

**Meeting Minutes from the April 1, 2011, meeting of the Chemistry Academic
Advisory Committee held at Macon State College**

Attendees: Jim Baxter (Valdosta State University), Richard Collison (Dalton State College), Tom Crute (Augusta State University), Dwayne Daniels (Fort Valley State University), John DiCesare (Georgia Southern), John Farrar (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College), Tim Howell (Gainesville State College), Beike Jia (Gordon College), Mark Mitchell (Kennesaw State University), Joe Sloop (Georgia Gwinnett College), Michele Smith (Georgia Southwestern State University), Andrea Wallace (College of Coastal Georgia), Nick Yang (Macon State College), Paulos Yohannes (Georgia Perimeter College), Bob Zurales (Middle Georgia College)

The Chemistry Academic Advisory Council was welcomed to Macon State College by the Dean of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Ron Williams.

Tim Howell is the Chair of the CAAC this year, and Mark Mitchell is the Chair-Elect and this year's secretary.

Joe Sloop mentioned that he was representing Georgia Gwinnett College in lieu of Deborah Sauder.

The first topic of discussion had to do with the transfer of credits for online chemistry courses. It was related that UGA and Georgia Tech do not want to accept credit for online chemistry courses.

It was mentioned that the Biology Academic Advisory Committee agreed that online courses should be designated as such on the transcript.

The concern was that student success suffers when they do not take a supervised lab course.

There was a suggestion that there had been a version of an eCore chemistry lab course that involved the students purchasing a kit that allowed them to do lab exercises at home.

A suggestion was made to get in touch with Dr. Ken McGill (Georgia College and State University) about the structure of the eCore lab. Both Dr. Ken McGill and Dr. Andrew Leavitt, who teach the eCore courses CHEM 1211K and CHEM 1212K, respectively, were contacted about those lab courses and provided input. Their input is provided here, but was obtained after adoption of the recommendations shown below.

The following text is quoted from Dr. McGill's response.

“I would be glad to share our results from the past seven years of teaching online. We do have a lab practicum at the end of the course to verify that they have the necessary laboratory skills to move forward. I have been surprised at the abilities of the online students in the laboratory. They in fact have performed better than our traditional lab students taking the same lab practicum. One test we have them perform in CHEM1211 is to simply prepare a 1.0 molar solution of NaHCO_3 . I was shocked at the number of student successfully completing traditional F2F labs that were not able to perform such a simple task. We also have them perform a titration, and take a lab safety exam.”

Dr. Leavitt’s response indicated a similar requirement for successful completion.

“All eCore Chemistry students meet with the instructor face-to-face for the final examination. During that final, the students perform and are evaluated on a WA/SB titration. The lab practical comprises 20% of the final exam score.”

Dr. Virginia Michelich, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Achievement in the Departments of Academic Affairs at the Board of Regents, was called on speaker-phone to get her comments about the transferability of eCore credits in laboratory courses.

Two recommendations (or resolutions?) regarding online courses were agreed upon by unanimous vote of the CAAC members present.

- 1) At a minimum, online lab courses associated with CHEM 1211 and CHEM 1212 should have a component that includes a faculty member monitoring the performance of the student at least once during the semester for the evaluation of the student’s lab skills.
- 2) Majority online courses or hybrid courses should be so-designated on a student’s transcript.

Another topic discussed was that the Technical College System of Georgia is moving to a semester-based academic calendar and several of the member colleges have gone through or are going through SACS accreditation. There was discussion about the transferability of introductory chemistry courses from TCSG institutions to USG institutions. It was suggested that the transferability of credits for introductory chemistry courses and labs should be left up to the individual institutions involved. A third recommendation related to this was unanimously agreed upon.

- 3) The technical colleges should adopt a different numbering system for their introductory chemistry courses (different from the CHEM 1211 and CHEM 1212 numbering of the USG institutions) since acceptance of the credits by USG institutions is not guaranteed.

Southern Polytechnic State University has a degree proposal before the Board of Regents that requires approval by the CAAC. After a small amount of discussion, the proposed *Bachelor of Science with a major in Chemistry (with secondary teacher certification)* program was unanimously approved by the CAAC.

Jim Baxter of Valdosta State informed the group that Valdosta State University proposes to rename its course CHEM 1010 *Chemistry for World Citizens*, which has a lab component and is a 4 credit-hour course, to *Introductory Chemistry for Environmental Studies*. The name change was approved unanimously.

Jim Baxter also related that Valdosta State is participating in a proposal to develop a UTeach program site at Valdosta State.

It was discussed that the CAAC had been asked to develop Area F Learning Outcomes. There was quite a bit of discussion on this point, with the general feeling that it would be very difficult to come up with learning outcomes for a set of courses. Tim Howell agreed to chair a sub-committee to investigate the question and Tom Crute and Mark Mitchell agreed to be on the committee. The sub-committee is to discuss the issue and make a recommendation to the CAAC. Something like the following was suggested: *The students will demonstrate competence in scientific reasoning by using quantitative and qualitative skills to critically analyze data and evaluate chemical phenomena.*

There was a general discussion of the safety audit being conducted by the USG. Outcomes and recommendations from the audit varied widely among the institutions.

There was a question brought before the group asking if it would be possible to develop a list of teaching loads for full-time faculty among the different USG institutions. A survey was taken among the institutions represented, but it was requested that a more complete poll be taken, and it was agreed that Mark Mitchell would send out an email requesting the information from the different chemistry department chairs, which would then be compiled and sent out to the CAAC membership.

Deborah Sauder (Georgia Gwinnett College) is developing symposia for the 2013 SERMACS meeting to be held in Atlanta. If you have an interest in organizing a symposium, please contact her.

John DeCesare mentioned that Georgia Southern University had submitted a proposal for a M.S. Degree in the Physical Sciences, and that he was not sure whether or not the CAAC would be receiving that proposal for review.

NOTE: You all should have received an email from Marci Middleton at the Board of Regents regarding this proposal last Friday (May 13, 2011). Marci has requested responses by July 6. If you have any concerns or questions, please let me know. I will try to

send out an email for a vote on the issue prior to the end of June, so that the CAAC can provide a response to Marci.

Mark Mitchell mentioned that Kennesaw State University was preparing a proposal for a M.S. Degree in the Chemical Sciences, but that it was not yet through the university committees.

Given the rotation of the Chairs of the CAAC, the next chair-elect is to be from a two-year institution. John Farrar of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College agreed to serve as the chair-elect (and hence secretary) at the next meeting in 2012. Mark Mitchell will be chair for that meeting.

An informal poll was taken and it was decided that due to its central location in Georgia, abundance of parking on Fridays, and good meeting facilities, the next meeting of the CAAC would be held at Macon State College. The exact date of the meeting is to be determined, but it will be on a Friday.