



# Senate Candidates Face Off in Last Special Senate Debate

By Madeline Wilbanks  
Copy Editor

The special senate election debate took place Monday, Oct 19. The debate included many candidates running for the senate seat including the incumbent Kelly Loeffler, Congressman Doug Collins and Reverend Raphael Warnock. The debate also included other candidates further down on polling including Matt Lieberman and Ed Tarver from the Democratic Party and Brian Slowinski from the Libertarian Party. The debate was held completely virtual and streamed through 11-Alive.

The debate was broken up into three rounds. In the first and third rounds, panel members Greg Bluestein from the Atlanta Journal Constitution and Lisa Rayam from NPR radio took turns asking candidates specific questions on their policies and campaign focuses.

The second round, however, was the one that caught most people’s attention because it aligned with what many political debates look like, one in which candidates passionately argue over policies and attempt to delegitimize their opponents.

In the second round candidates were each given a turn to ask their opponent a specific question. Ed Tarver started this round off by asking Senator Loeffler about the closures of rural hospitals and why the republicans have not presented their plan to replace the Affordable Care Act as previously stated. Loeffler responded by not actively answering the question, but instead directing her answer to what she has done since the closure of many rural hospitals.

“First of all too many of our rural hospitals have closed,” said Loeffler during the debate. “Seven have closed in the last decade. Two have announced closures. One of my first bills that I had passed as a freshman senator was rural health funding. Another bill that I had passed to help rural families was Telemedicine.”

Afterwards, Tarver explained that he did not feel Loeffler answered the question properly. Loeffler then went to ask Raphael Warnock if he would apologize to police officers for calling them thugs, bullies and gangsters, which

was something he previously said in March and November of 2015 while preaching at Ebenezer Baptist Church.

“I have deep respect for police officers and law enforcement, and I believe the senator knows this,” said Warnock in the debate. “This is why they have come to my church on a couple of occasions as they have remembered fallen officers who died in the line of duty. So I support law enforcement, they have come to my church many times, we have worked together. I think it’s possible to appreciate the work that law enforcement officers do and at the same time hold them accountable.”

Warnock then directed his question towards Doug Collins, asking if he would speak out against QAnon and their beliefs. Noting that a firm supporter of QAnon Majorie Taylor Greene, recently endorsed Loeffler. This is when the debate got heated as both Collins, Loeffler and Warnock all tried to prove that they were against such a group. Collins and Loeffler shortly after got into a dispute about who voted alongside President Trump the most. Collins spoke up during the dispute as he was offended by Loeffler’s statement in which she said she has voted in 100% alignment with President Trump and his values.

“She voted for the NDAA which President Trump said he would veto,” said Collins during the debate. “She just voted against the continuing resolution [CR] which the president signed. Doesn’t look like 100% to me senator Loeffler. Maybe your math is wrong or maybe your cue card’s wrong.”

Loeffler then responded to Collins by correcting him on certain aspects of his statements, arguing that Collins was wrong about President Trump’s take on the NDAA.

“President Trump supported the senate version of the NDAA, and he did not put out a remark on the CR,” said Loeffler.

Looking at the facts, Collins was right in his statement that Loeffler voted against the continuing resolution bill back in September. Loeffler voted nay towards this bill alongside nine other senators. By this bill being passed, it avoided a government shutdown at the

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end of the month. Collins’ statement on the NDAA was true, as Loeffler and Perdue, both the republican senators from Georgia did vote for the NDAA despite President Trump saying he would veto such a bill if the senate version allowed changing of confederate names.

Collins, Loeffler and Warnock will race against one another on Nov. 3. as citizens vote for who they want to stay in senate or take place there. Current polling from Quinnipiac and Public Policy Polling shows Warnock ahead with an average of 41% while Collins and Loeffler sit neck and neck behind him at roughly 22%. If no candidate receives more than 50% of votes, the top two candidates will race in a runoff election.

