Meeting of USG Centers for Teaching and Learning

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
Center for Teaching and Learning Representatives
From The University System of Georgia Colleges and Universities
HELD AT
Georgia Southern University
Statesboro, GA
November 2-3, 2007

Day 1, Nov. 2, 2007

Representatives present: Jim Owen (Columbus State Univ.), Deborah Richardson (Augusta State Univ.), Chaudron Gille (Gainsville State Coll.), Debi Moon (GA Perimeter Coll.), Pamela Moolenaar-Wirsig (GA Perimeter Coll.) Peter Lindsay (GA State Univ.), Stella Smith (GA Gwinnett Coll.), Tris Utschig (GA Tech), Bill Hill (Kennesaw State Univ.), Tom Pusateri (Kennesaw State Univ.), Linda Noble (Kennesaw State Univ./BOR), Irene Kokkala (North GA Coll. And State Univ.)

Pamela Moolenaar-Wirsig called the meeting to order. All persons present introduced themselves.

Pamela gave a quick update on the history of the gathering of state of GA CTL Directors. She said that Dorothy Zinsmeister (of the BOR) called a meeting of the CTL’s statewide in Jan. 2007. A steering committee was formed, which consisted of Bill Hill, Pamela Moolenaar-Wirsig, Donna Llewellyn and Harry Dangel. The charge was given to the committee to conduct a needs assessment of forming a statewide CTL as well as whether such a group would like to meet on an annual basis. The purpose of forming a consortium would be to share resources and act as a venue of development for one another.

A needs assessment was done (by online survey). 19 respondents (out of 19 total respondents) indicated that they were all in favor of formalizing a consortium; they’d prefer a Fall or Summer annual meeting and a top priority for a development theme is student learning outcomes.

Discussion ensued on whether a USG entity such as this would include private colleges/universities. Suggestions were made to include the private colleges CTL directors, but keep them as NON-VOTING members of the consortium. Another suggestion was to include the private colleges and form a sub-group of USG member school representatives to serve as a Regent’s Advisory Group.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:00 pm. The group agreed to reconvene tomorrow at 9:30 a.m.
Day 2, Nov. 3, 2007

Representatives present: Jim Owen (Columbus State Univ.), Deborah Richardson (Augusta State Univ.), Chaudron Gille (Gainsville State Coll.), Debi Moon (GA Perimeter Coll.), Pamela Moolenaar-Wirsiy (GA Perimeter Coll.) Peter Lindsay (GA State Univ.), Stella Smith (GA Gwinnett Coll.), Tris Utschig (GA Tech), Bill Hill (Kennesaw State Univ.), Tom Pusateri (Kennesaw State Univ.), Linda Noble (Kennesaw State Univ./BOR), Irene Kokkala (North GA Coll. And State Univ.), Dorothy Zinsmeister (BOR)

Pamela Moolenaar-Wirsiy called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 am. All persons present introduced themselves.

The group formed small break-out groups and brainstormed on a NAME for the consortium. After much creative discussion, it was unanimously approved that the name of the group should be “Georgia Consortium for Teaching and Learning” (GA-CTL).

Dorothy Zinsmeister was introduced and was asked to offer information as it relates to the strategic plan and focus of the USG.

Dorothy stated that both she and Sandra Stone were committed to the idea that every institution should have a Center for Teaching and Learning.

Dorothy was asked to comment specifically on Comprehensive Program Review. Comprehensive Program Review encompasses Quality, Viability and Productivity. Each college/campus developed a plan to review programs based on guidelines from the System Office. And although assessing student learning outcomes was suggested as a quality measure, it wasn’t required. The reports submitted by the campuses are sent to the USG so that the System is able to speak to the continuous improvement of existing degree programs.

The process should be data driven and output focused. The data should be used to make decisions about changes in programs. The chancellor is committed to supporting CPR.

The floor was opened for comments on whether program review should be done on a 7-year cycle for ALL programs, not only triggered programs. Comments were made in favor of conducting CPR for all programs, perhaps on a shorter than 7-year cycle.

Dorothy advised the group that the Board was considering a new authority for the Chancellor. It states that the Chancellor can terminate a program on a campus, if he sees fit to do so.
Dorothy handed out the 6 goals of the USG Strategic Plan (working drafts). She brought up the USG website and highlighted the section of “Chancellor’s Office”, “Board Information” which tells when the Board is meeting, and others.

The goals all have action plans associated with them. The first action step in Goal #1 is to “restructure the core curriculum to focus on a common systems set of competencies…” There are committees that have been formed to address this action.

She reviewed Goal 2, which is to meet the enrollment capacity projections by 2020.

She also briefly reviewed:

- Goal 3 to increase the USG participation in research and economic development to the benefit of a global Georgia. Campuses will be encouraged to seek outside financial support (i.e., grants). There was some discussion suggesting that we (the USG) can perhaps create our OWN learning management system instead of depending on a vendor who may not be so responsive. Dorothy made note of this suggestion.
- Goal 4 is to strengthen partnerships (with state educational agencies), including DTAE, pre-K, etc. and focuses on teacher education.
- Goal 5 relates to maintaining affordability
- Goal 6 relates to increasing efficiency as a system (i.e, back-office functions)

Dorothy opened the floor for questions.

Has the chancellor ever shadowed a faculty member? Dorothy answered, “No, I don’t think so”. A suggestion was made for him to do such an exercise so that he could see what “other” things faculty do, that might prohibit them from having a “minute” turn around time on projects/issuies.

Dorothy Zinsmeister indicated that she can assist in setting-up a Regent’s Advisory Group AND a listserv.

Debi Moon agreed to put together some bylaws for the GA Consortium for Teaching and Learning.

Dorothy showed the Faculty Development Link on the USG website. There’s a list of the CTL Director’s on the website, but it needs updating with CURRENT information.

Tom Pusateri presented on Faculty Resources and Strategies for Assisting Faculty in Understanding and Conducting Student Learning Outcomes Assessment. This presentation precipitated some interesting discussion and exchange.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch.

A wrap-up discussion ensued during lunch (but the note-taker was not present).