



Chief Academic Officer (CAO) Advisory Team - Institutional Research & Planning

Spring 2026 Meeting Minutes

Date: March 23, 2026

Location: Online – Microsoft Teams

Introductions

Samantha James, CAT IRP Chair and Director of Institutional Research and Data Portfolio Management at Georgia Institute of Technology, started the meeting at 8:35am by welcoming attendees to the meeting and introducing the Executive Committee members.

Presentations

Scheduled presentations began at 8:40am.

Patrick Harris, Senior Associate for Digital Solutions and IPEDS Reporting at the University System of Georgia, and Leslie Hodges, Senior Research Professional at the University System of Georgia, provided a debriefing of the 2025-2026 IPEDS Winter Collection and information about the in-progress ACTS reporting and IPEDS Spring Collection, along with a look forward at upcoming changes. The slide deck was distributed after the meeting via the IRP-REPS listserv.

Angela Bell, Vice Chancellor for Research and Policy Analysis at the University System of Georgia, provided updates on behalf of Research and Policy Analysis (RPA) and Enterprise Data Management and Analytics (EDMA). This included updates about data collections and governance, EDMA projects, updates related to FVT/GE reporting, changes to the RPA website, other in-progress projects, and legislative activities. The slide deck was distributed after the meeting via the IRP-REPS listserv.

Lori Prince Hagood, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research and Policy Analysis at the University System of Georgia, discussed completed and in-progress studies by RPA staff. These studies include Math Pathways Projects, Short-term Student Success Outcomes, Applicant Data Projects, Estimating Unmet Need, Course Modality Projects, and Georgia Match Pipeline. Slides for this presentation were in the deck distributed by Angela Bell.

At 9:50am, a 15-minute break was called. Presentations continued at 10:05am.

Rachana Bhatt, Director of Research and Data Analytics at the University System of Georgia, presented on the State College Data Analytics project, including information about the background of the overall initiative, why the first major project relates to dual enrollment, and the current status of the dual enrollment project. The current project has three phases, with the first phase in progress. Rachana discussed the current dashboards and provided examples. While the dual enrollment project was identified as being of particular interest for state colleges, it is ultimately of interest to other USG institutions and will be rolled out more widely in the future.

Due to being significantly ahead of schedule for the agenda, the GAIRPAQ presentation was moved up in the schedule to begin at 10:45am. Jason Wang, Senior Director for the Office of Institutional Research and Planning at Georgia Institute of Technology, introduced the Georgia Association for Institutional Research, Planning, Assessment, and Quality (GAIRPAQ), and issued a call for participation. The association has been on hiatus in recent years and Jason is working on revitalization, with goals to update the bylaws and assemble new leadership.

Rich Loftus, Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Implementation at the University System of Georgia, provide an update on the Unified ERP project, including some background of the project and the many changes that will be necessary. The project is in the “Architect and Configure” phase, which is slated to end by the end of the calendar year. This will be followed by testing, deployment, and going live in July 2028. Questions arose concerning reporting resources in the new system, the functionality and administration of a proposed centralized data lake, and future considerations around a unified student information system.

Business Meeting

At 11:30am on Monday, March 23, 2026, Samantha James called the RAC-IRP Business Meeting to order.

Kelly Slaton, CAT IRP Treasurer and Interim Senior Director of the Office of Institutional Research at the University of Georgia, presented the financial statement. The financial statement was approved as presented.

Nicholas Gewecke, CAT IRP Secretary and Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment at Dalton State College, presented the Fall 2025 minutes for approval. The Fall 2025 minutes were approved as presented.

Lauren Farmer, CAT IRP Immediate Past Chair and Accreditation Manager at Georgia Institute of Technology, presented the new officers who will be serving 2026-2028:

- Chair: Nicholas Gewecke, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment at Dalton State College
- Chair-Elect: Duane Day, Director of Institutional Research at Middle Georgia State University
- Treasurer: Kelly Slaton, Interim Senior Director of the Office of Institutional Research at the University of Georgia
- Secretary: Heather Lewis, Director of Institutional Analytics at Augusta University

Samantha James presented proposed revisions to the CAT IRP bylaws, which had been distributed prior to the meeting. The proposed revisions were approved as presented.

Nicholas Gewecke provided an initial discussion of the Fall 2026 meeting, noting that it would be planned as an online virtual meeting and would incorporate information from the post-meeting survey. The dates of any major institutional scheduling conflicts were requested so that those dates could be taken under consideration as the Executive Committee planned the fall meeting.

Samantha James shared out the post-meeting survey and encouraged everyone to submit it promptly.

The CAT IRP Spring 2026 meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

These minutes have not been approved as of March 23, 2026. These minutes will be presented for approval at the Fall 2026 meeting.