

RACSA 2008 Summer Meeting Minutes

Compiled by John McElveen and Jodi Johnson

July 15, 2008

In Attendance: Dennis Chamberlain, Gordon College; Jim Cottingham, South Georgia College; Doug Covey, Georgia State University; John Clower, North Georgia College & State University; Gail Dillard, ABAC; Tom Walter, Gainesville College.; Nancy King, Kennesaw State University; Bruce Harshbarger, Georgia College; Jodi Johnson, Dalton State College; Teresa Thompson, Georgia Southern University; Stephanie Harris Jolly, Albany State University; Terrance Smith, Fort Valley State University; Rodney Bennett, University of Georgia; Kurt Keppler, Valdosta State University; Brian Haynes, Clayton State University; Melanie McClellan, University of West Georgia; Tonya Lam, University System of Georgia; Lisa Fowler, Georgia Perimeter College; Ron Shade, Georgia Highlands College; Bill Schafer, Georgia Tech; Gina Sheeks, Columbus State University; Darryl B. Holloman, Columbus State University; Vicki McNeil, Armstrong Atlantic State University; Mike Miller, Medical College of Georgia; Joyce Jones, Augusta State University; Randy Gunter, Savannah State University; Jerome Ratchford, Kennesaw State University; Jim Fatzinger, Georgia Gwinnett College; Donald Avery, East Georgia College; Bobby Olive, Atlanta Metropolitan College; John McElveen, Middle Georgia College; Barry Birkhead, Southern Polytechnic State University.

Barry Birkhead called meeting to order 11:00 am.

Minutes were approved unanimously.

Barry asked for comments on the agenda. The group expressed great appreciation to Barry for his organization and work on the meeting.

Kurt Keppler suggested that the items discussed after lunch on Monday may have been better in small groups, broken out by preference and subject.

Tonya Lam brought up several items. Tonya noted that Directors of Financial Aid came up with standards of practice that are stated in a positive way with regard to lending practices. She noted that some lenders were pulling out and she needs to be notified if that is happening. Also, they need to know if any others are converting to direct lending. Tonya said that Burns Newsome could email to the list the checklist that validates our lending practices to our listserve. We can also access it at usg.edu/studentaffairs_SAR. Some institutions noted that several lenders had pulled out.

There is now a listserve for judicial affairs personnel and there is a meeting next Monday.

Also, the disability services folks also have a listserve. Also AMAC has been selected to partner with national textbook publishers which should improve responsiveness by giving AMAC the appropriate digital file to allow conversion to alternative delivery.

The National Federation for the Blind was looking for a repository and they will work with AMAC as well.

We are a fiscal agent for a partnership between DOE, USG, and DTAE to administer a challenge grant to provide more services to underrepresented populations.

Tonya will be communicating with us to make sure we are communicating to our students the fixed for four tuition information. They are also asking the academic affairs folks to get involved because faculty members need to be informed as well.

Rodney Bennett expressed concern about that we aren't hearing some of the legal issues and cases that we heard from Burns today but once a year. Tonya said that Kimberly Ballard-Washington would assist us more with that now that she is on board.

Jodi Johnson noted that she feels that Student Affairs folks are not getting copied on a number of communications concerning important issues, like the academic diversity information, about which we were previously. Tonya said that the personnel changes had created some issues, but they are endeavoring to correct this.

There was some discussion about the emergency notification systems.

Tonya noted the proposed changes to FERPA were out for review and comment. She noted there had been many comments already and asked us to review them. Tonya said the comments would be on the resource page.

The group meeting on increasing access to Higher Education degrees met this morning. Bill Schafer reviewed the history of the effort briefly. Bill noted that the Institute of Higher Education at UGA is going through the approval process. Bill noted that if all goes well the first group would need to apply by Feb. 1, 2009 with a start of first class in possibly May 2009. Melanie noted that there would probably need to be some payment by the students, and that it would probably be a cohort of 15 students per year. Also, there was an assumption that current members of our group who taught would donate their time with their institutions picking up the travel costs. Mendi Spencer has asked for a written proposal to take to Dr. Herbst. Rodney Bennett commented on the 15 student limit is there in the beginning to ensure quality due to rankings and numbers of dissertations. He noted that it may well be expanded once it's going. Some general discussion ensued that future funding may be requested from the institutions.

Kurt Keppler asked for recognition of Nancy King and her contributions to the group as she is retiring. Mike Miller was also recognized upon his impending retirement.

Tonya noted that only 13 campuses are signed up for the SAC conference. She encouraged us to make sure our campuses were represented.

Melanie McClellan asked for ideas for student affairs research in the system, and asked that people share those with her.

Bobby Olive noted that we do need more information forwarded to us and we should express our concern, possibly in writing. Rodney Bennett suggested that Tonya's explanation of the transitions was

reasonable and that we should give them a chance to improve. Barry suggested follow-up at the fall meeting.

Tom Walter noted he is now the Georgia editor of the GCPA journal and asked for people to share their work and practices.

Barry asked for nominations for the chair-elect. Jim Cottingham nominated Jodi Johnson of DSC. Jodi as unanimously approved.

In his first official act as chair, John McElveen asked that the group recognize the outstanding work done by Barry Birckhead during his tenure as chair.

John then brought before the group the suggested dates of October 30-31, 2008 and the location of Augusta State for the fall RACSA meeting. The motion was made by Rodney Bennett, seconded by Tonya Lam, and carried unanimously to accept the suggested date and location. The group also discussed Columbus State as a possible location for the spring 2009 meeting.

Barry then reminded everyone to submit their meeting evaluations. He indicated that the feedback he had received thus far was positive, and that most attendees liked the central location.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.