

Minutes
Regents' Academic Advisory Committee on History
Athens, GA
20 February 2015

Attending: Jim Galt Brown, ABAC; Chris Curtis, Armstrong Atlantic; Kenja McCray, Atlanta Metro State; Patricia Stahl, Jon Sizemore, BOR Liaison; College of Coastal Georgia; Judy Cornett, Dalton State; Reid Derr, East Georgia College; Michael Gagnon, Georgia Gwinnett College; Bronson Long, Georgia Highlands; Andrew Goss, Georgia Regents; Carla Gerona, Georgia Tech; David Moon, Georgia Perimeter College; Andrew Goss, Georgia Regents; Jonathan Bryant, Georgia Southern; Johnathan O'Neill, Georgia Southern University; Tom Aiello, Gordon State Alice Pate Kennesaw State University; Bob Burnham, Middle Georgia College; Mark Vickrey, Kennesaw State University; Dixie Ray Haggard, Valdosta State University.

Absent: Babafemi Elufiede, Albany State; Dave Nelson, Bainbridge College; Randy Rosenburg, Clayton State University; Gary Sprayberry, Columbus State University; Charles J. (Jim) Carter, Darton College; Dawn Herd Clark, Fort Valley State; W, Gary Kline, Georgia Southwestern; Michelle Brattain, Georgia State University; Lateef Badru, Savannah State; Kevin Mason, South Georgia State College; J Tim Cleaveland University of Georgia; Jeff Pardue, University of North Georgia; Howard Goodson, University of West Georgia; Craig Pascoe, Georgia College and State University;

The meeting opened at 9:00.

Minutes from 2014 meeting were approved.

Report from the Annual Meeting of the Regents' Academic Advisory Committee Meeting:

Introductions

All members were introduced as well as Mr. Jon Sizemore the BOR Liaison who was thanked for his attendance after five years of no BOR representation at the annual meeting.

Report from the BOR - Jon Sizemore, BOR Liaison

eCore:

At a meeting last fall with the Mr. Sizemore four members of the committee expressed concerns regarding the academic rigor of eCore history classes as well as the OER history textbook developed for HIST 2111 in eCore. The entire committee expressed these same concerns to Mr. Sizemore. He stated that the eCore courses had received approval from the BOR General Education Committee and USG faculty teams. He added that to date 17 OER textbooks has been developed and put to use in eCore and that ultimately there would be four history courses available in eCore. Mr. Sizemore went on to say that a new process soliciting faculty feedback was under consideration and he would welcome input from RAACH members. He was also questioned about available data comparing student performance in eCore history courses versus on campus courses. He responded that the BOR Office of Research and Policy Analysis was making an effort to provide those numbers.

Tech Schools Articulation Agreement: Mr. Sizemore reviewed the data, albeit limited, collected to date concerning TCSG students who completed a history course at their institution prior to transferring to a USG school. The data shows that students who completed a follow-on course in the USG had slightly higher grades than students who did not transfer from the TCSG. The data also showed however, that the TCSG transfer students also had a significantly higher withdrawal rate in the follow-on history courses than students already in the USG. He stated that the study was ongoing and he did not have any updates.

As to the previous RAACH request concerning access to transfer GPA data from the TCSG into the USG Sizemore stated that overall the USG did not have access to that data but that individual USG institutions could assemble their own data.

The RAACH members also raised concerns regarding TCSG history faculty qualifications and Sizemore responded that the TCSG institutions were accredited through the same process as the USG by SACS/COC. As a side note Sizemore told the committee that an announcement was imminent renaming the TCSG the Career College System of Georgia.

Finally, committee members expressed their dissatisfaction of the data provided to it at this juncture by the BOR and TCSG and a discussion ensued regarding revocation of the RAACH approval of the TCSG Articulation Agreement of February 2012. The RAACH members unanimously decided to instead send a new request to the BOR for data and a deadline for providing that data of December 2015.

Other issues: System finances and enrollment were also discussed as well as the Affordable Learning Georgia initiative and its importance to the Governor, and the Chancellor.

ECore: Michael Gagne from Georgia Gwinnett College queried Jon Sizemore about student learning outcomes in eCore and how they aligned with institutional student learning outcomes. Sizemore stated that they were in alignment and that eCore majors graduated at a higher rate than USG students. RAACH members questioned the program assessment process in eCore and Sizemore responded that the program was assessed annually and the results published in the eCore Factbook. Committee members expressed their concern that there was no reference in that publication to student learning outcomes and Sizemore said he would pass on our concerns to eCore.

RAACH Chair Alice Pate raised the issue of the committee be included in a review process of eCore history course offerings. Jon Sizemore countered that he did not think that the RAACH had a role to play in that regard. The issue of eCore affiliation/non-affiliation was also broached and explained by Sizemore as well as the administration of the program by an independent unit situated on the University of West Georgia campus. He also affirmed eCore as an opportunity for Georgia students to complete their transferable core in a convenient and affordable manner. Committee members expressed concerns regarding oversight of history faculty involved in ECore. Mr. Sizemore said he would relay those concerns to the BOR.

A discussion then ensued regarding the OER HIST 2111 textbook. The sense of the RAACH was that the book was problematic and most members would not adopt it for a class. A show of hands

revealed that no committee members currently used the book. Sizemore responded that the book has already been adopted by a number of faculty within the USG and in other systems. He added that the book was written by four USG history faculty although it was pointed out to Sizemore that two of those four faculty were not trained in U.S. History. Chair Pate then requested that in the future our sub-committees on U.S. and World history be given the opportunity to review OER history texts prior to adoption. Sizemore said he would relay this request to ECore.

The textbook discussion continued with members citing the lack of depth and nuance in the book as well as the format shortcomings inherent in a PDF document and possible remedies like an HTML/Interactive format. Members also discussed ways of involving USG history faculty in a meaningful way in the development of OER resources that would benefit their professional development while at the same time providing a better product than produced to date. They also discussed the need to formalize such a process system wide. Compensation for such work was also discussed as well as Affordable Learning Georgia grant money available for that work.

Math pathways: this was briefly discussed. Jon Sizemore stated the initiative was premised on overall student success being paramount. In essence, the high system-wide failure rate in MATH 1101 has prompted the USG to advance MATH 1001 as the preferred core math pathway for most non-science majors. The committee voted to approve this initiative with 16 ayes, 2 nays and 1 abstention.

Affordable Learning Georgia: a thirty minute online presentation by ALG personnel provided committee members with the background and future plans for this initiative. The BOR Director of Library Services, Dr. Meryl Penson stated her openness to the RAACH becoming more involved in the development of OERs for the ALG initiative and the availability of grant money for this purpose was discussed: The RAACH members were unanimous in their support for pursuing such a course of action.

Faculty Qualifications for Study Abroad: a few instances of un-credentialed faculty leading history study abroad trips were discussed and committee members agreed to remain watchful for recurrences of this distressing development.

Elections

The vote for RAACH Chair Elect was postponed and will be conducted via email.

Informational Items:

- Standardized numbering for History courses in the core
- Area F Requirements

http://www.usg.edu/academic_programs/areaf/History.pdf

The Committee adjourned at 12:08 pm.