

Regents Academic Advisory Committee on History

Thursday, February 26, 2009

North Georgia College and State University

Minutes

Members Present: Fred Van Hartesveldt, Gene Hatfield, Hugh Hudson, Georgia Mann, Pam Roseman, Mark Vickrey, Bronson Long, Michael Gagnon, Mohamed Mukhtar, Alice Pate, Jim Carter, Paul Riggs, James Galt-Brown, Jonathan Bryant, Craig Pascoe, Lee Williams, Linda Noble

Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m., Thursday, March 26, 2009 with a welcome from Alice Pate.

Georgia Mann welcomed the group to North Georgia College and State University and gave instructions to the reception and dinner

Gene Hatfield gave the group information about the Georgia Association of Historians and encouraged everyone to attend the annual meeting. He distributed information about the GAH.

Minutes of February 22, 2008 approved

Alice Pate distributed material from the Board of Regents about the Roles and Responsibilities of the Academic Advisory Committee

Update from the Liaison of the University System: Linda Noble

Linda introduced herself; she is the Assistant Vice President for Faculty Affairs; she also works on Faculty Development events

Budget:

Started fiscal year without a clear understanding of how serious things would be. The governor has asked for an additional \$20,000,000 from the USG. Currently are funding an additional 25,000 students on the 2007 budget. Real challenge is for the USG to manage population growth with the budget cutbacks. USG has asked for funds from the Economic stimulus that has come to Georgia. Linda encouraged the groups to check out grant funding money from the Stimulus package. She also pointed out that the USG has cut the Office of International Education. Linda stressed that one of her responsibilities is to be sure that faculty development opportunities in international education are still there.

Other than that, the USG is changing the way it is doing things including travel being cut significantly. She didn't know at this point how much money the system will have for faculty development next year, but asked the group if they would help identify priorities.

Hugh Hudson asked about furloughs. The Chancellor has taken a strong stand against furloughs. The USG is one of the only two departments in the State who are not using furloughs; but the Governor may mandate furloughs. At that point the USG would not have a choice but to enforce furloughs. A discussion followed about the complications of furloughing faculty members.

The question was asked if an instance had arisen in which a faculty member forced to take a furlough had taken the case to Court. Linda was unaware that such a case had developed in Georgia.

Question was asked about merging the traditionally black colleges with other local institutions. Nothing has been undertaken yet.

Discussion turned to Faculty Development. USG offered monthly workshops (how to get your book published how to teach online, teaching portfolios, grant writing). The topics are up on the USG site and film clips are available. To date have had about 180 participants; also available live over the web. The workshops take place on Fridays. Linda has been doing workshops on campuses and her office can offer these workshops on our campuses. Assessment is also a big piece in training.

About the Academic Advisory Committees:

The Committees are function differently; and the USG thought it would be good to strengthen the duties and interchange between the Advisory committees. In addition to developing By Laws, the Committees will be reviewing degree proposals. The first step is a letter of intent, and then depending on the content, the institution might be asked to submit further information.

The committee could write a letter of approval for proposals. Institutional feedback must come in 60 days before the proposal is considered by the USG.

Georgia Mann asked about the issue of **international education** and whether the USG is moving away from Study Abroad. And this is the question: how can the system maintain the goals of the strategic plan in the current budget crunch.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m. for the reception.

The meeting was reconvened at 930am on Friday 27 February, 2009.

Members Present: Fred Van Hartesveldt, Hugh Hudson, Georgia Mann, Pam Roseman, Mark Vickrey, Bronson Long, Michael Gagnon, Mohamed Mukhtar, Alice Pate, Jim Carter, Paul Riggs, James Galt-Brown, Jonathan Bryant, Craig Pascoe, Lee Williams, Linda Noble, Ric Kabat, Doug Flammig, Georgia Tech, Stacey McCray, Atlanta Metropolitan College

Linda Noble continued her report from Thursday:

Core Curriculum Evaluation Committee

Chaired by George Rainbolt at GSU. The website, created by Dr. Rainbolt, contains minutes, links, a blog, survey results. Now there are three draft documents on the site; faculty should review and post opinions on the blog. (Linda is creating a list serv for the historians. She will send the list to us soon and we should check for accuracy)

Philosophy of the Committee: Budget may direct the decisions of the Committee. Things that must be taken into consideration: the size of the core and the flexibility. The Committee is not creating curriculum.

Recommendations

Looking at the three documents:

1. Size of the Core: The Core will still be 42 hours in A-E and in Area F. If there is a specific course that some programs need to add, it must be approved, and it must also be open to all students.
2. Flexibility of the Core: this is the piece that carries the greatest amount of change. Suggestion is that still have areas of A-E, but that the System would only designate 3 hours in each Area. This would give the institutions the flexibility to add other courses.
3. Learning goals: The Committee wants learning goals and that the institutions would have to come up with how the goals would be met.

These are drafts only. If all of the recommendations are approved, no institution will have to engage in major revisions. Institutions are given flexibility

Overlay requirements: Institution would designate courses that would give students either a global or a US perspective.

Questions:

Would this mean that the USG would dictate that all graduates should have a world history course.

The answer was no. This is something that would be up to the individual institutions.

Hugh Hudson suggested that the group send a message of appreciation for the openness of what goes in Committee.

The representative from Valdosta State pointed out that his faculty wants to know where the data is to support the need for change.

Alice suggested that one concern should be the use of part time instructors. Linda pointed out that the trend to use more and more contingent faculty is continuing. A national trend, and will continue with the economic situation.

Hugh Hudson moved: that the RAACH send a message to the Central Office of thanks that the Core Curriculum Committee's work is more transparent.

Seconded and passed.

The merger of the traditionally black colleges is on going.

The merger of two year schools and tech schools is not going forward. There was no System representative on the committee

Hugh Hudson spoke to the issue of the ORP bill. The bill will be dropped; Hugh Hudson will send this bill out on the list. He suggested that we might want to contact our representatives and express concern. Last year the bill was dropped but not reported out of committee.

Michael Gagnon presented the proposal for a history major at Georgia Gwinnett College.

Went over the letter of intent. Innovations: class size is limited; they have smart classrooms

The Committee voted to draft a letter of support for the development of the History program of study at Georgia Gwinnett College.

Alice asked for volunteers to serve on a **By-Laws Committee:**

Volunteers: Alice Pate; James Galt-Brown, ABAC.

Doug Flammig was nominated to Chair the RAACH in 2010-2111. He was elected unanimously.

Report from ABAC by James Galt-Brown.

In the interests of the best interest of the students and to properly serve the History majors at ABACA motion was made that the RAACH write a letter reconfirming our dedication to the Area F language requirement . The motion was seconded and passed with one abstention.

Minutes prepared by Pam Roseman; submitted by Hubert van Tuyll, RAACH chair 2009-10