



Dear Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia,

May 4, 2021

The Student Government Associations of the Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Georgia urge the Board of Regents to conduct a merit-based search for the new Chancellor of the University System of Georgia (USG) that is free from politicization. We commend the Board of Regents for electing to pause the ongoing search for Chancellor to reflect and determine your next steps. As representatives of USG students, we advocate for students' concerns to be at the center of your reflection.

Because the Chancellor presides over all 26 USG schools and directly impacts students and faculty alike, we understand the gravity of this decision. As USG schools continue to rise in rank as the nation's best public universities, the leader of the USG must be an individual who has experience in higher education, and is prepared to address challenges facing USG schools. Echoing the words of our accrediting agency, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), we implore the Board of Regents to elect candidates with "appropriate experience and qualification."

We are deeply troubled that a politicized search could tarnish the reputations of our respective schools and jeopardize the accreditation of our universities. As students, we worry about potential consequences from a loss of accreditation, such as a decrease in competitiveness relative to near-peer institutions, decreasing federal financial aid, alienating alumni and other potential donors, and the devaluing of a USG degree. We ask that the Board of Regents follows the SACSCOC standards to ensure that USG schools preserve their accreditation.

We appreciate the Board of Regents' statement about valuing the input from USG faculty, staff, students, and the community, and would like to see actions taken to facilitate student input. As students whose lives center around our attendance at USG institutions, our perspective on this decision would be valuable to the Chancellor search committee. We request that a student representative from a USG school be placed on the Chancellor search committee moving forward. Regarding this year's appointment, we request the Board of Regents to be transparent in their search process, and would appreciate the list of potential candidates be publicized before one is selected and public listening sessions be incorporated into the selection process. We recognize the challenges involved in the Chancellor search process, and we urge the Board of Regents to conduct a merit-based search without politicization.

Sincerely,

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Undergraduate Student Body President

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