
**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Regents Academic Advisory Committee on
Geological Sciences and Geography (ACGSG)**

At

Macon State College

April 4, 2008

Present:

John R. Anderson

Crawford Elliott

Robert Fuller

Pamela Gore

Curtis Hollabaugh

Iheanyi Osondu

Ntungwa Maasha

Billy Morris

Sam Peavy

Dallas Rhodes

Mike Roden

Lewis Rogers (retired)

David Schwimmer

Harold Trendell

Dorothy Zinsmeister

Georgia Perimeter College

Georgia State University

North Georgia College & State University

Georgia Perimeter College

State University of West Georgia

Fort Valley State University

Coastal Georgia Community College

Georgia Highlands College

Georgia Southwestern State University

Georgia Southwestern State University

University of Georgia

Gainesville State College

Columbus State University

Kennesaw State University

Board of Regents USG

1. Call to order and introductions.

The Regents Academic Advisory Committee on Geological Sciences and Geography met at Macon State College, beginning in a joint session with other sciences, led by Dorothy Zinsmeister.

The joint session discussed the proposed changes to the Georgia Core Curriculum. Other topics mentioned included:

- Courses with the same titles and course numbers but which may not have common learning outcomes across the system
- A new hire at the USG, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Faculty Affairs
- Legislative updates posted online
- Mention of a System-wide policy or draft policy on AP and IB courses
- Teacher Education Early Childhood Area F Recommendations – content, focus learning outcomes, prerequisites, who teaches the courses, not for Area D or B.
- Journals needed – Chemistry Committee and Library Committee
- Tie things to existing initiatives, such as STEM
- Dorothy Zinsmeister mentioned that she is retiring

2. Geological Sciences and Geography meeting followed joint meeting.

Curtis Hollabaugh presided. Deliberations followed the chair's welcome and brief self-introductions by the members. Topics of discussion included:

- Last meeting was 2006 at Georgia Gwinnett College/Georgia Perimeter College, Lawrenceville.
- Previous meeting was 2004 at Berry College
- Discussion on who has recently served as Chair of the Committee.
- Discussion of the by-laws and quorum (40% of member schools)
- Discussion of proposed new Core Curriculum by many members of the committee
- Dallas Rhodes noted National Geography Standards, indicated that we also need National Geology Standards
- Discussion of Integrated Science (ISCI 2001 and ISCI 2002) courses. Issues include personnel, funds and lab space.
- Discussion of need to standardize course numbers of upper level Geology courses like Mineralogy. Dallas Rhodes mentioned that he developed a matrix of comparable courses and will share that with us by email.
- Discussion of need of list of sites suitable for field work and field trips to be shared among USG faculty through listserv or through a website like wetpaint.com but not published on web for public, in order to protect sites. Web site might list outcrops visited by groups like Georgia Geological Society, or Graves Mountain.
- Discussion of a Geology exit exam, assessment, or national certification test. ASBOG (National Association of State Boards of Geology) provides independent assessment tools. Issues involve cost (\$150) and location (Macon). Could business community provide support? Could exams be given on campus? Curtis Hollabaugh will investigate.
- Crawford Elliott noted that we should consider non-computer test methods of assessment. A field course in geology can serve as an assessment vehicle (a capstone course) too and we need to be open to many options of assessment. For example, a person can score a 100% correct on ASBOG fundamentals test and we do not know if that person can identify common rocks and minerals, common fossils, take a proper strike and dip, identify formations in the field and do rudimentary mapping, etc). I argue these fundamental skills are not being assessed well by computer based methods like ASBOG and ASBOG tends to focus on skills needed in environmental consulting. Employment in the oil and gas sector is rising and our curriculum should be atuned to this rise too.
- Someone mentioned that ETS no longer offers a Geology GRE exam.
- Discussion of national program accreditation, but this may require additional staff
- Dallas Rhodes mentioned that Carleton College has a website with information on Building Strong Geoscience Departments. <http://serc.carleton.edu/departments/>
- Location of 2009 meeting not decided at time of adjournment.

Dr. Pamela J. W. Gore

Professor of Geology

Georgia Perimeter College