

Minutes

Saturday, 11/18/17 Meeting

BOR Philosophy and Religion Advisory Committee

Committee members present:

- Cox, Ed (Philosophy, Georgia State University)
- Eaton, Bill (Philosophy, Georgia Southern University)
- Hoffman, Michael (Philosophy, Georgia Institute of Technology)
- Peck, Larry (Philosophy, Georgia State University / Perimeter College) - chair
- Pynn, Tom (Religion, Kennesaw State University)
- Riker, Walter (Philosophy, University of West Georgia)
- Rouse, Susan (Philosophy, Kennesaw State University)
- Smith, Greg (Philosophy, Georgia Highlands College)
- Winchester, Jim (Philosophy, Georgia College and State University)
- George Wrisley, (Philosophy, University of North Georgia)

I) Approval of Minutes. Minutes from our last meeting, 4/08/2017, were approved.

II) Ecore

After our committee's work with the eCore PHIL 2010 course during AY 2016-2017, the following three items were still outstanding as of our spring, 2017 meeting (see minutes of that meeting):

- 1) Our committee decided to urge the eCore administrators to have philosophers involved in all revisions to the PHIL 2010 course. The committee would also ask to be advised when eCore is developing a new philosophy or religion course or revising the existing one, as a BOR committee member might possibly participate in the revision process.

Update. Larry Peck talked to Jason Huett, Associate Dean for Online Development at eCore, who agreed with this idea, and went further, asking Peck to appoint philosophers to do that. Peck suggested, and the eCore administration accepted, Lisa Yount (Savannah State), Jack Waskey (Dalton State), and Christine James (Valdosta State). Yount and Waskey are members of our committee. All three have taught the eCore philosophy course before, and Yount and James have previously participated in revisions of it. James reports that the three are already at work on a potential change to the course.

Dr. Huett also said that there are no proposals for new eCore philosophy courses, or an eCore religious studies course, on the horizon.

2) At many USG institutions, the individual institution's courses are scheduled earlier than the eCore ones. However, since the adjunct salary at individual institutions is often less per credit hour than that paid by eCore, adjunct instructors sometimes "bolt" to eCore after having signed up to teach other courses, causing headaches for department chairs. Our committee planned to look into whether anything could be done to change that.

Update. Dr. Huett acknowledged that this can happen, but said it is up to the individual institutions to solve problems like this. They can have rules that limit the number of eCore courses per year that their adjuncts can teach, or that stipulate that once an adjunct has signed up to teach an institution course he or she is not allowed to get out of it, to go to eCore.

3) Our committee members thought that the assessment data collected by eCore might be useful to the committee and to the individual USG institutions. The committee decided to find out if there is a way that the data can be shared. **Update:** Dr. Huett said that all of their assessment data is on their Web site, and is available to anybody.

The committee now considers its project with eCore to be finished.

III) "Value of a Philosophy Degree" Document

Walter Riker, and Jack Waskey had finished their work revising the "Value of a Philosophy Graduate" document. The committee went over the document section by section. After Prof. Riker puts in the final changes, it will be sent out to all committee members, and to the USG Central Office.

IV) Report on the 11/10/17 Meeting of Regents Advisory Committee Chairs.

Larry Peck, who attended this meeting, gave a presentation about it, and the committee members discussed it. Highlights:

2018 will be the "Momentum Year," at USG institutions. According to Dr. Tristan Denley, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer at the USG, recent research has shown that full-time students are more likely to go on to graduate than part-time ones. (In other words, for two students with equal preparation and equal motivation, the full-time one is more likely to graduate than the part-time one.) As a result, the USG should create "momentum," facilitating ways for students to be full-time, rather than half-time (if possible) and finish their studies sooner rather than later. Among other things, this will involve fazing out pre-requisite co; in favor of corequisite ones, and finding ways for students to take at least some course in their major sooner than they now can. This change will also affect advising.

Dr. John Sizemore, Associate Vice Chancellor for Distance Education, discussed recent

changes to eCore instruction that involve adaptive learning and competency-based education.

V) Advanced Placement Capstone Course

High School AP students get college credit for their AP courses if they receive a high enough score on their AP exams. But for this to happen a given college has to have a course that matches the high school course closely enough, and the college has to decide what the minimum AP test score will be for getting credit for the college course. There are no AP philosophy or religion courses, but Dr. Mary Ellen Dallman, Associate Professor Emerita at Valdosta State and a consultant for the College Board, recently approached Larry Peck whether the high school AP Capstone Seminar course might be matched with any philosophy course. At the meeting of this committee there was some discussion about whether it could be matched with a Critical Thinking course. Committee members Michael Hoffman and Ed Cox will investigate this further and get back to the committee.