Minutes
Regents’ academic Advisory Committee on History
Jekyll Island, Georgia
February 17, 2017

Attending: James Galt-Brown, Scott McDermott, Andrew Goss (Chair), Jonathan Sizemore (BOR representative), Patrizia Stahle, Judy Cornett, Reid Derr, Dawn Herd Clark, Craig Pascoe (Chair-elect), Michael Gunther, Bronson Long, Carla Gerona, Jonathan Bryant, Tom Aiello, Alice Pate, Bob Burnham, Rick Reiman, John Dunn, Mark Vickery, Richard A. Reiman (GAH liaison).

Meeting opened at 9:00 a.m.

Chairperson: Andrew Goss, Professor of History and Chair, Department of History, Anthropology and Philosophy, Augusta University

Opening: RAACH members introduced themselves

Minutes from 2016: There was a call to make changes to the minutes from James Galt-Brown concerning the World Core committee appointments. The changes were approved and the minutes were approved.

Item not on the agenda: Report on the Annual Meeting of the Regents’ Advisory Committee Chair’s meeting. It was cancelled due to the gas crisis at that time. Chairperson Goss noted that there was nothing to report.

Item: Chairperson Goss reminded the committee about four items voted on Area F; History learning outcomes, minutes, bylaws, and a document that outlines the value of a history degree

Report from the Annual Meeting of the Regents’ Academic Advisory Committee on History (RAACH):

Examining the various area F outcomes:

   Jonathan Bryant questioned why the USG wanted this outcome to be specific to history courses. He mentioned that he thought that the outcomes were institutionalized.
   Andrew Goss responded that if the current outcomes are modified then the will have to be approved institutionally.
   James Galt-Brown noted that the outcomes at ABAC are quantifiable so that they can generate numbers. He asked who at the BOR was requesting this be done?
   Alice Pate pointed out that if this is not done the Chair of the Regents’ Committee could declare the committee in non-compliance.
   Tom Aiello asked why?
   Andrew Goss replied that if we changed the number we would be in violation.
   Jonathan Bryant pointed out that members would have to inform departments to change their learning outcomes.
   Andrew Goss offered an amendment: To eliminate the 5 learning outcomes and replace them with “guideline for guidelines.” Also suggested to add “which are defined by individual institutions.”
   Reid Durr added the current document was “very good as is.” He did suggest some wording changes like “students will gain…”
   Jonathan Bryant suggested that the list be removed.
   Move to accept by Jonathan Bryant; member seconded
   Andrew Goss asked if there were any further questions about area ‘F’? Carla Gerona asked why there was a third paragraph. Goss responded that it makes clear that this covers area ‘F’. Another vote was taken; motion approved with no opposition.
USG activities with consolidations: The two consolidations were discussed.

Jonathan Bryant gave the committee a brief on the consolidation of Georgia Southern and Armstrong Atlantic. Over 100 sub-committees have been created and they will report to larger committees. The final report will have to be submitted to SACS in the early summer of 2017. One of the tasks is to create a chain of command in a short period of time.

Bob Burnham noted that Middle Georgia had a similar experience with consolidation. In addition Alice Pate-Kennesaw State, James Galt-Brown-ABAC, and Scott McDermott-Albany State also gave insight into the consolidation process.

Jon Sizemore, BOR liaison, arrived and Andrew Goss introduced him to the members. He spoke to the committee about the BOR’s initiatives and direction for the future.

Sizemore pointed out that there are some changes in leadership at the BOR: Rob Anderson is now serving as the interim chief academic officer; there is a new chancellor; and a new executive vice chair for administration. Sizemore also noted that there was a reorganization in the areas of learning; student success; and accountability. He said that the BOR was dealing with the problems of bottleneck courses; success rates in core courses; dual enrollment and the concerns about being taught at college level; and issues about area ‘F’. Sizemore told the committee about a newly released special audit by the Georgia Department of Audits that reviewed the performance of the online education system. The audit revealed that the online system increased access to high-quality and affordable education.

There was also an audit of e-Core undergraduate courses that found:

15% of all undergraduate courses are delivered online
25% of those taking online courses are full-time students
30% of those taking online courses are part-time students
eTuition rates are not tied to the cost of instruction
The BOR will now approve an eTuition rate increases
Because it is unclear how the money is distributed there will be an increased accountability as to how eTuition funds are utilized.

There may be changes in the difference of eTuition rates between in-state/out-of-state residency
eTuition rate is currently $169 per hour
BOR examined the use of innovation, like online courses, and its impact on affordability while preserving the quality of education.
CBE and MOOG courses are limited at this time
There are some policy conflicts that will be addressed by the BOR

Issue of bottleneck courses. Students are having difficulty getting into CORE courses. This impacts their ability to graduate in a timely manner. An example used was Kennesaw State with first semester students. Using e-Core those courses were utilized to deal with the bottleneck with little impact on regular classes.

Issue of campus carry that was discussed at last year’s RAACH committee meeting. The chancellor has stated that the current law is sufficient.

John Galt-Brown as Sizemore if there were going to be further consolidations. Sizemore responded that it was likely.

Jonathan Bryant asked about area ‘F’—Sizemore responded that there has to be at least 12 hours in area ‘F’.
Alice Pate asked about raises and mentioned the 2% raise that the governor had pushed through the legislature—Sizemore confirmed that the 2% figure is what he understands will be used for salary increases.

Andrew Goss asked if there will be tuition increases despite the BOR freeze. Sizemore responded that all requests for tuition increases are being scrutinized but likely they will not be approved.

Sizemore responded to a comment about the impact of the federal travel ban. He noted that the BOR is aware of the concern and that student demonstrations concerning the travel ban have not been ignored.

The committee took a 10-minute recess

After the recess there was a call from a member to formally thank the Georgia Association of Historians for providing the accommodations for our annual meeting.

There was further discussion about area ‘F’ guidelines:

Andrew Goss asked the committee for examples of experiences with area ‘F’ on individual campuses.

Reid Derr said that East Georgia was trying to establish an African American history course at their Statesboro campus.

There was a brief discussion about QEP. Andrew Goss said that Augusta University has an experiential learning and leadership component with a certificate in leadership that requires a 2000 level leadership course. Goss pointed out that perhaps a history degree could be viewed as a leadership degree. The introduction to leadership class could be placed within either area ‘F’ or area ‘C’.

Committee membership

The following committee members were voted into various committees.

- US Core committee: Craig Pascoe, Scott McDermott
- Major Program committee: Alice Pate, Jonathan Bryant
- Graduate Program committee: Carla Gerona, Jonathan Bryant
- World in Core committee: John Galt-Brown, Patrizia Stahle

The membership discussed the Executive Committee and chose a Chair elect. Two motions were made. First, the members voted and confirmed Kenja McCray as the Chair Elect. Second, since Kenja was not present, members voted to have Andrew Goss contact Kenja McCray and offer her the position of Chair Elect (which she later accepted).

Other business:
Andrew Goss discussed developing a document that outlines the value of a history degree that the BOR has requested. He had conferred with the American Historical Association (AHA) who is in the process of creating such a document. Goss will inform the BOR that we are awaiting the final document from the AHA.

Members called for a resolution thanking Jon Sizemore for his attendance and participation in the RAACH committee annual meeting. Member unanimously approved the resolution.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The 2017 RAACH meeting was adjourned.
Minutes recorded and submitted by Craig Pascoe.

Executive Committee for February 2017-June 2018

Craig S. Pascoe, Chair
Kenja McCray, Chair-elect
Andrew Goss, Immediate past chair
At Large Member One ____________________________
At Large Member Two ____________________________