Photo courtesy of the Associated Press





# NEWS

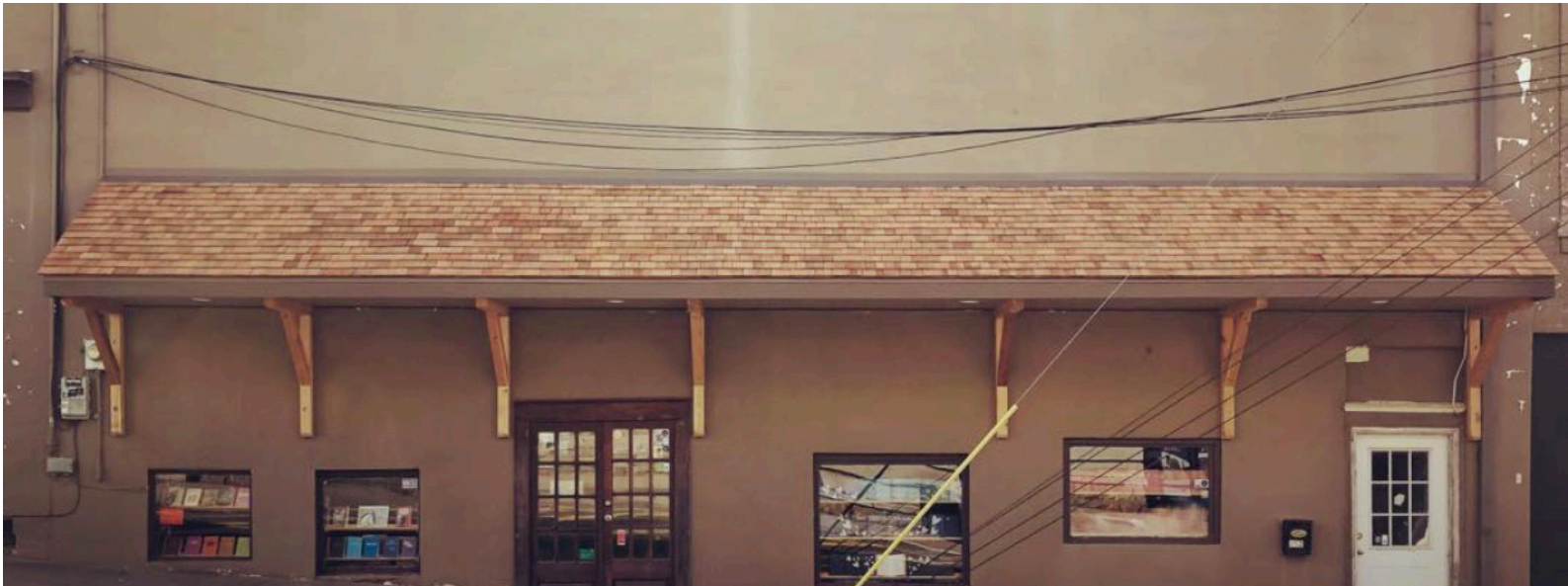


Photo courtesy of Underground Books

## The COVID-19 Reality for Underground Books

By Lily Head  
*Contributing Writer*

Owners Josh Niesse and Megan Bell of Underground Books, an independent bookstore located in Adamson Square, decided to make the tough decision to close their doors on March 15 due to the ongoing pandemic. Over the last seven months, they have been facing the complex challenges that come with running a business during a pandemic, but they have also had success during this time.

Niesse and Bell, along with their three part-time employees, have been operating Underground Books fully online since its closure. Underground Books had already been selling books online and in-person before the pandemic, so it was easily set up for the transition to become a fully online business.

Social media has been helping Underground Books stay connected with the community and its customers. Bell manages the store’s accounts and has used them to help drive sales by allowing people to buy books through Facebook and Instagram. Free and contactless delivery to customers in the Carrollton area is also being offered by the store.

Something that has been a challenge for Niesse and Bell is disappointing customers with the store’s closure. They said they have worked hard to make the in-person shopping experience enjoyable for their customers, and not being able to allow customers that experience over the past few months has been a difficult decision.

“Everyone has different comfort levels right now,” said Niesse. “Some people are comfortable shopping in person and some people want more contactless options, so navigating the different desires and needs of people right now is challenging.”

Niesse and Bell also own Hills & Hamlets Bookshop, which is Underground Books’ sister store located in the small community of Serenbe. Since Serenbe is a small community, Niesse and Bell have been able to recently start opening the Hills and Hamlets Bookshop’s doors on weekends to experiment with in-person operations. They have not announced the opening to the public yet because they want it to be a slow reopening. Quietly reopening Hills & Hamlets Bookshop has been successful so far, but they are still hesitant to reopen the Carrollton store.

