

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

Meeting – September 7, 2007
Armstrong Center, Armstrong Atlantic State University, Savannah, Georgia

Summary of Proceedings

Committee Members and Attendees

Armstrong Atlanta State University (AASU)

Dr. Marilyn Buck, Interim Dean, College of Health Professions
Dr. Sandy Streater, Chair, Department of Health Sciences
Dr. Michael Mink, MPH Program Director

Fort Valley State University (FVSU)

Dr. Anna Holloway, Dean, Graduate School
Dr. Joyce Jenkins, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Georgia State University (Georgia State)

John Steward, Program Director, Partnership for Urban Health Research

Georgia Southern University (Georgia Southern)

Dr. Charles Hardy, Dean, Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, *Committee Chair*
Dr. Lynn Woodhouse, Associate Dean, Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health

Medical College of Georgia (MCG)

Dr. Carol Campbell, Associate Dean, School of Allied Health

University of Georgia (UGA)

Dr. Phil Williams, Dean, College of Public Health

University System of Georgia (USG)

Dr. Sandra Stone, Vice Chancellor for Academic Planning and Programs,
Dr. Valerie Hepburn, Public Health Academic Programs Consultant

Dr. Hardy convened the meeting at 10:00am. He thanked the AASU public health group for hosting the meeting. Dr. Stone welcomed everyone on behalf of the Chancellor and the Board of Regents. Committee members and attendees introduced themselves.

The ACOPH accepted for recording the summary of the previous meeting, held on April 13, 2007. Dr. Hardy presented the proposed bylaws for consideration by the group. He asked Dr. Hepburn to explain the history of the ACOPH and the Board of Regents strategic plan for public health. Following discussion, the group formally adopted the proposed bylaws and the draft mission statement. In doing so, the ACOPH officially selected Dr. Hardy by acclamation to chair the group. The group also endorsed the three year report of the ACOPH with minor data additions to be provided by MCG.

Dr. Stone provided an overview of the newly adopted strategic plan of the Chancellor and suggested strategies for the group to become involved, particularly in Goals 1, 2 and 3. It was

suggested that the ACOPH provide its current three year report to the Chancellor with a cover letter detailing the role that public health is able to play in supporting the strategic directions of the USG. A more formal presentation to the Board will be considered during early 2008.

The group discussed a number of other activities underway across the state which might have an impact on public health. Specific attention was devoted to the development of the “Innovation Crescent” and the various legislative activities focused on public health. The group agreed that they should offer their research and service expertise to these initiatives. Dr. Stone committed to send everyone information about the USG’s strategic goals and the innovation crescent. Dr. Hepburn will advise Senior Vice Chancellors Rahn and Daniel about the ACOPH willingness to help with policy committee work.

Dr. Stone and Dr. Hepburn shared additional updates on the USG health and medical programs activities, the funding request for the public health workforce study, and funding which has been provided for student conferences in 2008 and 2009. Dr. Stone also reaffirmed her commitment to seek funding for another master teacher workshop in spring 2008.

Dr. Hardy then recognized the schools and programs to report on their progress. Dr. Williams began the reports with an update on UGA’s activities. He noted strong enrollment, the beginning of their DrPH programs, and sound research funding and production. Recruitment of faculty remains a challenge. Dr. Williams reported that UGA will be going through the accreditation review process in 2008-2009.

Drs. Jenkins and Holloway reported on the challenges faced by FVSU and their faculty turnover. They reaffirmed FVSU’s commitment to graduate public health, and solicited support from the group particularly with their important environmental health focus.

John Steward reported on work underway at Georgia State. Their applicant pool remains very strong and new faculty have been hired. Extension of current NIH funding is being sought. Dr. Campbell discussed the restructuring situation at MCG and noted that they have delayed their accreditation self-study to focus all attention on course activities until new faculty can be hired.

Dr. Mink reported that AASU now has a Delta Omega (public health honor society) chapter. They are the only USG institution with a chapter. AASU has stabilized enrollment and is restructuring curriculum to focus on competencies and practice learning.

Dr. Hardy reported on the progress underway at Georgia Southern, and introduced the new associate dean, Lynn Woodhouse, to the group. Enrollment has been strong, with 13 new DrPH students, and a strong complement of new faculty. Georgia Southern has a new building for its college but construction issues and equipping the building have caused some delays. Expected occupancy is January 2008.

The institutional reports triggered a detailed discussion on faculty recruitment, financing of graduate education and possible approaches to clinical faculty lines. Everyone agreed that a state scholarship program for public health practitioners would be valuable. Further, it would be possible for master’s level academic professionals to gain support for doctoral education through

the USG's Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). The institutions could use TAP as a tool to "grow their own" new faculty. Dr. Stone agreed to explore the prospect of multi-year contracts for clinical faculty lines.

The group then brainstormed about areas of future work for the ACOPH. They include:

- presentation and ongoing interface with the Board of Regents
- active engagement and integration with the USG strategic plan
- faculty development activities, specifically in the area of pedagogy, research, shared education, and salary support
- framing the role of public health in economic development and community advancement
- shared service learning partnerships, particularly in conjunction with the UGA cooperative extension program
- international education and study abroad partnerships
- USG public health education website with resources and links to each institution
- annual master teacher workshop

The group agreed to meet annually in the fall, in conjunction with the GPHA meeting if possible. They hope to combine that annual meeting with a spring gathering around the master teacher workshop. AASU agreed to help host the December 2008 meeting on the Friday of the GPHA conference. The group agreed that Dr. Hardy's initial term would extend through that meeting.

Dr. Stone and Dr. Hepburn will convene in the coming month for follow-up activities. They will work with Dr. Hardy to disseminate information to the group and key stakeholders.

The group thanked Drs. Buck, Streater, and Mink for their gracious hospitality and lunch. The meeting adjourned at 1pm.