

**Board of Regents, University System of Georgia  
Administrative Committee on Public Health**

Meeting – May 4, 2006  
Room 7059, 270 Washington Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia

**Summary of Proceedings**

Committee Members and Attendees

Armstrong Atlantic State University (AASU)

Dr. Barry Eckert, Dean, College of Health Professions

Fort Valley State University (FVSU)

Dr. Seyoum Gelaye, Dean, College of Graduate Studies and Extended Education Outreach

Georgia State University (Georgia State)

Dr. Michael Eriksen, Director, Institute of Public Health

Georgia Southern University (Georgia Southern)

Dr. Linda Bleicken, Provost

Dr. Charles Hardy, Dean, Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health

Medical College of Georgia (MCG)

Dr. Carol Campbell, Chair, Department of Health Informatics

University of Georgia (UGA)

Dr. Phil Williams, Interim Dean, College of Public Health

University System of Georgia

Dr. Frank Butler, Vice Chancellor for Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs,

***Committee Chair***

Dr. Valerie Hepburn, Consultant

Dr. Butler convened the meeting at 9:05am. Committee members and attendees introduced themselves. Members reviewed the summary of the August 4, 2005 inaugural meeting of the committee.

Dr. Butler began the discussion with a report on the recent work of the Task Force on Health Professions Education and how that effort might link to the public health initiative.

The group also discussed the recently completed Master Teacher in Public Health Workshop, which had been hosted by the Committee and the University of Georgia, College of Public Health on April 21, 2006. The workshop was well attended and well received by faculty across the USG institutions. Everyone agreed that these kinds of sessions which provide a forum for faculty exchange and shared learning are extremely valuable but that infrastructure and some resources are necessary to support this work. Discussion centered on possible approaches and methods to secure resources. Dr. Butler encouraged the group to provide any suggestions and agreed to pursue options within the USG. At a minimum, everyone agreed that an annual gathering, through a faculty workshop and/or a student public health conference, would be desirable. Moreover, the

group thought that a USG-supported grant program to encourage faculty development and inter-collegial research collaboration should be developed.

The group then discussed how the progress of the broader public health academic effort in Georgia might be measured. The focus turned to accountability and how the USG might be able to document the various institutions' training roles and expanded contributions to research, partnerships with federal, state and local agencies, and evidence-based practice. Ultimately, it was agreed that the merits of the enhanced education might be linked to improved health status in Georgia. Yet, the challenge is how to measure the impact of public health education on any such changes. In the future, the USG will be more focused on the business model, linking program objectives to tangible results for institutions, students and communities.

Each of the institutions then reported on their respective programs. The universities highlighted extensive progress underway along with challenges. Georgia Southern and the University of Georgia have been through major, successful faculty recruitment efforts this past year. The other programs are undergoing slower growth or are functioning at a stable operational level. All agreed that the workload is daunting. AASU has just been through the re-accreditation process. Georgia State will submit their self-study this summer. UGA is submitting their accreditation application in the summer. Georgia Southern is planning for their initial application in 2008. MCG and FVSU are considering longer term approaches. Other areas which the group identified for possible collaboration are study abroad initiatives, curriculum sharing and student recruitment options.

A report of the work of the Committee and the six institutions will be submitted to the Chancellor and the USG leadership over the summer. Dr. Hepburn will circulate the progress reporting template to the institutions and she and Dr. Butler will complete the report. Once finalized, the overview and specific institutional reports will be shared with the group.

Dr. Butler thanked everyone for their hard work and excellent progress. The meeting adjourned at 11:00am.