

MINUTES
REGENTS' ACADEMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HISTORY
FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2006
Clayton State University

Members Present: Don Butts, Lee Ann Caldwell, Reid Derr, Bob Durand, Doug Flamming, Gene Hatfield, Hugh Hudson, Ric Kabat, Peter Makaya, Rob Page, Mark Vickrey, Alice Pate, Brian Parkinson, Pam Roseman, Patricia Stahle

The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m. with a welcome from Gene Hatfield of Clayton State University, who urged participants to look at Spivey Hall while at the College and announced upcoming tours of the National and State Archives.

Minutes from the meeting of April 9, 2005, were read and approved; Sandi Peacock was commended for the thoroughness of the 2005 Minutes.

Announcements:

Judy Cornett, the incoming Chair of the RAACH, who would also take the minutes, was ill. Discussion ensued regarding the election of a Chair for the 2007-2008 academic year; Doug Flamming (Georgia Tech) remarked that the position rotated through all institutions and regions of the state. Pam Roseman (Georgia Perimeter College), who had expressed interest in the position, was elected and served as secretary for the meeting.

Updates from the Board of Regents

Dr. Sutton, an historian, and Senior Advisor for Academic Affairs at the BOR, attended the meeting and commented that he would act as a liaison from the BOR to the RAACH. He stressed the importance of representatives from the BOR meeting with faculty groups.

His Report was as follows:

The new Chancellor:

Dr. Sutton remarked that this is a period of transition for the Board of Regents as the previous Chancellor had left under less than happy circumstances, and that the new Chancellor is also new to academics. He reported that Chancellor Davis is open and easy to deal with and he wants to move the System to a level of performance he sees lacking at present. This would, of course, be a change from Chancellor Meredith, who neither stressed the need for, nor accomplished, change.

In addition to the new Chancellor there are also many new Board members as well.

Facts relative to the USG:

The shape of the System will be changing:

- There is a new college: Georgia Gwinnett State College.
- The System is expecting a dramatic increase in the number of students (400,000 by 2017; there are now 200,000 students in the System colleges). This will generate an increased demand for faculty, new buildings, and will dictate new ways of teaching.
- State-wide assessment will continue with an emphasis on answering the question: are we ready for the future?
- In the past year, four two-year colleges moved to four-year, and four four-year institutions changed their status as well.

The Budget

Dr. Sutton reported that the news from the Session is good. The System was given \$1.9 billion, which is the highest budget it has ever had. This constitutes a 6.6% increase, though he commented that it doesn't make up for the losses of the last few years. There will be a 4% increase for merit, delayed until January 2007.

The USG budget now constitutes 11.5% of the total state budget; this is up from 11% for FY 2006. The funding formula is driven by enrollment, but Dr. Sutton questioned whether this formula would be adequate for the future.

Regent Shelnut's Four-Point Plan:

- Retention, Progression, Graduation
- Assessment of the total impact of the USG on the State of Georgia
- Improve communications of the USG with Georgia's citizens and communities. This has been an emphasis for the past few years, but it must continue.
- Facilities: The USG needs faster ways to construct and fund building projects. Dr. Sutton pointed out that the usual wait time is now seven years, which is too long. A new funding stream may be created for the USG, in addition to State bonding. The new system would allow the USG to generate funds more quickly

The AP Issue:

Dr. Sutton commented that this issue is "back on the table" as the public does not like the fact that AP credit is given differently by different institutions. The real issue is with those who make 3s and 4s on AP exams. Therefore the vote that the RAACH took on the AP issue in April, 2005, will not "fly."

The Chancellor's emphases:

- Retention, progression and graduation will be a priority, but Sutton thinks that there is a need to look at specific institutions, rather than at types in attempting to meet national graduation rates by 2010. The Chancellor believes that different approaches should be used for different colleges.
- The Chancellor also wants to move beyond "process," to results. Both reports and changes will become more immediate than in the past. Institutions will be asked to show results in ways and on a time table not used previously.
- Chancellor Davis will be appointing an Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs in light of the departure of Dr. Papp to Kennesaw State University.

At this point Dr. Sutton asked for questions from the RAACH:

About RPG:

Sandi Peacock of Georgia Southern asked if an effort will be made to talk to students withdrawing from institutions about why they have chosen not to return. Dr. Sutton responded that all students who do not return should be asked why. June Hopkins (Armstrong Atlantic) reported that this question is asked at her institution of students who are not returning to college. Dr. Sutton cited the National Study on Student Engagement, a national database relative to RPG, and commented that the USG must do a better job of finding out about its students. Bob Durand (Macon State College) asked whether in fact students are now surveyed, or whether this is something that is in the future. Hugh Hudson (Georgia State University) said that he believed the practice is supposed to be in place at his institution. Dr. Sutton again stressed that the Chancellor will be looking at "critical" institutions and will not take up Board meetings with generic items.

