

Minutes

Regents Advisory Council on Communication Program
Feb. 14, 2019, Columbus State

Present:

Christian Norman, Middle Georgia State University
Mary Jean Land, Georgia College and State University
Danna Gibson, Columbus State University
Brian Kline, University of North Georgia
Ed Panetta, University of Georgia
Keith Perry, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Steve Stuglin, Georgia Highlands College
Pam Bourland-Davis, Georgia Southern University
Pam Hayward, Augusta University
Peter Bolts, Gordon State College
Mark May, Clayton State University
Jason Rodgers, Atlanta Metropolitan State College
Barbara Tucker, Dalton State College
Mark Borzi, Valdosta State University
Niaz Khan, Georgia Gwinnett College,
Rasha Ramzy, Georgia State University
Ronald Ellison, East Georgia State College
Rebecca Fitzsimmons, Georgia Tech.

At the beginning of the meeting, a quorum was verified, with 18 institutions represented.

Mark Borzi announced said that we would call Lori Haggood, the representative from the System Office. She was reached by phone.

Mark Borzi began the meeting with introductions. Each talked about what their departments involved, which was varied in terms of disciplines. There have been recent splits and restructurings that have changed placements and leadership of units.

Minutes approval: Ron Ellison moved, Brian Kline seconded the motion. No corrections, approved unanimously.

Old Business

Area F: The RACC has finished and approved the requirements for Area F in regard to Communication majors in different subspecialities. They were forwarded to Lori Haggood but haven't gone to the Council on General Education yet. Mark Borzi will follow up on its status.

The question arose as to whether this RACC should create a separate Area F for film; some thought film was going to be moved to the Fine Arts RACC. Lori Haggood said that was not the case and she would check to see if the Communication RACC needed to address film Area F.

Mark May mentioned that then film personnel from the colleges need to be involved in that discussion.

Item 2: The RACC had a lengthy discussion, following up from last year's meeting, about the place of the basic communication course (BCC) in the core, stemming from the Armstrong State/GA Southern merger. We as a RACC are concerned about the inclusion of the BCC in the core and that there are different places where the BCC is found in different institutions.

Mark Borzi shared the email from Barbara Brown: "It is a joint decision of the Council on General Education and each individual institution" in terms of where the bcc is placed. "If institutions propose communication courses for Area B, they have to show that the course fits their institutional goals for B. If they propose a communication course for C, they have to show that course fits their area c learning outcomes and further that the courses fit in with humanities, fine arts and ethics content and 'include analytical, historical, critical and or appreciative material.'" "The council cannot and will not mandate that communication courses be included in the core."

The RACC was polled to get a sense of where each institution lands in terms of the placement of the BCC(1100 or 1110). Six currently require it for all undergrads. Nine have it as option in core. There is some thought that that there will be a total revamping of general education (dropping number of hours in A-F to 42). Brian Kline suggested we should establish talking points to defend the BCC in the core. Based on the briefing document on the value of the discipline, we should compose a white paper. The momentum year is having an impact on the discussion of what should be in the first semester. Niaz Khan, Mark May, Danna Gibson, Mark May, and Barbara Tucker volunteered to work on this paper as a general advocacy piece.

Item 3: Reminder to use 1110 and 1100 as the numbers for the BCC public speaking course and BCC Human Communication course. Georgia State uses Speech Comm as its prefix. On USG website, there is a list of the common courses. The descriptions don't need to be the same.

New Business

Item 1: Mark May led the discussion on the legal issues with software licenses, obtaining products that keep up with industry standard, and some want to teach with software we don't have a license for. Company may provide for free, but no license. Georgia law says that if an institution signs such an agreement and there is mediation arising from it, the mediation must occur in GA. The same issue exists for

licensing for music products. Two options: Secretary of State of GA can waive the requirement, or the campuses have negotiated on their own for the rights. The RACC consensus was that we could make the argument for larger availability for these licenses. Steve Stuglin asked about the mechanism of enforcement, i.e., what is USG going to do about if a contract is signed without permission? Mark Borzi affirmed that such contracts have to go through legal. Also, compiling of list of all communication software at program level needs to be discussed, although that list would be fluid.

Lori Haggood said she could contact the legal office at the Board. Mark Borzi affirmed that the RACC members are comfortable with this process and that it needs to be addressed due to inconsistencies in the process.

Item 2: In terms of exam credit for communication courses such as AP, CLEP, or Dantes, there are no communication courses in those programs. Institutions have differences in prior learning assessment processes and standards.

Item 3: Election of officers.

Mark May will move into Chair position, Mark Borzi into past chair. Discussion was held over the executive committee that hasn't met in five years. Original reason for the executive committee was that there were a great many curriculum proposals at the time, and the executive committee is composed of representatives from the three levels. We will continue the executive board with the people in the same roles now: Ed Panetta (R1), Steve Stuglin (state colleges), and Pam Bourland-Davis (comprehensive/regional universities).

Barbara Tucker will stay in the secretary role one more year. The executive director position is for collecting money and arranging for the working lunch at Middle Georgia in the Fall meeting. Barbara Tucker nominated Christian Norman, Steve Stuglin seconded. Pam moved to close floor, Keith seconded. Christian Norman was elected.

Danna Gibson will become vice chair, by acclamation.

Issues from the Floor:

We will discuss later whether to have a February meeting in 2020. The next meeting is tentatively set for Friday, October 4.

Barbara Tucker mentioned that the Academic Advisory Council for the Georgia Film Academy is working on new MOU for the institutions; she will share that progress.

Pam Bourland-Davis asked about our using Sharepoint site for mutual documents. We already have SharePoint (page 3 of minutes), but the RACC is not using it. She will see if her password will still work.

Mark Borzi: Do we want to have a separate listserv for the RACC? Send him an email to do that.

Mark Borzi asked if any institution is proposing a new major, which will need to come to the RACC. Valdosta will have two in the near future.

Lori Haggood stated she will follow up on the film RACC and would be willing to pass on the white paper about the core communication course issue, and she can help us with legal.

Ron Ellison motioned to adjourn, and Keith Perry seconded. Unanimous vote to adjourn.

Submitted,

Barbara Tucker