

Before we begin this morning, let me take a moment to thank those who made this symposium possible. First, I want to thank UGA **President Jere Morehead**, for his moral support and for his vision for UGA in addressing the grand challenges facing our society. We are honored to have President Morehead as a member of the Teaching Academy, Class of 2001. We especially appreciate the significant role he has played in these symposiums. He could not be with us this morning but has agreed to host the Symposium's Fireside Chat after lunch.

Next I want to thank Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, **Dr. Pamela Whitten**. Dr. Whitten we appreciate your continued financial support and participation in this symposium. In particular, I appreciate your advice and recommendation for this particular symposium and the topic of grand challenges. We hope the discussions and recommendations will be helpful to your leadership at UGA.

I would like to acknowledge PriceWaterhouseCoopers and **Mark Huber**, Planning Committee Member, for their assistance in providing the portfolios for the Symposium. PriceWaterhouseCoopers has been a long-standing and generous partner for our Teaching Academy programs.

At this time, I would like to thank the members of the **Planning and Coordinating Committee**, their names can be found on the back of the program. I would ask the members of the Committee to please stand and be recognized. I want to express a sincere thanks to **Stefani Hilley**, Administrative Specialist and Executive Secretary of the Teaching Academy, for her dedicated assistance in planning the symposium. Finally, I would like to recognize the members of the UGA Teaching Academy for their support and participation in the symposium. Could I ask the Teaching Academy members to please stand and be recognized. Let's give them a round of applause. A brief description of the UGA Teaching Academy can be found on the back of the program.

The 2017 Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium, ***Solving the Grand Challenges of Our Time: Empowering Faculty and Preparing Students***, will examine the position and potential for UGA to be a major player in solving the grand challenges. In particular, in what areas might UGA have or develop a comparative advantage in addressing the grand challenges; are or how do we empower our faculty to this task and are we preparing our students to assume this role in the next generation of scientists, citizens and leaders. Despite our progress and success as faculty, many of these grand challenges will not be solved in our generation and we must prepare, inspire and give direction to the next generation.

At first glance, many of you might ask, aren't these grand challenges more about the research or development enterprise at UGA. Perhaps so, but as a land-grant institution, we have a larger arsenal to meet these grand challenges to include our teaching programs at the graduate and undergraduate levels, as well as our public service and outreach units.

Certainly, the concept of "Grand Challenges" is not new to this symposium or to our generation. I suspect that many universities and agencies have adopted this term, some for public relations, development or their quest for relevance. For UGA, I believe that, thanks to the vision of our current administration, we are ramping-up our capacity to better articulate and address our grand challenges for the citizens of Georgia and beyond. My sense is that a University's capacity to address any one of the grand challenges is much like a fly-wheel. This starts with a keen sense of where UGA has potential, investing new faculty resources (and organizational structures), gaining momentum with graduate students, then engaging undergraduates to address these challenges beyond graduation. Once achieved, the momentum will provide energy and resources to sustain current and future efforts at meeting these grand challenges.

At this point, many of you might be asking, what are the expectations and outcomes of this Symposium? You have been assigned to a one of five break-out groups to address one of the grand challenges global health, safe food and water, domestic and global security, sustainable environments and

building vital communities . These groups will meet three times to assess UGA's current and potential efforts in meeting these grand challenges and develop two recommendations for the Provost on how to UGA can better empower faculty and prepare students to meet the grand challenge. The Charge-to-the-Break-Out groups can be found in your folder. Later, we give the formal charge to the break-out groups later this morning. My personal request to the groups is that they keep their end game in mind (recommendations) in each of their discussion sessions.

Every year, some of the participants ask why or how they were selected for this symposium. The Planning Committee develops the theme of the symposium and then invites faculty that can best contribute to or benefit from the dialogue. This year, we worked closely with the Provost on the symposium topic and invitation list. We believe that the topic is most timely and worthy of discussion. You were invited because of your work on grand challenge problems, the unique perspective you bring to and will receive from the symposium. In past years, we have aimed for early career faculty, whereas this year, we sought more mid and mature-year faculty with successful programs in the grand challenges.

In closing my remarks, let me thank you for accepting our invitation to participate in the 2017 Symposium. I hope your experience here will be enjoyable and productive. Also, 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. Finally, I hope that this symposium will help you to develop new appreciation for and motivation to address the grand challenges, in your research, teaching and outreach programs.

And now to officially welcome you to the 2017 Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium is Dr. Pamela Whitten, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Dr. Whitten.