

## Who/what is the mysterious University System of Georgia Board of Regents?

### **Background:**

The University System of Georgia (USG) [Board of Regents](#) was created in 1931 to unify education statewide. Today, that means they're responsible for [26 different colleges](#) (including every major Georgia university), in addition to the Georgia Archives and the Georgia Public Library Service.

### **Members:**

There are 19 members on the Board of Regents, all of whom are appointed to seven-year terms by the governor (they can be also be re-appointed, so some serve several terms). Five members are general, statewide appointees, while the other 14 represent Georgia's congressional districts — meaning the body is regionally diverse. But that has, so far, not translated to other forms of representation. The board is still mostly white and male, with only a few women in the group and few people of color among its members. Most have a business background, plus a few law and health professionals.

The board elects one of its members to serve as chancellor, a title that automatically makes them the chief executive officer and the chief administrative officer of the USG.

- The board's members ([full list here](#)) include lawyers, doctors and several C-suite executives at large companies. The majority of its members appear to be high-level business professionals or heads of Georgia-based companies.
- Terms begin and end on January 1, and only one member ([Sachin Shailendra](#), a Georgia Tech alumni and the current chairman of the board) has a term ending at the start of 2021.
- Additionally, the board is split into several committees, meaning different members likely rule on different issues — depending on the subject matter ([full list here](#)).
- Positions on the board:
  - The **chancellor**, who is essentially the “president” and responsible for leading the charge on enforcing decisions/rulings. The current chancellor is [Steve Wrigley](#).
  - The **chair**, who is more like a “speaker of the house.” They're responsible for leading the board's meetings and receives a seat/chance to vote on each committee. The current chair is [Sachin Shailendra](#).
  - The **vice-chair**, who becomes the chair in the event of their absence. The current vice-chair is [James M. Hull](#).

### **Bylaws/Policies:**

- How to appear before the committee:

- Presidents of universities in the system may appear and present issues at meetings, with the approval of the chancellor.
- Anyone else can appear in a meeting by submitting a letter at least seven days before a scheduled meeting.
- Current goals:
  - The board is in the midst of [Strategic Plan 2024](#), a multi-year plan that dictates their current priorities and goals. Several of these goals (there are four in total) are in line with the goal of establishing a fund for Black journalists, so it may be worth understanding them for the sake of arguing the case.
    - [Student Success](#): The mission statement says this pillar of the plan is “focused learning and elimination of barriers to access and success for all Georgians.”
    - [Community Impact](#): One of this pillar’s two goals is to “increase the number of student enrollments in experiential learning courses.”
    - [Responsible Stewardship](#): This aims to “ensure affordability for students by containing costs and optimizing efficiency across the system.”

### **Regular Meetings:**

*The board has eight regular meetings per year, “unless the press of business demands more.” Additionally, the board’s chair can call a special meeting for any reason at any time. A majority of the board must be present at every meeting (to form a quorum) for it to be considered official.*

- There are [four more regular meetings](#) this year:
  - August 11
  - September 9
  - October 13-14
  - November 11

### **Extras/Notes:**

- Link for [contact info/addresses](#)
- Link for submitting [open records requests](#)