“Serenbe is a much smaller community, so that store does not get nearly as busy as Underground Books,” said Niesse. “Underground Books might have 200 people come in on a busy Saturday, and

that is a lot of people to have interaction with during a pandemic even if everyone is wearing masks.”

There are currently no concrete plans for Underground Books full reopening, but there are plans in the works to allow customers back into the store. Niesse and Bell are looking into launching in-person shopping by appointment with masks required. They will be announcing details for that soon through social media and email. Like all business owners, Niesse and Bell want their business to thrive and continue to operate, but they want to do it in a way that keeps their customers, the community and themselves safe.

“We love our regular customers and we don’t want to put them or their families at risk by fully reopening,” said Bell.

Something that Niesse and Bell have learned from the pandemic is how important fostering relationships with customers is. Throughout the course of the pandemic, they received many messages from customers asking how to support Underground Books during the pandemic.

“Seeing people intentionally go out of their way to support our store is heartwarming,” said Niesse. “We have really been relying on existing customer loyalty during this time.”

“It is so important that we stress to ourselves that this is not a normal time,” said Bell. “I think a lot of businesses are focused on how to hunker down and survive this until we can get back to normal, and that’s what we’re focused on too.”



Photo courtesy of Underground Books



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## NEWS

# Life During Wartime: UWG's Own Civil War

By **Brittany Shivers**

*Editor-in-Chief*

A no confidence vote in the leadership of UWG President Dr. Brendan Kelly passed last Friday in a 32-14 majority with 5 abstentions in the Faculty Senate meeting. A no confidence vote is when an elected group of people, the Faculty Senate in this case, deems a leader unfit for his or her position and states that they no longer have confidence in the leadership of the leader.

But the no confidence vote wasn't warranted. Faculty Senate members listed three main reasons for the vote opposing Kelly's leadership, which included the restructuring of colleges and schools, lack of communication and shared governance, and the claim that Kelly creates fear in the workplace. But some of these reasons are illogical and others are just downright untruthful.

First of all, the restructuring of colleges and the programs within them is directly related to budget cuts. When Kelly became president in December of 2019 he was already working with a \$3 million revenue gap in fiscal year 2020 (the 2019-2020 school year) because of enrollment decline. Before his arrival, non-renewal letters were sent out to numerous faculty members by the previous administration threatening faculty cuts. Under Kelly's administration, these faculty members were not fired.

On top of that cut, there was another \$9.5 million cut for fiscal year 2021, which is the current school year. This cut came as an effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, something that has hit the economy on a global scale, not just at UWG. To decide how to move forward with a reduced budget plan, an official committee known as an Ad hoc committee was formed. Interim Provost Dr. David Jenks addressed this process in the meeting.

"They [the Ad hoc committee] were able to produce a document outlining some general guidelines and principles and values from the Faculty Senate to help guide our discussion," said Jenks. "Among those, first and foremost, was the protection of all currently filled faculty positions and all current programs. We took that to heart."

With the reorganization plan, Kelly avoided firing the huge chunk of faculty and maintained all the university's programs, which is something the previous administrations struggled to do. He deliber-

ately took the Ad hoc committee and the Faculty Senate's wishes and turned them into a reality, yet they repay him by voting against his leadership capabilities. This leads me to the next issue—lack of communication and shared governance.

Would a president who doesn't participate in shared governance and communication seek out a committee for input about the university's budget? The answer is no. He would have just made the decision by himself without input, but he didn't do that. In fact, Kelly sought input from multiple faculty committees and implemented that input, proving that he was listening. This refutes one point made in the Faculty Senate meeting by Dr. Sal Peralta.

"The biggest problem that I have right now with the current leadership is the lack of substantive consultation," said Peralta. "I understand substantive consultation to be when you seek input from colleagues, and you are open not only to their ideas but to being persuaded by their ideas and their concerns."

Kelly did exercise substantive consultation in regards to both the budget cuts and the restructuring. He can't meet with each and every one of the 512 full-time faculty members for every decision he makes, but he can use input from a group representative of the university faculty, and he did.

