

Biology Academic Advisory Committee Meeting 5 April 2002

Opening of the Meeting: The meeting was opened at 1:00 pm by the Chair, Dr. G. Caywood Chapman

In attendance were:

Eric Sun, Macon State University
David Davis, Macon State University
Theresa Stanley, Gordon College
James K. Adams, Dalton State University
Emil K. Urban, Augusta State University
Jung Choi, Georgia Institute of Technology
David L. Bechler, Valdosta State University
Virginia Michelich, Georgia Perimeter College
Elizabeth Thorton, Abraham Baldwin College
John Pasto, Middle Georgia College
Bill Wall, Georgia College and State University
Donald Rhinehardt, Georgia State University
Bill Burnett, Southern Polytechnic State University
Greg Hampikian, Clayton State University
Ralph J. Rascoti, Kennesaw State University
Judy Awong-Taylor, Armstrong-Atlantic University
George Stanton, Columbus State University
Caywood Chapman, Gainesville College

Update from the BOR

Dr. John T Wolfe, Jr., Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Affairs, Board of Regents, provided an update on BOR activities. He reported that Chancellor Meredith brought with him a different perspective on the BOR's role in educational affairs of the System and its institutions. He noted that Chancellor Meredith was affable and approachable. Wolfe further noted that Meredith is a member of and has good working relations with the Southern Regional Education Board, SREB.

Dr. Wolfe reported that all academic matters should be referred to Dr. Frank Butler, Chancellor of Academic Affairs. Dr. Butler has established an ad hoc University Relations Committee to review and examine a variety of issues. This committee will explore relations with military bases, especially with Army bases, and how the USG can better serve them. A key focus will be to examine whether or not the USG has impediments or blocks that hinder military personnel from attending USG schools. The committee will also examine issues involving admissions, retention, and distance learning as well as other issues.

Dr. Wolfe also reported on the Faculty Recruitment and Retention Committee. The charge to this committee is to look at factors that are impediments to recruiting and

retaining qualified faculty. He noted that the lack of sabbaticals was one key factor. Other issues being examined were retirement, benefits, and the hiring of specialty faculty, which up until now has only taken place at the University of Georgia, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, and the Medical College of Georgia.

Importantly, faculty are required to work with department heads to insure that if anyone is ill, that teaching, service and professional development requirements within the department are properly met. BOR Academic Policy 80208 addresses sick leave policies and procedures. Moreover, faculty must inform the Head of their illness, reports regarding the faculty's leave-of-absence must be filed as whole numbers, but the policy does not state that faculty work a standard 40 hour week.

It was reported that no information on the FY 2003 budget had been releases yet.

It was brought to the attention of the committee that House Bill 1321 requires that institutions identify international students and report if they are not attending classes.

It was reported there is a shortage of MMR vaccine on the market. As such students do not need to provide proof of vaccination when applying to a college but only need to provide proof of vaccination after having been admitted.

It was reported that presidents of institutions can now award Emeritus Status to a faculty member.

The issue of graduate student health insurance was addressed, and it was noted that there is currently no set policy on how to provide it. A lack of health insurance is seen as an impediment to attracting good graduate students to system schools.

External degrees are being re-evaluated in the light of distance learning. Primary areas of focus include checking to see if the offering of such degrees adheres to BOR and SACS requirements.

Minutes form the Previous AAC Meeting: The minutes form the 20-21 October 2001 meeting where approved as presented to the committee by Caywood Chapman.

Report from the Executive Committee: Biology AAC Executive committee members met at the annual System wide meeting in Macon for executive committee members. No specific comments were made about the meeting. Those wishing to see the minutes can go to <http://www.usg.edu/admin/comm/biosci/ExecCommNotes.html>.

Regent's Quantitative Skills Test: Dr. Theresa Stanley, Gordon College, spoke on the Regents Quantitative Skills Test and provided a handout, Quantitative Skills Question Classification. It has not been determined whether or not the test will be an un-timed computer based test or a time limited test. A problem with the test was that it is proposed to begin at the end of the first year. If the test is failed, students will have to take remedial classes. Tests would be administered by a institution's testing center.

Biology Issues: Dr. Eric Sun of Macon State College reported on Biology issues involving area D of the Core Curriculum. A discussion of the structure of Area D at different System institutions followed. The discussion included e-courses and the offering of Saturday labs for students using on-line or distance learning formats and the role of Clayton State College's e-core courses.

General Discussion: Items that arose during the general discussion included the role that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) played in the various institutions and the effect SACS had on the institutions in its review of teaching credentials of faculty.

During general discussion it was also announced that the Mind Spring Semester will start in mid March.

SOTAB: A brief discussion of times the annual SATOB meeting could be held at UGA. The Heads were asked to encourage their faculty to attend SOTAB.

Election of Executive Committee and Chair Elect: The following individuals were elected to the Biology Academic Advisory Committee's Executive Committee: John Pasto, Middle Georgia College; Elisabeth Elder, Georgia Southwestern State University; Donald Rhinehart, Georgia State University; and Greg Hampikian, chair elect, Clayton College and State University.

Dr. Caywood Chapman turned the meeting over to chair elect David Bechler, who then proposed trying to meet in the north Georgia Mountains for 2002.

Respectively submitted,
David L. Bechler, Chair Elect
Valdosta State University