Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Regents Academic Advisory Committee on Geological Sciences and Geography (ACGSG)

At

Macon State College

April 4, 2008

Present:

John R. Anderson                                          Georgia Perimeter College
Crawford Elliott                                             Georgia State University
Robert Fuller                                                  North Georgia College & State University
Pamela Gore                                                   Georgia Perimeter College
Curtis Hollabaugh                                          State University of West Georgia
Iheanyi Osondu                                               Fort Valley State University
Ntungwa Maasha                                            Coastal Georgia Community College
Billy Morris                                                     Georgia Highlands College
Sam Peavy                                                       Georgia Southwestern State University
Dallas Rhodes                                                  Georgia Southwestern State University
Mike Roden                                                     University of Georgia
Lewis Rogers (retired)                                      Gainesville State College
David Schwimmer                                           Columbus State University
Harold Trendell                                               Kennesaw State University
Dorothy Zinsmeister                                       Board of Regents USG

1. Call to order and introductions.
The Regents Academic Advisory Committee on Geological Sciences and Geography met at Macon State College, beginning in a joint session with other sciences, led by Dorothy Zinsmeister.
The joint session discussed the proposed changes to the Georgia Core Curriculum. Other topics mentioned included:

• Courses with the same titles and course numbers but which may not have common learning outcomes across the system
• A new hire at the USG, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Faculty Affairs
• Legislative updates posted online
• Mention of a System-wide policy or draft policy on AP and IB courses
• Teacher Education Early Childhood Area F Recommendations – content, focus learning outcomes, prerequisites, who teaches the courses, not for Area D or B.
• Journals needed – Chemistry Committee and Library Committee
• Tie things to existing initiatives, such as STEM
• Dorothy Zinsmeister mentioned that she is retiring
2. Geological Sciences and Geography meeting followed joint meeting.
Curtis Hollabaugh presided. Deliberations followed the chair’s welcome and brief self-introductions by the members. Topics of discussion included:
• Last meeting was 2006 at Georgia Gwinnett College/Georgia Perimeter College, Lawrenceville.
• Previous meeting was 2004 at Berry College
• Discussion on who has recently served as Chair of the Committee.
• Discussion of the by-laws and quorum (40% of member schools)
• Discussion of proposed new Core Curriculum by many members of the committee
• Dallas Rhodes noted National Geography Standards, indicated that we also need National Geology Standards
• Discussion of Integrated Science (ISCI 2001 and ISCI 2002) courses. Issues include personnel, funds and lab space.
• Discussion of need to standardize course numbers of upper level Geology courses like Mineralogy. Dallas Rhodes mentioned that he developed a matrix of comparable courses and will share that with us by email.
• Discussion of need of list of sites suitable for field work and field trips to be shared among USG faculty through listserv or through a website like wetpaint.com but not published on web for public, in order to protect sites. Web site might list outcrops visited by groups like Georgia Geological Society, or Graves Mountain.
• Discussion of a Geology exit exam, assessment, or national certification test. ASBOG (National Association of State Boards of Geology) provides independent assessment tools. Issues involve cost ($150) and location (Macon). Could business community provide support? Could exams be given on campus? Curtis Hollabaugh will investigate.
• Crawford Elliott noted that we should consider non-computer test methods of assessment. A field course in geology can serve as an assessment vehicle (a capstone course) too and we need to be open to many options of assessment. For example, a person can score a 100% correct on ASBOG fundamentals test and we do not know if that person can identify common rocks and minerals, common fossils, take a proper strike and dip, identify formations in the field and do rudimentary mapping, etc). I argue these fundamental skills are not being assessed well by computer based methods like ASBOG and ASBOG tends to focus on skills needed in environmental consulting. Employment in the oil and gas sector is rising and our curriculum should be attuned to this rise too.
• Someone mentioned that ETS no longer offers a Geology GRE exam.
• Discussion of national program accreditation, but this may require additional staff
• Dallas Rhodes mentioned that Carleton College has a website with information on Building Strong Geoscience Departments. http://serc.carleton.edu/departments/
• Location of 2009 meeting not decided at time of adjournment.

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