

University System of Georgia
Academic Advisory Committee for the Arts and Sciences

MINUTES

February 20, 2004
Macon State College

ATTENDING: Bobbie Robinson (ABAC), Surendra Pandey (Albany State), Ed Wheeler (Armstrong Atlantic), Curtis Bailey (Atlanta Metropolitan), Mary Mitchell Jones (Coastal Georgia), Bill Chappell (Columbus State), Elizabeth Ragsdale (Darton), Timothy Goodman (East Georgia), Virginia Carson (Floyd), Penny Mills (Gainesville), Dorothy Zinsmeister (Georgia Board of Regents), Beth Rushing (Georgia College), Ron Swofford (Georgia Perimeter), Kate Conway-Turner (Georgia Southern), William Wysochansky (Georgia Southwestern), David Blumenfeld (Georgia State), Linda Noble (Kennesaw), Larry Peterson (Kennesaw), Martha Wilson (Macon State), Carmine Palumbo (Middle Georgia), Bob Lyman (North Georgia), Jane Gates (Savannah State), Carl McDonald (South Georgia), Alan Gabrielli (Southern Polytechnic), Linda Calendrillo (Valdosta), James Helms (Waycross).

Budget Cuts. We had a wide-ranging discussion about how different campuses are addressing budget cuts. Among the issues discussed were early retirements, internal redirection, restructuring contracts from 12 to 10 months, retirement incentives, non-tenure track positions, increased faculty workload, and class size increases.

Enrollment Growth. Compounding the problem with budget cuts is the fact that most of our campuses are also experiencing enrollment growth. This has numerous consequences: classes extending from early morning to later in the evening and increasing demands on physical space. Some campuses have moved toward split semester courses to address this situation.

We had a long discussion about whether online instruction was a solution to the campus space problem. Some felt that online instruction is not consistently cost-effective, and cited a high withdraw rate at least at many institutions. Students think online instruction will be easier, and withdraw when they discover that their assumption was unfounded. Kathy Bishop, director of distance learning at Darton, was identified as a good source of information about online instruction.

Teacher Certification Changes. This discussion topic was the result of changes by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission to the requirements for teacher certification. Larry Peterson noted that Kennesaw was planning to offer special summer courses on pedagogy to help nontraditionally certified teachers gain the pedagogical skills necessary to enter the classroom.

FY04 Charge to the Academic Committees. Dorothy Zinsmeister outlined the background of the concern over Area F. Each academic committee is charged this year

with reviewing Area F requirements and with examining the degree to which the institutions are complying with the System Area F guidelines. Dr. Zinsmeister asked us to be mindful of the Area F concerns in the Arts and Sciences disciplines. She explained that there is some misunderstanding about the System policy with regard to Area F – variability is OK as long as the courses listed in Area F follow the guidelines established at the System level. Several academic committees are proposing changes in their Area F guidelines: Biology, English, and Information Technology were those that were mentioned in this regard.

We discussed the rubrics for assessing institutional progress towards meeting the Regents Principles for Teacher Preparation, with particular focus on the areas where Arts and Sciences faculty can and should play a role. Discussion of some institutional strategies for engaging Arts and Sciences faculty yielded several good ideas: Albany State is working on a model whereby field experience is evaluated by A&S faculty, and Kennesaw has addressed a resource problem by charging a course fee for courses that require faculty travel to conduct field supervision. We agreed to continue a discussion of these ideas on a listserv, to be established for the group by Beth Rushing.

Nomination and election of officers. We decided to nominate and elect officers via the listserv. The officers include a Chair, a Vice Chair, and representatives from each of three categories of institutions: research school, four-year school, two-year school.

Open discussion. We concluded the meeting with sharing ideas and changes in a number of areas: assessment of core curriculum, summer compensation, and pay for study abroad.