Now there is only one documented explanation of why faculty would think of Kelly as a leader who creates a "culture of fear." And that is the resignation of Dr. Faye McIntyre as the Dean of the Richard's College of Business. Dr. Jane McCandless addresses this issue during the meeting.

"It was shared with me on the very day that Dean McIntyre received the telephone call from Provost Jenks that it was the president who defined her as being both abrasive and abusive and wanted her exit plan within two weeks," said McCandless. "And yet in this meeting, I have heard Dr. Jenks talk about it being his [Jenks] decision."

This is practically hearsay. McCandless doesn't tell us who she heard it from. For all we know, it could have been a rumor passed from one angry individual to the next, and frankly, according to policies from USG, lots of details regarding personnel decisions are not to be shared. These decisions are only for upper adminis-

tration to decide in the first place.

So maybe some faculty members are nervous about losing their jobs for voicing their opinions, but that is of their own narrow mindset. The only people who know exactly why McIntyre was asked to resign is her and the upper administration, and those are the only people who need to know. If the rest of the faculty just does their jobs ethically and efficiently, they shouldn't have to worry about their job security because Kelly has already proven that he is loyal to faculty when it comes to budget cuts.

Of course, there are limitations to my argument as there is in any argument. I am a student. I can't see everything that goes on in the world of UWG faculty, but last week's faculty Senate Meeting in itself is very telling. Kelly just wants what is best for the institution and the students.

"My responsibility is to the institution—it is to the long term health and wellness of the institution—and to make certain that all board policies and decisions are carried out appropriately," said Kelly in the meeting. "All of that is directed toward our 13,401 students and making certain that they have world-class opportunities."

Kelly often talks with students about what they want for the future of UWG and the Student Government Association even put out a letter of support for Kelly on social media last Friday.

The faculty senate used the vote to voice concerns that have nothing to do with their confidence in the administration but everything to do with their personal frustrations amidst change. The no confidence vote is not intended as an avenue for this kind of input, yet it was used in that way.

To the full-time faculty members that are not a part of the faculty senate, there is a general faculty vote regarding confidence in Kelly's leadership Nov. 2- Nov. 9. I urge these faculty members to consider the most logical conclusion of whether or not Kelly is fit to lead our institution. Thoughtfully consider the bigger picture—that which is best for the institution and the students. Don't make a decision based on judgement that is clouded by emotion. If everyone looks at the bigger picture, it is clear that Kelly is fit to lead and has the institution's best interests at heart.

**Photo: Richard Shah,**  
*The West Georgian*





NEWS

UWG Crime Rates Decline During Quarantine

By Alma Beauvais  
Contributing Writer

UWG actively tries to provide the safest campus possible to its students. According to the Clery Act Coordinator Lt. Mike Keener, current crime rates are extremely low. However, the most common crimes committed by students on campus relate to fighting, possession of marijuana and underage consumption. The crimes that occur on campus are usually low-level or non-serious offenses: fighting, drunkenness, misdemeanor marijuana—that kind of stuff,” said Keener. “The crimes that occur off campus though, those tend to be much more serious, especially at the off-campus apartment complexes.” There are also off-campus crimes that can be more serious. Keener discusses how many of the instances include rapes, robberies, murder, drug dealing and fights. “We have a lot of roommate disputes,” said Keener. “Sometimes, they’ll escalate into fights or property damage. “That’s not uncommon, especially at the end of the semester when everyone’s been putting up with their roommate who’s a jerk for like

three months,” continued Keener. “Now they see the light at the end of the tunnel getting out of the room, and they think ‘I can do what I want now, I’m about to leave.’” Before his current role as the Clery Coordinator and administrative Lieutenant, Keener was an investigator for the UWG Police Department for several years. He said that UWG has a few cases of sexual assault a semester on average. “I would say the vast majority of sexual assault outcries are true,” said Keener. “Now whether they are provable or convictable is a different matter altogether. In my experience as the primary sexual assault investigator during that time, they are by far true.” Keener explained how rape cases tend to take longer to be reported to the police from when they occur because students are reluctant. People don’t necessarily want to tell the police and go through the verification process. “Sexual assault is such a traumatic event for the victims,” said Keener. “They oftentimes don’t tell anyone right away. They just want to deal with it. Plus, there’s the in-

