



**Annual Summer Meeting
Regents Advisory Committee on Academic Affairs
Macon State College
Meeting Notes
February 24, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Lendley Black.

New Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs were welcomed and invited to give self introductions:

New Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs:

Dr. Gary Means – Georgia Southern University

Dr. Sandra Jordan – Georgia College and State University

Dr. Inessa Levi – Columbus State University

Dr. Marya Leatherwood – Gainesville State College

Dr. Risa Palm – Georgia State University

and Assistant Vice President - Dr. Jerome Drain – Atlanta Metropolitan College

Dr. Linda Roberts – Betsch announced her intention to retire and introduced Dr. Pat Donat who will serve as interim VPAA starting June 1, 2010.

Dr. Curt Carver was also acknowledged as the new Vice Chancellor and CIO for the System Office. All system staff members present were acknowledged, Tonya Lam, Linda Noble, Lynne Weisenbach, Robert Vaughan, Marci Middleton and Felita Williams.

The minutes were approved with no additions or corrections. The By-laws were discussed. After the changing of a word, the group decided to approve the by-laws. The by-laws were formally adopted.

Dr. Christopher Lee presented “Leveraging to Expand Support Services Initiatives in 2010”. Dr. Lee was accompanied by a staff member; Tamara Rorie, Esq. LESS is an opportunity for the University System institutions to tap into funding for students with sight disabilities, a 3-to-1 match. Leftover funds rollover from year-to-year and a staff person will need to be hired. There are several options for receipt of funding – direct to institution or direct to vendor. Dr. Lee will continue to inform the group on how to get involved with this opportunity. If successful, Georgia

will be the second state working with the VR on this opportunity. Ohio is the only state currently participating.

Dr. Lynne Weisenbach and Ms. Tonya Lam discussed the new DOE cut scores. Georgia's High School Graduation test will be used as proxy for equivalent scores on COMPASS. Effective with the fall, 2010 class, a score of 235 on the English Language Arts subtest will be used as equivalent to the system minimum.

The group broke into Sector Meetings. Dr. Andy Smith led the Research Sector meeting. Dr. Linda Roberts – Betsch lead the Regional/Comprehensive meeting and Dr. Virginia Michelich led the Two Year/State College meeting. The following sector representatives were elected: Research Sector – Dr. Jere Morehead; Regional/Comprehensive Sector – Dr. Zvi Safran and Two Year/State Sector – Dr. Marti Venn

“Making College ‘Relevant’” (published on January 3, 2010 in The New York Times) was the luncheon topic. This was a lively exchange of ideas and possibilities for liberal arts education. There was some discussion of using Politics of Happiness: What Government Can learn from the New Research on Well-Being by Derrick Bok as part of a similar discussion at the summer meeting.

Dr. Herbst encouraged the group to position the USG well in budget discussions. Better explanations are needed when creating new programs – be more specific about changes made institutional to bring new programs on board. Need to be compelling and specific.

Dr. Herbst and Dr. Stas Preczewski shared insights for the Graduation Rate Task Force presentations. The idea started with Regent Potts and has evolved into a Regents committee. Dr. Preczewski advised of a strict time limit – 20 minute presentation followed by 40 minutes of discussion. Presidents should 1) be able to discuss succinctly the institution's graduation, retention and progression rates; 2) identify institutional problems related to these rates, 3) describe solutions in place (being put in place) to address the problems, 4) discuss the assessment of those solutions (impact solutions are having on the problem) and 5) share how changes are made as a result of the data gathered. The Presidents should be aware that the Regents are already familiar with the institution and are really interested in the data.

Dr. Robert Vaughan provided information about the CPR process. His handout clarified the process and the expected timeline. The BOR Policy Manual is being updated and the Academic Affairs Handbook will also be updated providing more information about the process. Dr. Vaughan also shared information about the new core curriculum. The following website is a resource for additional information core.usg.edu.

The group discussed some budget strategies. Dr. Noble will lead a committee to study the possibility of expanding the categories available for hiring faculty. This is a flexibility requested as a possible solution to tight budgetary times when tenure-track cannot be offered in the job

announcement. The following Vice Presidents volunteered to work with Dr. Noble – Dr. Marya Leatherwood, Dr. Sandra Stone, Dr. Sandra Jordan, Dr. Gary Means, Dr. Renva Watterson, and Dr. Micheal Crafton. Dr. Jere Morehead will also be contacted about joining this committee as the Research Sector representative.

ADP issues were discussed, specifically the hiring of part-time faculty across the system. ADP will kick out attempts to hire for more than half-time. The institutions must work together to ‘define’ half-time. For example if UGA and Gainesville are sharing a faculty member, it would be best to use Gainesville’s definition of half-time since faculty at Gainesville typically teach more classes. VPAAAs were advised to have each part-time faculty sign a form (separate form or part of the letter of contract) stating they are aware of and in compliance with the policy. It was determined that Mr. Wayne Guthrie’s report, Lesson Learned Evaluation Results for Shared Services Initiative, should be shared with the members of RACAA. Dr. Williams was instructed to share the report electronically.

A list of challenges created by ADP was shared:

1. no time savings
2. person accountable is not always the person providing approval – ex. Sick leave – VPAA accountable but the divisional manager gives permission
3. not enough levels of approval allowed – original process allowed for as many signoffs as needed, ADP has a limit requiring some important links of approval to be broken
4. failures of ADP is challenging BOR credibility – ADP is not living up to expectations
 - How are VPAAAs directly impacted by ADP?
 - a) No longer able to see budget information on personal services
 - b) Data available inconsistent from one run to the next
 - c) Required to run interference between Deans and Faculty
 - d) Required to certify things that the VPAA cannot actually certify, i.e. P Cards

Advice – Institutions need to speak with one voice on this subject, President, Vice Presidents of Academic, Student and Fiscal Affairs.

The Ethics Training test was discussed. The group’s consensus is that the test is poorly worded and in some cases provides an example of something that should not be done that is actually a function of our institution. Dr. Herbst will work with this issue through Wayne Guthrie’s office.

The annual joint summer meeting with the Vice Presidents of Student Affairs was discussed. Dr. Black’s conversation with Dr. Jodi Johnson, chair of RACSA yielded a suggested date of July 11 – 13, 2010. This date was accepted. There was a discussion of locations, Tech Center, Sea Palms and Macon State. The group agreed to Macon State.

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned.

FTWilliams