

MINUTES
REGENTS' ACADEMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HISTORY
FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2007
Georgia College and State University

Members Present: Don Butts, Lee Ann Caldwell, Reid Derr, Bob Burnham, Doug Flammig, Gene Hatfield, Hugh Hudson, Ric Kabat, Peter Makaya, Rob Page, Mark Vickrey, Alice Pate, Brian Parkinson, Pam Roseman, Patricia Stahle, June Hopkins, Sandy Peacock

The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m. with a welcome from Lee Ann Caldwell, History Department Chair, Georgia College and State University, who also reminded RAACH members of the Annual Meeting of the Georgia Association of Historians that would convene at 12:00 noon.

The Committee members introduced themselves.

Announcements:

Judy Cornett, RAACH Chair, 2006-2007, asked for volunteers to chair the RAACH in 2008-2009. Alice Pate, Columbus State University, was nominated by Pam Roseman, Georgia Perimeter College and was elected to the position.

Updates from the Board of Regents

Dr. Rick Sutton, Senior Advisor for Academic Affairs at the BOR, attended the meeting as the liaison from the BOR to the RAACH. He stressed the importance of representatives from the BOR meeting with faculty groups and commented that the BOR anticipated an expanded role for the academic committees in future.

Dr. Sutton's Report was as follows:

Restructuring of the Chancellor's Office:

The Central Office has been restructured and has gone from 3 to 2 divisions. Rob Watts, who was the Chief of Staff is now the Chief Operations Officer. All two-year, and some four-year, institutions report to him, rather than to the Chancellor. Dr. Sutton also commented that Governor Perdue has appointed 2/3s of the BOR, so there are new voices to be heard from.

Budget Issues

A new budgeting process is in place and each institution was asked to build a budget from the ground up. Budget analysts were assigned to each institution to facilitate a budget study. The FY 08 budget will be announced at the May 2, 2007, BOR meeting.

Dr. Sutton also commented that contributions from the state into ORPs have been reduced. There is a Bill pending in the Legislature that addresses this issue.

Fixed Four-Year Tuition Plan

The Plan is still in process and has been greatly revised from its outset. The issue turned out to be much more complicated than was originally thought.

American Diploma Project

This is an effort led by Dr. Jan Tettelwell and the K-12 unit of the BOR, whose goal is to improve the transition for students from high school to college. One possible solution is to create a single high school diploma, with a shared set of minimum graduation requirements. The USG is working out the details of this project with the Georgia Department of Education. One key change is that the SHSD would not require a language.

The Regents Test

BOR has received numerous complaints about the content and administration of the Regents' Test, which at this point is basically a reading interpretation and writing test. There is a proposal on the table to exempt those who received As in ENGL 1101 and 1102.

There are several opinions about the test:

1. The Regents Test should be abolished altogether as it is no longer relevant
2. Students who received As in ENGL 1101 and 1102 should be exempt from taking the Test.
3. The Test should be kept but exceptions should be allowed; these exceptions would be decided by individual institutions. The number of students exempted through this plan would be small, perhaps as small as 1 or 2 students per year.
4. Processes for remediation must be revised as they are not working successfully; many students fail the test multiple times. A suggestion has been made that if a student fails the test five times, remediation, more tutorial in nature, should be put in place.

General Education

The BOR is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan, which will deal with five areas:

1. Revising the core curriculum

2. Building capacity at USG institutions. The USG is anticipating a significant growth in student population. How do the institutions accommodate these students without an upsurge in new buildings?
3. Putting Georgia more in control of its place in the global economy
4. Realizing the Affordability, Efficiency and Value of higher education in Georgia
5. Stressing the continuum of learning: Georgia is a state of life long learners

Revising the Core Curriculum

The goal of the BOR in restructuring the core curriculum is to create a "Transformative Undergraduate Education;" in other words to give students the best education that we can. The suggestion has been made to get rid of Areas A-F and develop a list of competencies a student must achieve in order to graduate from a USG school.

