

POLS RAC Meeting Minutes
Virtual Zoom Meeting-11/1/2021

1:00-2:30

Dlynn Williams-University of North Georgia

Kimberly Gill-Columbus State University

Lance Hunter-Augusta University

Michael Herb-Georgia State University

Geoff Bowden-Savannah State University

Peter Brecke-Georgia Tech

Tom Rotnem-Kennesaw State University

Roger Marietta-ASU

Barry Balleck-Georgia Southern University

Julie Lester-Middle Georgia State University

Johnny Green-Fort Valley State University

Kris Beck-Gordon State College

Clif Wilkinson Jr. –Georgia College and State University

Ryan Voris-Abraham Baldwin Agri. College

George Vargis-Georgia State University Perimeter College

Felita Williams-University System of Georgia (RAC Liason)

Meigan Fields-Fort Valley State University

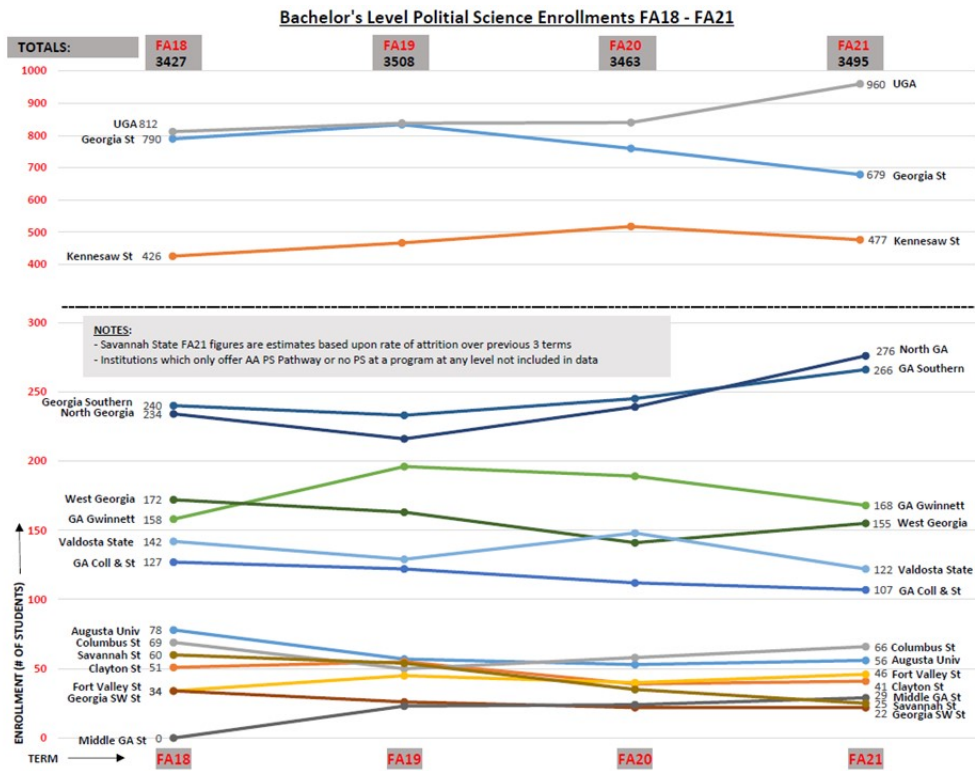
Meeting called to order by Dlynn at 1:03. Brief introductions were given by all participants.

Dlynn noted that the floor was open for nominations for chair and vice chair.

No nominations were given at the meeting but the floor will remain open until next week. Nominations should be sent via email to Dlynn or Kimberly.

RAC & APSA Response to the USG Post-Tenure Guidelines was given as well as a thank you to those that volunteered to craft the POLS RAC response.

Bachelor's Level Political Science Enrollments were shared with the group for Fall 2018-Fall 2021



The next discussion was focused on the Political Science Area F across the US. There is a great deal of curricular diversity within Area F across the USG. There was also discussion regarding Global Issues in terms of the core curriculum and the actual Area F guidelines. Does Intro to IR need to be added to area F? Is there an interest in adding IR to the area F guidelines? Concern maybe with transferability. CHARGE: Common course descriptions for foundational courses.

If Intro to IR is considered to be a foundational course, will the course description differ enough from Global Issues?

Different institutions teach global issues differently-some approach it as an IR course while others approach it as a global issues course. Topic for next meeting-Modify Area F or keep as is.

Foundational Courses POLITICAL SCIENCE

Area F Learning Outcomes

A student who successfully completes the Political Science Area F has made the first important steps down the road that leads to knowing how to think about the nature of the political world, how we have gotten to the current system, how political systems operate, and how to reason critically. The road also leads to the ability to write clearly, concisely, and cogently.

