



Regents Advisory Committee on Academic Affairs

July 20, 2015
Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Dr. Brian Adler at 1:10pm. The minutes of the Spring 2015 meeting were approved with no corrections.

Dr. Houston Davis provided a System update with the assistance of various staff members. The enrollment in eCore is up 42%. This increase is attributed to a reduction in the per hour cost of eCore and the redesign of some courses to use open resources for books.

Affordable Learning Georgia – Currently recording a savings of \$10 million dollars – the goal of \$100 million dollars in savings is achievable. Eight USG campuses are working to reduce books costs on the most common math courses by using ALG to reduce the cost of textbooks.

Liberal Education America's Promise (LEAP) – Dr. Michael Crafton reports that 16 USG institutions are a part of this project. The group is in the process of finalizing its position paper? Dr. Crafton shared a draft of UWG's proposal.

Gateway to College – Dr. Felita Williams restated an invitation for all USG institutions to join the Gateway to College project. This project is a data driven assessment of high failure courses at the institutions. The opportunity to use Gateway to Completion's analytics and teaching/learning academy are integral parts of this opportunity. Dr. Gardner of the John Gardner Institute for Excellence in Education will join interested USG institutions on September 29, 2015 on the Macon Campus of Middle Georgia State University.

General Studies Area F voting item – Dr. Barbara Brown asked the committee to approve a recommendation from the General Education Committee. At its October 24, 2014 meeting, the Council on General Education recommended changes in Area F for General Studies/Interdisciplinary Studies. These changes are summarized in the attached document.

These Area F changes were approved by RACAA at its February 18, 2015 meeting.

When the Council recommended changes to Area F, it kept the existing title for the program: General Studies/Interdisciplinary Studies. These are posted on the web at: http://www.usg.edu/academic_programs/new_programs/area_f_recommendations and http://www.usg.edu/academic_programs/areaf/Area_F_Guidelines_General_Studies_Interdisciplinary_Studies_Revised_03112015.pdf

It was subsequently brought to the Council's attention that neither the previous nor the new Area F guidelines for General Studies/Interdisciplinary Studies adequately addressed the needs of Interdisciplinary Studies programs within the USG. The Council's intent was to specify an Area

F that was appropriate for General Studies, and Interdisciplinary Studies was kept in that title only for historical reasons.

After realizing that the blending of General Studies and Interdisciplinary Studies in that Area F recommendation perpetuated problems for Interdisciplinary Studies programs, the Council voted at its February 20 meeting to remove the “Interdisciplinary Studies” designation from the General Studies/Interdisciplinary Studies Area F recommendations.

There is no appropriate advisory group for Interdisciplinary studies to establish an appropriate Area F, but not all Area Fs have Regents Advisory Committees and not all programs have Area Fs posted on the USG website.

The vote will be taken electronically.

Teacher Education changes – Dr. Bob Michaels informed the group of several issues related to Education:

- 1) Restructuring of EPAC and A&S Deans Advisory Committee – in the past the two have become almost one, losing the essence of the A&S committee. The two committees will be revised and separated. The A&S Deans will be encouraged to convene a meeting this fall.
- 2) Requesting a close look at how paperwork for teacher certification is handled – potential to select one entity to do paperwork for all instead of working in silos.
- 3) Studying the true cost of teacher field experience – what are the true costs, how the costs have increased through the years
- 4) Explaining the new tiered certification of teachers
 - a. Pre – certification – college grads in Education
 - b. Induction – certification – (first teaching job)
 - c. Professional certification (after 3 years in field)
- 5) Explaining the importance of helping students to understand the difference between graduation requirements and certification requirements
- 6) Preparing for program effectiveness studies – how well graduates of the program perform as teachers

Finally – there is a shortage of teachers in STEM fields and a shortage of teachers of different races. The current teaching force is graying.

Faculty Development – Dr. Mike Rogers and Dr. Ginger Durham – requested nominations for Teacher Excellence Awards – goal nominations from all institutions. Also shared the faculty development schedule for the upcoming year (add link to schedule) (add link to nominations). Mini grant opportunities were announced for CTL programs and piloting STOL. The new deans and department chair orientation was well received – request has been made to open to all sitting deans and department chairs, this option is being investigated.

Athletics Review – Dr. Houston Davis stated that there would be a review of the teams, competition levels and conference membership of all institutions. This will be an effort to right size an institution’s athletic programs. This project has been shared with the Presidents.