ternal mechanism of ‘well was it rape? Was it not rape?’ that a lot of them struggle with as survivors. “You know you learn about rape on campus like Jeanne Clery instantly, where somebody goes into your room that you don’t know and violently assaults you,” continued Keener. “With rape, it’s most often, on campuses, an acquaintance or a friend, ex-boyfriend, current boyfriend or a guy you’re talking to—it may even have been someone you’ve had sex consensually with before. There’s a lot of that self-doubt that victims and survivors go through that causes them not to make that initial outcry.” Although the current pandemic has drastically impacted the lives of many students, it has also resulted in a lower on-campus crime rate. Because students had to abide by quarantine measures during the spring semester, they couldn’t be out doing anything. “They’re nearly zero,” said Keener. “It’s not the most ideal student-life situation. Normally we have a very vibrant student life on campus, but the coronavirus has totally desolated that.”

Faculty Senate Votes No Confidence in President Kelly

By Reilly Robbins  
Contributing Writer

The Faculty Senate of UWG voted no confidence in the leadership of President Dr. Brendan Kelly. After nearly a five-hour meeting on Oct. 16, the senate ruled its vote of no confidence in a 32 to 14 majority with five senators abstaining their vote. The senate decided to move to a general faculty vote that will be voted on Nov. 2-9. The senators shared many reasons they voted no confidence in Kelly, including lack of communication, disrespect toward the institution’s past and fear of retaliation for speaking out. “I cannot support a president who would not openly discuss this fear and assure our colleagues that retaliation in any form is not tolerated in any way on our campus,” said Dr. N. Jane McCandless, professor of Sociology at UWG, in the meeting on Friday.

Kelly addressed many different concerns and claims in the meeting. He previously denied his lack of communication with the faculty. “I am disappointed there are so many questions about my leadership and decisions that have been made,” said Kelly. “Quite frankly, I am even more disappointed that there is a document that is communicating so much information that is just simply not accurate.” Kelly later made it clear that he is not disappointed in the faculty for expressing their views on his leadership. “I am disappointed in myself because I am a part of the reason that exists,” said Kelly. The vote was made after a petition was written anonymously by someone in the staff. The petition outlined the reasons why they believe Kelly should receive a vote of no confidence. The Faculty Sen-

ate made it clear in the meeting on Friday that the vote was on the confidence in Kelly’s leadership not the letter. The vote was held in a Zoom meeting where a roll call voice vote was made after requested by a member. After the vote, the Senate made a decision to send the vote to the general faculty. The vote will be a motion of three options: yes being in favor of the no confidence, no, opposing the no confidence and abstain. If the vote with the general faculty permits, the determination would then be given to the University System of Georgia’s Board of Regents. The general faculty consist of 512 full time faculty members, and the general faculty vote will be made official Nov 9. No matter the result of the general faculty vote, the Faculty Senate expresses its hope for, and commitment to, healing and moving UWG forward.



NEWS



Photo courtesy of UWG Bookstore

# Leading the Pack:

## Adrianna Bodruk’s Ambition Pushes Her to Success

**By Taylor Jackson**  
*News Editor*

Adrianna Bodruk is a sophomore majoring in Mass Communications with a focus in Public Relations. She is a dependable student who has always been determined to gain as much experience as possible at a young age.

To prepare herself before officially attending college, Adrianna was a dual enrollment student. This allowed her to gain a few credit hours which she not only passed but aced.

“I would describe myself as an inquisitive, organized, diligent and adaptable individual with a strong sense of ambition and determination,” said Adrianna. “I have taken great strides in just the short amount of time that I have been in college.

“I am very proud of my academic achievements, as I have earned my place on the dean’s list every semester so far while in school,” continued Adrianna.

After transitioning into being a full-time college student, Adrianna was able to fully engage in different organizations offered by UWG that covers both her passion and her future career.

“I am a member of the WOLF Internet Radio, and I recently became a member of Public Relations Student Society of America, otherwise known as PRSSA,” said Adrianna. “I began my journey at the WOLF Internet Radio by participating in the WIT (WOLF-in-Training) Program and learned

the basics of working in radio, including how to produce a radio show and get it on-air.

