

## Minutes

Regents Academic Advisory Committee on History

Zoom meeting

February 12, 2021

Attending: James Galt-Brown, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College; Scott McDermott, Albany State University; Kenja McCray, Atlanta Metropolitan State College; Andrew Goss, Augusta University; Jonathan Sizemore, BOR University System Office Liaison; Adam Tate, Clayton State University; Patrizia Stahle, College of Coastal Georgia; Gary Sprayberry, Columbus State University; Tammy Byron, Dalton State College; Jeffrey Howell, East Georgia State College; Dayna Daniely, Fort Valley State University; Mark Vickery, Georgia Association of Historians; Michael Gunther, Georgia Gwinnett College; Bronson Long, Georgia Highlands College; Carla Gerona, Georgia Institute of Technology; Carol Herringer, Georgia Southern University; Michelle Brattain, Georgia State University; Alice Pate, Kennesaw State University; Bob Burnham, Middle Georgia State University; Matthew Adams, Savannah State University; Dana Caldemeyer, South Georgia State College; Jamie Kreiner, University of Georgia; Jeff Pardue, University of North Georgia; Barney J. Rickman, Valdosta State University

Minutes: Michelle Brattain, Chair-Elect

Meeting was called to order at 9 am

Chair: Michael Gunther

Welcome

Approval of minutes February 7, 2020

Approved

### Update from Chair

Dr. Gunther provided a brief update on correspondence with Dr. Brown from the system office—including a summary of the “History RAC 2020-2021 Charges” comprising items we are asked to consider this year—as well as notes from the USG RAC Information Session attended by Dr. Gunther and Dr. Brattain in September. He also thanked members for their patience and flexibility with meeting logistics and scheduling this year, and expressed hope that we will be able to meet in person in collaboration with the Georgia Association of Historians next year.

### USG Associate Vice Chancellor

Dr. Gunther introduced Jon Sizemore, Associate Vice Chancellor for Distance Education and Innovation at BOR USG, who updated the committee on system efforts to support learning innovation and faculty professional development in teaching. He also answered questions about revision to the general education core, which has been delayed until further notice as a result of COVID-19. He also informed the committee of the upcoming Momentum Summit.

### Georgia Tech Area E Course Proposal

In January, Dr. Gunther shared a proposal from Georgia Tech to place a course in Modern Latin American History into Area E. Tech has historically allowed students to select from a pool of courses—including courses that are not traditional 1000/2000 level survey courses—for satisfying the Area E History requirement. This would add to that pool.

The proposal was approved by votes collected by email before the meeting, 18 yes, 1 no.

### Credit by Examination

The RAACH has been asked to revisit the issue of credit by examination (AP, CLEP, DSST). In the past the RAACH had recommended that a student who earned a score of 4 or 5 on an AP exam could receive 3 hours of credit in History. There was a discussion of awarding credit for a score of 3, the difficulty of setting one central policy for all types of institutions within the USG, and the complications that might arise with respect to transfer.

A motion was made to retain the RAACH's existing recommendations on AP credit and the motion carried with 22 in favor and 1 abstention.

There was a discussion of CLEP tests. In 2019, the RAACH had approved a recommendation that USG not accept CLEP tests for credit.

A motion was made to retain the RAACH's established position on CLEP tests. The motion carried with 21 in favor and 2 against.

There was a brief discussion of DSST tests. A motion was made to retain the RAACH's recommendation that USG not accept DSST tests for credit. This motion also carried.

### Common Course Prefixes, Numbers, Titles, and Descriptions: African American History

The committee examined the numbers, titles, and descriptions of African American History courses offered within the USG. Not all institutions offer the course and among those that do, the numbers and descriptions.

A motion to create a subcommittee of RAACH members at institutions offering courses at the 2000-level to meet and propose a common number to the RAACH was approved unanimously.

Members who volunteered to serve on this subcommittee included: Kenja McCray, Dana Caldemeyer, Dayna Daniely, Bronson Long, and Jeff Howell.

A motion was introduced to recommend that all institutions in the USG offer a course in African American History. It was approved unanimously.

### General Education Redesign

Dr. Gunther updated the committee on meetings with Dr. Denley held during last spring and summer. Dr. Gerona's work in facilitating this series of very constructive meetings was acknowledged and RAACH members expressed their gratitude for this additional service over the summer. The executive director of the American Historical Association, Jim Grossman, attended one of the meetings.

During these meetings, Dr. Denley informed the RAACH that the latest plan to fulfill the legislative mandate for required coursework in US History and Government is to require 2 separate courses in

History and Political Science. The system office asked the RAACH to suggest themes that might connect these two required courses and RAACH members shared ideas based on major themes in the courses offered in their units. RAACH was asked to consider the rationale for allowing either HIST 2111 or 2112 to fulfill the requirement. RAACH members stressed that there are many common essential themes that are covered in each course and that a goal of this required course is also to teach students about historical thinking, which occurs in both courses.

The Chair reported that at this point it appears that a new core will not be implemented until 2023.

In discussion, RAACH members reiterated concerns that the core that is currently being proposed still does not have a requirement for a course that will introduce students to global, world, diversity, and multicultural scholarship. Given the economy and the world in which our graduates will be seeking jobs, the committee felt that global competency was essential to insure student success after graduation.

#### Other Business

In other business, RAACH also discussed the recent request from Representative Dunahoo for information about USG courses being offered that taught the themes of “privilege” or “oppression” and how this had been handled at our institutions. RAACH members collectively shared a concern that legislative interference in the academic content of the USG curriculum was inappropriate. However, the consensus among members was that it would not be helpful or constructive to issue a statement on this issue at this time.

#### Committee and Elections

Michelle Brattain is chair elect and will begin her term as chair on July 1, 2021.

Bronson Long was unanimously chosen as chair-elect for 2021-22.

Subcommittees were unanimously chosen to serve in 2021-22 in the following capacities:

#### At Large:

Alice Pate, Kennesaw State University

Barney “Jay” Rickman, Valdosta State University

#### Graduate:

Carol Herringer, Georgia Southern University

Carla Gerona, Georgia Institute of Technology

#### US:

Adam Tate, Clayton State University

Gary Sprayberry, Columbus State University

#### World:

Patrizia Stahle, College of Coastal Georgia

James Galt-Brown, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

Major Programs:

Andrew Goss, Augusta University

Adam Tate

A motion was made and unanimously approved to thank Michael Gunther for his service.

The meeting adjourned at 12 pm.