

## Minutes

### Regents' Academic Advisory Committee on History

Augusta, GA

February 7, 2020

**Attending:** James Galt-Brown, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College; Scott McDermott, Albany State University; Kenja McCray, Atlanta Metropolitan State College; Andrew Goss, Augusta University; Adam Tate, Clayton State University; Patrizia Stahle, College of Coastal Georgia; Tammy Byron, Dalton State College; Tommy Upchurch, East Georgia State College; Michael Gunther, Georgia Gwinnett College; Bronson Long, Georgia Highlands College; Carla Gerona, Georgia Institute of Technology; Carol Herringer, Georgia Southern University; Brian Parkinson, Georgia Southwestern State University; Michelle Brattain, Georgia State University; Alice Pate, Kennesaw State University; Bob Burnham, Middle Georgia State University; Katherine Rohrer, University of North Georgia; Tim Schroer, University of West Georgia; John Dunn, Valdosta State University

Chair: Carla Gerona

Minutes: Michael Gunther, Chair-elect

Meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM

#### Welcome and Introductions.

#### Approval of Minutes from 2019.

The committee approved last year's minutes unanimously, with two minor corrections to be revised by Dr. Gerona (the location of last year's meeting was Columbus; also, Dr. Galt-Brown had been chosen to serve alongside Dr. Stahle on the world subcommittee for 2019-20).

#### Chair Report:

Dr. Gerona attended the training and information session for RAAC chairs in Macon on September 6, 2019. Dr. Gunther also attended as chair-elect. Dr. Gerona showed several slides from the training and information session to state, in summary, that our committee is doing quite well and has already completed tasks (such as making credit-by-exam recommendations) and instituted protocols for meeting and communication that some other RAAC committees struggle with. As a point of information, Dr. Gerona stated that the USG has affiliations with three conference centers that can potentially serve as future meeting locations.

#### Common Course prefixes and numbers:

After some discussion, the committee agreed that there was no need to recommend revisions to prefixes for United States History, World History, and Western Civilization survey courses. Dr. Stahle related that the College of Coastal Georgia has already moved to align with the rest of the USG on such courses. With respect to African American History courses, the committee agreed unanimously to a motion by Dr. Pate that the US subcommittee draw up recommendations and send to Dr. Gerona.

#### Area F – Learning Outcomes and Course Guidelines:

Recalling our discussion of general Area F guidelines last year, the committee did not discern a need to make further recommendations. Dr. Goss related that at Augusta, the plan of study for History-Teacher Certification majors now includes at least one Education course in Area F, thus decreasing the number of content courses for students. Dr. Parkinson then shared that the School of Education at Georgia Southwestern State was contemplating a move to take over the History-Teacher Certification program.

Dr. McDermott proposed a motion that the committee passed unanimously:

*"It is the sense of the body that including education courses in Area F would deprive potential history teachers of content in history and the social sciences that is essential to their effectiveness in the classroom."*

The RAACH will continue to communicate regarding developments at Georgia Southwestern State, and actions we might take to support its History program.

#### Math Pathways Recommendations:

Dr. Gerona presented the USG proposal for a new Math Pathway (for Area A - Math/Stat 1401 – Elementary Statistics, as a separate option alongside existing Area A Math courses). Our committee needs to make a recommendation on the viability of this option for History majors. Dr. Goss noted that this was piloted at Augusta University. Dr. Brattain expressed some concern about availability of spots for students in such a new course at all locations.

The committee broke for ten minutes at 10:00.

After reconvening, the committee unanimously approved the following recommendation:

*"On the question of changing math pathways in the core, the RAACH believes that this question is best resolved by the Math RAAC and Math programs."*

#### eCore 2873 eCore HIST 2112:

Dr. Gerona led the committee to examine the revised eCore proposal for HIST 2112. She emailed the revised proposal file to the committee before the meeting and made handouts available. There was a lengthy discussion and continuing concerns regarding the rigor of eCore courses and the process of screening and overseeing instructors. Dr. Byron and Dr. Long shared insights from teaching eCore courses. Several members expressed the view that students were better served from taking online courses offered by their own institutions (with faculty available for office hours) rather than through eCore. Dr. Pate related past hopes that the USG would assess the downstream performance of students taking eCore courses (in their subsequent coursework), but that this has not been done to her knowledge. One member floated the idea of setting up a subcommittee in our RAAC to examine the effectiveness of history eCore classes. With respect to the proposal, the committee agreed to continue discussions by email. There remain grounds for concern: the textbook is the same, the spirit of the proposal seems to cut against the Momentum Year initiative, and there is still a need to better connect various assignments to the stated learning outcomes for assessment purposes. There was general agreement that this revised proposal constitutes a vast improvement over the first proposal.

The committee broke for ten minutes at 11:00.

#### Miscellaneous

Dr. Gerona led a brief discussion of responsibilities related to the Council on General Education, new program review, and Momentum Approach.

Dr. Stahle informed the group of continuing progress on College of Coastal Georgia's history major proposal, and is hopeful that the new major will get approved.

Dr. Gerona shared that she reached out to BOR University System Office Liaison Jonathan Sizemore several times to invite him to this meeting. He did not attend, due to multiple competing commitments.

#### Information Item: General Education Redesign:

Dr. Gerona and Dr. Brattain shared observations from their participation in the activities of the USG general education redesign implementation committee. These activities have given Dr. Tristan Denley (USG Chief Academic Officer) information to proceed. Implementation committee members were not asked to vote on new "zones" or on the new proposed overall structure of general education.

Given the most recent unofficial iteration of the proposed structure (8 shared zones of 3 hrs each: arts & humanities, mathematics, history & government, social sciences, science, data fluency, written communication, oral communication; with separate institutional and student zones), this appears to constitute potential diminution of history courses in the core..

Members contemplated the negative repercussions of a potential team-taught US History/American Government class in light of the fact that history & government comprise one shared zone above. Dr. Schroer suggested that the RAACH reach out to the Political Science RAAC. Dr. Goss observed that there is no AP equivalency for such a class. Dr. Pate urged delegates to communicate feedback on the USG website when this is available. We will continue to communicate on this matter by email.

#### Committee Assignments and Elections

Michael Gunther is chair-elect and will begin his term as chair on July 1, 2020.

Michelle Brattain was unanimously chosen as chair-elect for 2020-21.

Subcommittees were unanimously chosen to serve in 2020-21 to assist in the following capacities:

At large:

- Alice Pate (Kennesaw State University)
- Jon Bryant (Georgia Southern University), who did not attend. If he is unable to serve, Carla Gerona will assume this position.

Graduate:

- Tim Schroer (University of West Georgia)
- Carol Herringer (Georgia Southern University)

US:

- Kenja McCray (Atlanta Metropolitan State College)
- Adam Tate (Clayton State University)

World:

- Patrizia Stahle (College of Coastal Georgia)
- James Galt-Brown (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College)

#### Major Programs

- Andrew Goss (Augusta University)
- Adam Tate (Clayton State University)

The committee unanimously resolved to thank Dr. Gerona for her service as chair and also to thank the Georgia Association of Historians for facilitating this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55am for lunch and to participate in the rest of the Georgia Association of Historians conference program.