

University System of Georgia
Fine Arts Committee
Meeting of April 24, 2015
Middle Georgia State University

Present: Karen Berman (Georgia College and State University)
Dwight Coleman (Georgia State University)
Bobby Dickey (Fort Valley State University)
Steven A. Harper (Georgia Southern University)
Donna May Hatcher (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College)
David Koffman (Georgia Perimeter College)
Jeff LeMieux (College of Coastal Georgia)
A. Blake Pearce (Valdosta State University)
Desmal Purcell (East Georgia State College)
Joe A. Thomas (Kennesaw State University)
Kurt-Alexander Zeller (Clayton State University; 2014-15 FAC Chair)

Meeting called to order by KAZ at 10:00 AM.

Accepted of meeting minutes of 2014 moved by BD and seconded by DC. Approval to be voted by email.

KAZ proposed putting minutes out by beginning of school year. JT proposed as soon as possible, but still by beginning of school year. KB moved that minutes be available as soon as possible, and final minutes be approved and available by September 1. BD seconded. Approved unanimously by those present.

KAZ reviewed work of the past year. The Board of Regents asked for our recommendations on math courses for arts majors, and we responded that everyone had alternatives to college algebra that were recommended to our majors. The committee also recommended approval of a film course from East Georgia in Area C. We don't know the ultimate result, however, since the BOR does not inform the committee of their final decisions. We also reviewed 3 proposals for Area C from Georgia Regents. The BOR asked us about the use of standard disciplinary prefixes; while many institutions do use the same ones, there is no standard, and several variations do exist.

The chair also noted the BOR has developed a list of 399 low-producing degree programs (not just in the arts). Six institutions had all of their arts degrees on the list. KB asked how many arts programs were listed in some way, and KAZ said there was at least one at each institution. KB said they were just recently notified of this status at her school. JT asked about the numbers used to determine low-producing programs; the understanding is that the list includes those degrees with less than 10 undergraduate or 5 graduate students completing study and graduating each year. One solution that several schools noted was revising curriculum to consolidate majors, for example, turning them into concentrations under the mantle of one major.

A general sense of "cutting back" and belt-tightening was discussed: Valdosta has eliminated degree programs that were actually suspended or had been discontinued, and Fort Valley reported current plans to eliminate faculty lines. KB reported on various prioritization projects that used cost analysis

to determine viability of programs. Valdosta has undergone 5% cuts from total budget. One school was told not to go for accreditation, likely because the institution does not want to have to meet the standards. BD asked about the difference, if any, in programs vs. majors; SH responded that SACS defines programs differently from majors.

JT asked for a discussion about how schools were defining work loads in arts classes, since our disciplines have so many variations on the standard 3 hours/week=3 hours credit formula. DMH said that ABAC counted 4.5 hours of load for teaching a 6 hour/week studio class. ABP said that Valdosta used a 1.33 multiplier for salary. Contact hours (which are currently being used to determine part-time/full-time status) is a different measure—for example, teaching two lab courses runs over the formula the USG uses for assigning part-time status. Part-time faculty are allowed a total per calendar year of 1300 hours, so instructors could theoretically teach a heavy load one term instead of an even distribution across the year. Office hours are also included as a part of the formula. Nursing is faced with similar staffing problems. While there was general agreement that the current formula was causing serious problems, there is no administrative interest in investigating alternative solutions. The chief executives of the institutions may need to pressure USG for a change in the formula. Among the results of the current workload calculation: faculty are having to cover classes well outside their expertise, which causes problems with SACS justifications, among other things.

Pamela Sachant from North Georgia had earlier in the year posed a question regarding qualifications for part-time or clinical faculty in the arts—could extensive professional experience substitute for the terminal degree? Along those lines, DH noted that a USG Film Academy is being developed in Atlanta that may require flying in industry professionals. There is some concern about exactly who's going to be teaching as part of that. Back to PS's original question, it was determined that this issue of qualifications was an institutional decision. JT pointed out that the terminal degree equivalency needed to be explicitly stated at time of appointment. DC said that the hiring of someone into a tenure-track position is an implicit acknowledgement of the terminal degree or equivalent. JT argued that it would still be wise to have it in writing at the time of appointment. In response to his subsequent inquiry about issues with greatly increased demands from SACS regarding faculty qualifications, other institutions that recently underwent SACS review reported the same problems.

In response to a question posed to the committee during the past year about how money was provided for student awards in art exhibitions, the consensus was that no one used operational funds for student art awards. ABP noted that Valdosta has had to move funding from foundation to operating to address some issues with the orchestra. A discussion about services vs. products in the payment process ensued.

E-Core has asked the FAC if their descriptions of outcomes for music appreciation and art appreciation courses are aligned with ours, based on the 2003 description. Consensus is that they are still valid. A discussion of eCore and online learning followed. KB relayed comments heard at a conference about the increased role of eCore. Concerns were aired about quality and effectiveness of online learning in the arts disciplines.

The Academic Advisory Committees are charged with creating Area F outcomes for all majors, but we haven't for dance yet, so we should begin that process. JT suggested sending out samples from other disciplines with minutes and asking institutions with relevant dance programs to begin work on developing an outcomes statement.

KAZ raised the question of bylaws for the FAC. USG has a template. Do we want or need bylaws for our committee? ABP asked if we were having problems; there seemed to be no serious issues. JT suggested very minimal bylaws that only address needed areas. For instance, there are no guidelines regarding time and place of the annual committee meeting.

Since there are no requirements for having the meeting in Macon, JT offered to investigate having the meeting at KSU next year. He will see if the College of the Arts there would be willing to sponsor next year's meeting and provide a lunch. Committee members could visit the Zuckerman Museum of Art and other arts facilities, and perhaps even see performances. A block of hotel rooms nearby could be reserved for attendees needing overnight stays. Interest was expressed from among those attending for having the meeting at KSU next year. JT will report back on possible times and venues.

The FAC's "White Paper" on the value of the arts was not completed. Some sections are partially done. KB volunteered to help complete section on how arts graduates benefit State of Georgia, knowing several studies that could be cited. JT suggested a review by subcommittee members and subsequent presentation at next year's meeting. JL suggested using a statement that economics are an emergent property of the arts as part of the language.

In preparing to determine the chair-elect for 2015-16, KAZ went over the chair's duties: attending the fall meeting of all academic advisory committee chairs; maintaining the mailing list; conveying proposals to members; monitoring discussions; and reporting back the committee's comments to the BOR. After some tense moments of silence, the courageous Steven Harper from Georgia Southern volunteered. He was elected by acclamation.

A discussion of possible dates for the spring 2016 meeting followed. It was generally agreed that late February up to the first week in April are the best times. JT will try to coordinate with the schedule of events at KSU with an eye towards have the 2016 meeting there.

DH asked the committee members for ideas regarding needs for their new arts/comm building at ABAC. Suggestions were offered such as avoiding the use of church-basement contractors for the designing of theaters. It was suggested that she write up parameters in email and ask people for suggestions; KAZ will circulate.

ABP moved to adjourn; seconded by JL. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:35.

Submitted by JT