Mark Vickrey (Southern Polytechnic University) asked about RPG in terms of the HOPE grant.

Dr. Sutton acknowledged that the issue of losing HOPE in monumental proportions came from the fact that students are entering college woefully unprepared. He emphasized the need of the System to work with high schools and middle schools to collaborate on preparing students for college. Sutton also praised the work of the last few years in which professors have been brought together with middle and high school teachers by discipline. A Planning Board composed of professors, DTAE and high school teachers has been created; the early reports are that the talks are progressing and promising.

Tenure Issues:

Hugh Hudson then asked that ongoing communication be set up for the RAACH. He cited two concerns specifically:

- Tenure: How effective is post-tenure review? Why is it being done and where does the material collected end up? Dr. Sutton commented that this system was put in place by Chancellor Portch and Dr. Muyskens, both of whom are no longer at the System office. The question now appears to be, "We have this policy, now what does it do?" At the moment there is no process. The System and the institutions do not have enough information about how PTR is affecting the faculty. Sutton will post his findings on all issues to the existing RAACH *list serv*.
- Georgia Gwinnett College: Will the new institution have a non-tenure approach? If it does, it may be an assault on tenure. Dr. Sutton acknowledged that he had heard the "no-tenure" rumors but that he has no concrete information on the subject. He promised to find out and get back to the RAACH.

Peter Makaya (Middle Georgia College) asked about RPG in two-year schools. Dr. Sutton acknowledged that the mission of two year institutions differs from that of four year schools and that they would not be treated generically by the current Chancellor.

Comprehensive Program Review:

Pam Roseman asked about the future of Comprehensive Program Review, particularly in light of the mission of the two year colleges. Dr. Sutton replied that a decision had been made to put Program Review on the back burner for a while. He also suggested that at some institutions Program Review was internally driven.

June Hopkins also asked about comprehensive Program Review, remarking on what an arduous process it is; Armstrong Atlantic, like Georgia Perimeter College) completed this review in Spring 2006. Dr. Sutton commented that the System office is more interested in the process rather than the outcome. Sutton agreed that the idea was good, but not well thought through.

Unfunded Mandates:

Doug Flamming asked about the purpose of the unfunded mandates coming from the System office. Specifically, those on:

- Comprehensive Program Review
- Retention programs
- Assessing the effectiveness of specific programs
- Public relations
- Teaching technology
- Formal mentoring programs

He also asked that Dr. Sutton be an advocate for the faculty. Dr. Sutton acknowledged that the burden is great and that many of the unfunded mandates do not originate in the System office, and suggested that some come from college Presidents. He commented that he does think that some of these mandates will go away and he acknowledged that there should be a clear idea as to the “why” behind any new mandate. The new Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs will be crucial in answering many of these concerns.

Hugh Hudson (Georgia State University) spoke to the use of the Program of Study reviews at GSU; he sees them as vehicles for developing action plans for the future direction of the History Department at GSU.

Old Business: There was no old business

New business:

Issues for next year to be passed on to Judy Cornett:

- Hugh Hudson suggested adding Rick Sutton to the list serv, which would keep RAACH connected and informed. Alice Pate (Columbus State) supported this idea.
- Peter Makaya (Middle Georgia College) asked whether the Committee needed to revisit the issue of AP credit. Sandi Peacock asked Dr. Sutton whether we should perhaps wait for action from the System office. He responded that it would probably be a good idea to go ahead and start gathering data. No further action was taken on this issue. Doug Flamming commented that at Georgia Tech they are feeling pressure on acceptance of AP credit; Georgia Tech accepts only 4s and 5s. He pointed out that if the History Department accepted 3s, then that would mean fewer students in History classes and State funding would become an issue. Dr. Sutton said that the goal was not necessarily to accept lower scores, but rather to have a better justification for keeping the scores as they are.

Lee Ann Caldwell (Georgia College and State University) asked Dr. Sutton about the International Baccalaureate. Dr. Sutton said that he anticipates that this will become an issue. All of this, of course, relates to the larger question of what is happening in the high schools.

Sandi Peacock thanked Dr. Sutton for coming.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Submitted by:
Pam Roseman, Georgia Perimeter College