“After successfully completing the program, I earned the Most Valuable WIT Award,” continued Adrianna. “Shortly after this, I was hired as assistant program director at the WOLF and gained experience training others to work on-air, as well as operating board.”

Adrianna has made sure to not only stay on top of her academics but extracurriculars as well. Oftentimes big businesses only hire individuals that know how to both work and enjoy the fruits of their labor. This is because some individuals get so caught up in trying to be the best, they lose focus of life itself.

“Aside from academics, just my experiences interviewing, co-hosting, re-branding, writing and publishing at The WOLF Internet Radio have helped me to expand my skill set,” said Adrianna.

Soon, Adrianna hopes to be well off in her career. Her main goal is to help different organizations and businesses grow by strengthening their image.

“I love helping and inspiring people,” said Adrianna. “Being there for others is very fulfilling and allows me to grow stronger bonds with them. As a mass communications major planning to work in public relations, I plan to build strong, lasting relationships with other individuals through my work.”



## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

# Netflix Educates Voters with ‘Whose Vote Counts, Explained’

By Madeline Wilbanks

Copy Editor

Netflix collaborated with Vox to release a new miniseries last month titled *Whose Vote Counts, Explained*. The show focuses on the concept of voting, how it works and why it matters.

Many individuals think that political science is exchanging opinions for an hour and a half during a lecture or having students debate across the room at each other. That perception is mistaking a political science class for a debate class—two completely different things.

In political science, the discussion isn't over who is right and who is wrong. The study of political science is breaking down political systems and having in-depth conversations on how the system works and why it works that way.

The show was easy to understand and uses amazing visual graphics to explain everything in detail. The miniseries also has a variety of interviewees as it pulled clips of historians, professors, candidates, congressmen and citizens talking about each matter. It also did a good job of diversifying the speakers as many of them ranged in backgrounds, ideologies and positions.

It was interesting to see the miniseries portray political science in a captivating and visual manner. The series takes the study of political science and makes it come to life through interesting visuals and in-depth explanations.

The first episode titled “The Right to Vote” narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio details the history of voter suppression and the ability

Image courtesy of Netflix

of people to gain the right to vote over the years. This episode was very informative as it showed the power and ability for small governments, being local and state level, to have more power over the individual's ability to vote than that of the national government.

Without understanding the system of government in the United States, individuals can become accustomed to thinking that the president or the congressmen holds all the power. However, the first episode of the miniseries did a great job at showing that the national government, although powerful, is not as impactful as the state and local governments are in our daily lives.

The second episode of the miniseries titled “Can You Buy an Election?” narrated by Selena Gomez goes into detail about the money system behind elections. The political campaigns' and parties' use of money is something of a mystery as the episode dictates, it is also something difficult for many to understand. However, I found this episode did a good job of laying out how financing political campaigns worked why there are currently no limits on how much a political campaign spends.

The third and final episode titled “Whose Vote Counts” narrated by John Legend answers the question many of us have asked at

some point in our lives: “Does My Vote Matter?” The episode explains the system of voting, how it works, how it has changed over time and how we as Americans can make it better. I particularly liked this episode as it brought up the system of ranked voting. Ranked voting is a system that is primarily used in other countries but allows for a much more civil way of voting. Instead of voting for one candidate or the other, individuals rank candidates by preference. This system is much more favorable than our current one because it would diminish political tension between parties and allow voters to pick second and third candidates rather than just saying yes to one candidate and no to the other.

I would suggest giving this show a shot. The only thing that made me question the validity of any information presented was the editing. I counted about three times in which clips were edited together to seem like a natural conversation between two people. In reality, these conversations could have been staged because the two individuals were in separate locations.

The three-episode miniseries was educational, diverse and entertaining. It is definitely a must-watch for anyone who is not a political science junkie but still wants to learn in a fun way the system of government in which they live.

# NETFLIX



## SCENE BUT UNSEEN

This is the sixth photo in our series Scene but Unseen, where we feature art, objects and strange things around the UWG campus. This small seating area can be found in a small garden on the side of the TLC. These photos are also posted every Thursday on our Instagram @the\_westgeorgian.

Photo: Richard Shah, *The West Georgian*