

Regents' Committee on Learning Disorders
September 24, 2003
Georgia College & State University
Minutes

Present: Anne Gormly, Chair; Noel Gregg, Janice Reid, Kathleen Burk; Sue Murphy, Margo Habiger; Randy Butterbaugh, Cheryl Biggs, Anne Lloyd, Mary Morris, Nancy Reed, John Colson, Carol Pope, Wayne Akins, Cynthia Sellars.
Guests: Christopher Lee, Mark Davis, Joseph Ruebel, Tori Kearns, Lawana Wimberly.

Anne Gormly began the meeting with a welcome, introductions, and a review of the agenda. A motion to approve the minutes from the April 29, 2003 meeting was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Kathleen Burk provided an update on the issue of the language contained in the guidelines for student technology fees regarding adaptive equipment for students with disabilities. Dr. Burk reported that the restrictive language used in a preliminary draft is no longer present in the published guidelines. Dr. Burk will send a copy of these guidelines to committee members.

Mr. Christopher Lee from the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation Services gave a presentation on the services available in assistive technology from Tools for Life. Mr. Lee agreed to send a copy of his slide presentation to Anne Gormly who will make them available to committee members.

Lawana Wimberly provided an update on the Model Work Stations for Accessibility including a listing of recommended software and hardware for three different stations: Blind/Low Vision, Learning Disabilities, and Mobility Impairments. These workstations have been installed at Georgia State University. A question was asked about software for mathematical skills; Carol Pope indicated that she had a review of software for mathematics skills that she would send to all committee members. The next aspect of the Model Work Station project is to develop training materials; it was suggested that the University System Office could facilitate the training.

The Center Directors provided a report of activities and issues since the last meeting. Dr. Noel provided a copy of the final report for 2002-2003 and an initial report to date on services provided. She indicated continued increases in the number of students evaluated in the UGA Center. She noted that two vacant positions have been frozen. She introduced Mark Davis who is a psychologist in the Center. She reported an increase in the number of ESL students seeking services at the Center and that they are having difficulty doing complete evaluations due to limited testing materials and language problems. It was suggested that Center Directors keep track of how many ESL students are coming to the Centers and what type of TOEFL and/or SAT Verbal scores they bring.

Dr. Murphy indicated that she is making a good transition as the new Director. She introduced Tori Kearns, liaison and Jay Ruebel who has been hired as the licensed psychologist for the Center at Georgia Southern University. She distributed a new organizational chart and reported on the number of people tested and the number of outside evaluations to date.

Dr. Mary Morris reported a record number of students have been served at the Georgia State University Center. They have added another psychologist at a half-time level bring the number of psychologists to one and a half. The liaison now works 80% instead of 50% time.

A conference call was made to Burns Newsome from the Board of Regents' Office regarding HIPPA requirements for the Centers. There was a noted discrepancy in the advice given to the Center Directors from their respective HIPPA officers on their host campuses. It was clarified that FERPA requirements were more restrictive than HIPPA requirements and that if services are provided to students who are not yet matriculated at an USG institution that HIPPA requirements must be met. It was agreed that all three HIPPA officers should meet with Burns and the Center Directors to clarify the expectations for HIPPA compliance at the Centers. Mary Morris agreed to talk with her HIPPA compliance officer and arrange to get the necessary people together.

Kathleen Burk indicated that she has shared the letter to Commissioner Thurmond indicating the strong support from Vocational Rehabilitation with Frank Butler to make sure that it is appropriate to send out. She will check with Frank Butler and get back to the committee.

Margo Habiger provided an update on the materials and documents that have been created to support eCore and eMBA students with learning disabilities. She gave a report on the number of students requesting and receiving services. There have been no requests for services from students in the eMBA program.

The issue of test anxiety and the Regents' Test was discussed. It was agreed that the language in the BOR Academic Affairs Handbook (section 208.02) was vague and confusing and needed to be clarified. Kathleen Burk agreed to bring the language to the attention of the Test Coordinators and come back with a suggested revision in the language. It was suggested that the "anxiety" reference be taken out of the language or that this reference be located in a different section of the Handbook.

There was discussion about the need to clarify the categories used on the annual survey; Nancy Reed indicated that she is working with a group of service providers to review that terms on the current survey and come back with recommendations for change. It was agreed that there needs to be some consistency in the categories used on the Center reports and the annual survey. Whatever changes are recommended for the survey would be reflected in next year's survey in order to give service providers time to collect the information. There was discussion about how often the survey should be collected; one suggestion was to collect the information every two years instead of yearly.

After a review of the low number of students requesting the DOE waiver for foreign language requirements for admission to a USG institution, it was agreed to extend this process for use with students seeking admission in fall 2004.

Center Directors were asked to send any budget requests to Anne Gormly with a copy to Kathleen Burk by the end of October. Anne Gormly will compile the requests and send them to Frank Butler.

It was agreed that the tentative date for the spring meeting is April 7, 2004.