For example, one of these competencies might be global literacy. Individual institutions would develop ways that their students could accomplish this particular competency. For example, an institution might require that all students study abroad for one semester before graduating, or that all students complete a service learning project with an international organization prior to the conclusion of their academic career.

Dr. Sutton commented, that the problem is assessment, particularly vis a vis institutional differences in addressing the competencies. Would that mean that there would be a separate Regents Test for each institution? There are many questions that must be addressed.

June Hopkins, Armstrong-Atlantic University, raised the issue of transferability. Dr. Sutton assured the Committee that this issue is being considered and is of fundamental importance.

In terms of how far the planning for the revision has gone, Dr. Sutton commented that there are five committees, each chaired by a USG institution President, with 35 members, currently working on a proposal.

Recommendations have been drafted and are currently being revised.

Dr. Dorothy Leland, President, Georgia College and State University, chairs the committee on the core curriculum.

Reviewing the USG

As part of the process of creating a new Strategic Plan, there will be a thorough review of the System. Ten committees, each chaired by a President of a USG institution are working on this review and, in addition to the core curriculum, they are addressing key areas like retention and graduation, tenure and promotion.

One of the most relevant things to come out of this review so far was the decision, made two months ago, that the BOR will relinquish its role in promotion and soon will do so for tenure. The goal here is to push responsibility to a lower level.

Gene Hatfield, Clayton College and State University, asked whether the groups working on the strategic plan and the revision of the core were posted on the BOR website. Dr. Sutton said that they were not posted because many of them had already been disbanded.

A draft of the strategic plan has been sent out and should be in the offices of the Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Hugh Hudson, Georgia State University, asked about the current practice at Georgia Gwinnett College of hiring faculty without tenure, and wondered where in the policy manual it is stated that an institution may hire without tenure being on the table. Dr. Sutton commented that no where in the USG policy manual is the practice prohibited.

Gene Hatfield asked for confirmation that before a faculty member of one institution is hired by another USG institution, the President of the current institution must be informed. Dr. Sutton responded that this is in fact the case.

The AP Issue

Dr. Sutton commented that the question of college credit assigned to AP exams is still around, and that the USG institutions can not seem to agree on a point system. The same is true of the International Baccalaureate. Neither issue is on the fast track. Alice Pate commented that Columbus State gives credit for History 2111 and 2112, but not for World History.

She then moved that AP Western European scores and 1B scores in history not be accepted for credit in World History. The motion was seconded and passed.

The RAACH

Dr. Sutton said that it is anticipated by the Chancellor's office that the responsibilities of the RAACH will be expanded.

General Discussions

The ORP

Hugh Hudson asked whether a committee had been formed to look at the ORP. Dr Sutton responded that such a committee had met and made recommendations, including a bill that is supposed to go to the Georgia Legislature.

High School to College Initiative

Sandy Peacock commented that at Georgia Southern University an initiative had come out of its Continuing Education Division, called the Senior to Sophomore Initiative in which seniors in high school can take college courses from high school teachers. The teachers are not paid for teaching these courses, but the students can earn up to 30 hours of college credit. They pay 1/2, of the cost of traditional tuition.

Georgia Southern department chairs find someone to supervise the teachers; the curriculum is designed by the College.

Gene Hatfield commented that he had heard the same sort of initiative mentioned at Clayton State.

State Requirements regarding Georgia History and Government

William Muggleston asked whether most USG institutions require an American History course and a course in American Government. June Hopkins commented that at Armstrong Atlantic there is just one American history course that addresses American government as well. Pam Roseman explained that at Georgia Perimeter both American history and government are required.

History and American Government are required.

In terms of those students coming from outside the state as transfers, Clayton State and Georgia Southern have tutorials for these students in order to satisfy state requirements.

Other

Gene Hatfield distributed Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board awards information.

Judy Cornett thanked Dr. Sutton for attending and there being no other business, the Committee adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Submitted:

Pam Roseman
Georgia Perimeter College
Chair Elect