

## **Minutes of the April 22, 2016 meeting of the Regents Advisory Committee for Biological Sciences**

Meeting called to order by Indiren Pillay

Minutes of last year's meeting approved

### **Biol Area D for non-majors discussion - how to interpret "broadly focused"**

Should have scientific reasoning

Usually excludes courses like human anatomy & physiology, which lacks scientific reasoning & investigation

Could specify competencies, and require that Area D courses for non-majors includes some number or percentage of competencies.

### **Sequence of concepts in the two semester sequence for Bio majors (Bio Principles)**

Issue of transferability

Discussion of molecules and cells (1107) first, or organismal (1108) first - because of chemistry being required for 1107 - both approaches have worked

Could/should de-emphasize content, rather spell out competencies and allow flexibility in use of content to learn competencies

PULSE has a tool for mapping competencies to Vision and Change:

[http://api.ning.com/files/yallYWJbJ\\*bssZvZjytVb3\\*q89HkPNQmgM\\*yfZFtLWmIH-pV1IzwquQEOKqFK2qiejPCcMM\\*AValhyXDAL2LiNgo6w2OWdLk/VCConceptsandCompetenciesMappingTools.pdf](http://api.ning.com/files/yallYWJbJ*bssZvZjytVb3*q89HkPNQmgM*yfZFtLWmIH-pV1IzwquQEOKqFK2qiejPCcMM*AValhyXDAL2LiNgo6w2OWdLk/VCConceptsandCompetenciesMappingTools.pdf)

Something for the BAAC to work on: share what we are doing in 1107/1108 or Intro bio sequence and map a common concepts & competencies for the 2 courses.

Will post a doc (spreadsheet) in Google Drive listing the concepts from the Intro bio courses and mapping them to core concepts and will include competency table. Jung and Judy will collate.

Each school will build 4 tables: for 1107/1108 and Area D courses, deadline to submit docs is Oct 1 - meeting will be Friday, October 28 at Middle Georgia

### **Area D Math substitutions**

Need clarification that this applies only for non-science (STEM) majors

Suggest adding a phrase that no waivers will be allowed for courses that require upper-level math courses.

### **Spontaneous discussion of on-line courses w/ on-line labs**

Kennesaw has a committee looking at the success of students who took online courses in successive courses

Over 60% failure rate of GMC on-line courses at one school.  
But at Darton, the on-line students are better than the face-to-face students.  
Motion to change by-laws to 3 categories according to the USG categorization:

- Research and comprehensive
- State universities
- State colleges

[note added 6/29/2016: changes to bylaws require notice 2 weeks prior to meeting for vote, and approval by greater than 60% of institutions - this needs to be an agenda item for next meeting]

Gene Mesco from Dalton nominated as chair-elect  
Elected by popular acclaim

Executive Committee for 2016-2017 constituted:

Scott Reese  
Jenny Harper  
Michelle Furlong

Announcements:

Mark Farmer of UGA stepping down from BAAC because of reorganization at UGA.  
Bob Herrington, former member of BAAC, passed away a few weeks ago.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

Members in attendance:

Jenny Harper, Bainbridge State College  
Michelle Furlong, Clayton State  
Julie Ballenger, Columbus State  
Gene Mesco, Dalton State  
Richard Foreman, Darton State  
Jimmy Wedincamp, East Georgia State College  
Indiren Pillay, Georgia College & State U  
Judy Awong-Taylor, Georgia Gwinnett  
Jung Choi, Georgia Tech  
Sheryl Shanholtzer, Georgia Perimeter (now Georgia State)  
Richard Griner, Georgia Regents (now Augusta U)  
Stephen Vives, Georgia Southern  
Stephanie Harvey, Georgia Southwestern State U  
Therese Poole, Georgia State U  
Scott Reese, Kennesaw State U  
Dawn Sherry, Middle Georgia State U  
Elissa Purnelle, Savannah State U

Mark Farmer, U. Georgia