An area F is an introduction to a Bachelor's degree, not a Bachelor's degree. Students who complete the

Political Science Area F have only begun their studies in political science. For this reason, the learning outcomes should be modest.

The student learning outcomes for the Political Science Area F are:

1. Students will demonstrate an introductory collegiate-level understanding of some of the key debates in political science.
2. Students will demonstrate an introductory collegiate-level knowledge of some of the central concepts and theories in governance, politics, or international relations.
3. Students will produce written work that shows an introductory collegiate-level understanding of methods of critical thinking.

Area F Guidelines

Area F consists of 18 semester hours of lower-division (1000- and 2000-level) courses related to the Political Science program of study and/or prerequisite to courses required in the major:

I. SOCIAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION COURSES:

These courses include foundational courses in the following disciplines: anthropology, economics, geography, history, philosophy, psychology, sociology, African-American studies, gender studies, and in interdisciplinary courses involving a combination of the above (political science may be included as one of the disciplines in the interdisciplinary courses).

0-18 hours max.

II. SOCIAL SCIENCE BASIC SKILLS COURSES:

Computer skills/research methods

Foreign language courses

Math courses in statistics and calculus

Logic

0-15 hours max

III. FOUNDATION COURSES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Introduction to Political Science

Introduction to State and Local Government

Introduction to Public Administration

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Introduction to Global Issues

Introduction to Domestic Issues

0-9 hours max.

Each institution may select up to 18 hours from the courses in the three sections, but it should not exceed

the number of hours listed for each section. If an institution wishes to use only Section I or any parts of Sections II or III to arrive at the 18 hours, then this is a valid choice.

Review Area F Guidelines & Make Changes as Needed

Changes must be made through curricular committees:

https://www.usg.edu/curriculum/assets/curriculum/documents/Political_Science.pdf

CHARGE: Review PS Area Fs to Ensure Compliance with Guidelines

Kennesaw State University Area F Proposal:

Proposed: "Approve POLS 2270 Political Ideologies in Section I of Area F in the newly proposed Area F Guidelines. In POLS 2270, students examine a variety of political theories in an interdisciplinary manner. The various authors and texts studied in this course build on history, sociological theory, economic theory, philosophy, and/or psychology to develop arguments regarding the proper scope and functions of government. As such, it engages a wide variety of social sciences and would more accurately be categorized in Section I, rather than Section III."

Configuration of New Area F:

POLS 2101 Intro to Political Science

POLS 2240 Intro to Comparative Politics

POLS 2250 Intro to International Relations

POLS 2270 Political Theory

DATA 1501 Intro to Data Science

POLS 2280 Research Methods

Offers POLS 2401 Global Issues but not part of

B.S. PS degree program curricular requirements

*This is currently at Kennesaw's UCC.

*Because of consolidation, there were separate courses although that shared the same name/number and as a result because of the different nature of the courses many courses need to be renamed and reclassified. Kennesaw would like everyone to respect the diversity of curriculum that exists across USG institutions.

Qualtrics survey will be sent regarding proposals.

Qualtrics survey proposal: : **Shall we approve POLS 2270 Political Ideologies in Section I of Area F in the newly proposed Area F Guidelines? KSU states: "In POLS 2270, students examine a variety of political theories in an interdisciplinary manner. The various authors and texts studied in this course build on history, sociological theory, economic theory, philosophy, and/or psychology to develop arguments regarding the proper scope and functions of government. As such, it engages a wide variety of social sciences and would more accurately be categorized in Section I, rather than Section III."**

Vote: 19 in support/ 0 against

Proposal Passed.

Charge is to have common numbered courses and

We did agree on encouraged learning outcomes for 1101 last year at the RAC. The data was shared in the chat regarding POLS Learning Outcomes:

Identify the branches required by both the US and GA constitutions and their role in governance.

Define civil liberties and civil rights outlined in both the US and GA constitutions and their amendments.

Describe the ways in which the US and GA constitutions may change or be amended.

Discussion was held regarding recruiting activities and engagement. Questions being asked by students, what can I do with this degree if I don't want to go into Politics or Graduate School? Polarization can be problematic in the classroom and may result in less engagement.

Nuances of course description issues-surround the central foundational courses.

Dlynn asked for feedback regarding format of this zoom meeting versus in person meetings.

Dlynn asked for any feedback/concerns regarding what the RAC can do? Challenges: handling polarization of the classroom connected to faculty morale. Post tenure discussions contribute to the decrease in morale. Discussions about what can and cannot be discussed in a classroom. Faculty do not feel supported and feel disconnected. Online and hybrid instruction may have fostered a greater sense of disconnect as well.

Value of the degree-may help with the recruitment piece and trigger some thoughts on how to connect with students.

Next meeting will be virtual.

If anyone is interested in participating in a working "recruitment" group please let Dlynn know

We are here to support each other.

