

Anthropology RAC Meeting Minutes: April 28, 2018 at Middle Georgia College, Macon GA

1. Intro of committee members
2. Election of officers: Susan Smith (Kennesaw State) is the Chair, Jennifer Trunzo (Augusta University) is the Chair Elect.
3. Discussed bylaws draft and made edits: Edited version was approved unanimously. Dr. Trunzo (Anthro RAC Chair Elect, faculty Augusta University) will make the edits and circulate for final review.
4. Discussed Area F issues
 - a) Debated the logic in allowing students to take ANTH 2011 as the only 1000-level course for a Major. The question is whether or not a course on a single subfield can substitute adequately for an Intro to Four Field course. We seemed to agree that the BOR's guidelines for Area F should require either Intro to Four Field or three courses that would be drawn from courses that are the equivalent to Intro to Cultural, Intro to Archaeology, Intro to Physical Anthropology, and Intro to Linguistics. We decided that we need input from the BOR on this issue and we will return to this issue at our next meeting.
 - b) We also raised a question about whether or not Anthropology needs to have a list of institutional electives that can be used to populate Area F. Our main concerns are:
 - 1) Increases in the numbers of other disciplines that are behaving proprietarily towards Area F in the sense that they are eliminating opportunities for students to take courses in area F that are outside the department that houses the major. We raised this question because we wonder if Anthropology would be better served in terms of retaining faculty lines, gaining new faculty lines, expanding curriculum, and getting more in our department/program budgets if we followed the lead of other disciplines at our individual institutions and across the USG and treated Area F as it was reserved only for Anthropology courses.
 - 2) We also discussed the need to maintain flexibility in Area F because many Anthropology majors come to the discipline as juniors and seniors after they have tried other majors. In view of the fact that many of our programs are built around students who changed their majors at least once rather than students who entered as freshman intending to major in Anthropology, keeping Area F flexible seems wise so that students add as little time to degree completion as possible. Anthropology programs are playing an important role in retaining students at USG institutions who might otherwise drop-out or transfer, which means that we see the necessity of maintaining flexibility in the courses each institution counts in their Area F and allowing each institution to structure Area F for Anthropology as they see fit. We have decided we need some feedback on this issue from the BOR and we will revisit it at our next meeting.

5. We reviewed the Value of Anthropology statement that appears on the Anthropology RAC website by comparing it to the original document from which it was distilled. We agreed that the document to BOR posted needs expansion. The committee agreed to get feedback to Dr. Trunzo (Anthro RAC Chair Elect, Augusta University) by August 31 to decide final content and wording.

6. We discussed the process of determining faculty credentials that are outlined in several BOR documents. Some programs in the USG are sticking closely to the strictest document that lists minimum qualifications for an undergraduate instructor as a minimum of graduate 18 credits in Anthropology and an MA degree; however, the program directors ignore that adjunct candidates who have other types of experience, an interdisciplinary designer degree, or an interdisciplinary degree from a foreign university may allow them to qualify for an instructional position in Anthropology. Since many USG Anthropology programs have difficulty finding adjuncts that have an MA in Anthropology or 18 graduate credits in Anthropology, the Anthropology RAC believes that all Anthropology programs in the USG should be willing to make the necessary arguments (as allowed in looser BOR guidelines) to hire qualified instructors who might be lacking courses with an Anthropology prefix on their graduate transcripts. The Anthropology RAC sees great value in maintaining flexible requirements for hiring instructors—especially when it comes to filling instructional needs in highly specialized Anthropology topics such as human evolution and evolutionary genetics, forensic applications of biological anthropology, and linguistics.