Regents Engineering Transfer Program – Dr. Davis shared that the program continues to thrive. Currently the participants are Georgia Institute of Technology, Kennesaw State University, Georgia Southern University and Mercer University.

Home School Admission on Policy – Dr. Davis asked for volunteers from RACAA and RACSA to review the current policy to make sure it is relevant. USG office staff will include Jennifer Rippner and Nels Petterson (USG Counsel).

The group was informed that very few new fees will be approved next year.

Technical System of Georgia Tracking – Dr. Rachana Bhatt

(http://www.usg.edu/academic_planning/committees/view/academic_affairs)

Dr. Bhatt provided her second annual report tracking TCSG students' progress/success as they transfer to USG institutions. Her report gave the following conclusions:

- Most students transferred 15 – 30 hours
- Those who took the subsequent follow up course did better than the institution's indigenous students

Legal Update – Ms. Kimberly Ballard – Washington – shared information about reduction in force for financial exigency. This financial exigency refers to the institutional financial health as well as academic departments. This may impact employment of tenured faculty. BOR policies 8.5 and 8.3.7.10 provide guidance if this approach is under consideration. Policy on faculty renewals may apply, i.e.

- First year faculty – three months notice of non renewal
- Second year faculty – six months notice of non renewal
- Third year faculty – nine months notice of non renewal

The full meeting adjourned to participate in appropriate Sector Meetings.

Sector Meeting Reports:

Research Sector – elected Dr. Gretchen Caughman to represent them on the RACAA Executive Committee

Comprehensive Sector – discussed the various models of academic advising specifically the move toward professional advisors. The group also discussed their various institutional leadership models, as well as the structure of their education programs.

State University – discussed MOWR textbook costs with an eye on working to lower the cost of book rentals and possibly developing open source agreements for other books or lower costs on some books to offset expense of others. There was also some discussion about prodigy admissions.

State College – Requested that RACs need to review Area Fs; AA AS policy and how to present related to SACSCOC standard; shared issues related to summer teaching loads; eCore policies and overloads (eCore pays more for teaching overloads than the institutions – faculty working to have overloads in eCore); hours required for reverse transfer and making sure the issuing institution can count 25% of courses at their institution.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.

31 Meeting Attendees:

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Albany State University
Armstrong Atlantic State University
Atlanta Metropolitan State College
Bainbridge State College
Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia
Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia
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Clayton State University
College of Coastal Georgia
Columbus State University
Dalton State College
Darton State College
East Georgia State College
Fort Valley State University
Georgia College & State University
Georgia Gwinnett College
Georgia Highlands State College
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia Perimeter College
Georgia Regents University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia Southwestern State University
Georgia State University
Gordon State College
Kennesaw State University
Middle Georgia State University
Savannah State University
South Georgia State College
University of Georgia
University of North Georgia

Dr. Gail Dillard
Dr. Abiodun Ojemakinde
Dr. Robert Smith
Dr. Michael Heard
Dr. Rodney Carr
Dr. Houston Davis
Dr. Rachana Bhatt
Dr. Angela Bell
Dr. Bob Michael
Dr. Rob Anderson
Dr. Barbara Brown
Dr. Mike Rogers
Mr. Jon Sizemore
Dr. Ginger Durham
Dr. Teresa Joyce
Dr. Linda Noble
Ms. Kimberly Ballard –Washington
Ms. Isabel Pérez
Dr. Felita Williams
Dr. Kevin Demmitt
Dr. Tracey Pellett
Dr. Paul Hackett
Dr. Andy Meyer
Dr. Joan Darden
Dr. Tim Goodman
Dr. Rayton Sianjina
Dr. Tom Ormand
Dr. Lois Richardson
Dr. Renva Watterson
Dr. Susan Cozzens
Dr. Jennifer Herazy
Dr. Ingrid Thompson –Sellers
Dr. Carol Rychly
Dr. Diana Cone
Dr. Brian Adler
Dr. Timothy Renick
Dr. Jeffrey Knighton
Dr. Ken Harmon
Dr. Marti Venn
Dr. Kimberly Holmes
Dr. Robert Page
Dr. Pamela Whitten
Dr. Janet Marling

University of West Georgia
Valdosta State University

Dr. Micheal Crafton
Dr. Brian Gerber