

BOR Philosophy and Religion Advisory Committee

Minutes of the January 31, 2015 Meeting

Committee Members Present

Mark Banas (religion, Georgia Perimeter College)
Cathy Culver (philosophy, College of Coastal Georgia)
Fred Downing (religion, Valdosta State University)
Bill Eaton (philosophy, Georgia Southern University)
Michael Hoffman (philosophy, Georgia Institute of Technology)
Ron Jackson (philosophy, Clayton State University)
Ed Matussek (religion, Atlanta Metropolitan College)
Kathryn McClymond (religion, Georgia State University)
Larry Peck (philosophy, Georgia Perimeter College)
George Rainbolt (philosophy, Georgia State University)
Susan Rouse (philosophy, Kennesaw State University)
Jack Simmons (philosophy, Armstrong Atlantic University)
Mark Tietzen (philosophy, University of West Georgia)
Jim Winchester (philosophy, Georgia College)
David Wisdo (philosophy,
George Wrisley (philosophy, University of North Georgia)
Lisa Yount (philosophy, Savannah State University)

Committee Members Absent

Vicky Davion (philosophy, University of Georgia)
Edward Demenchonok (philosophy, Fort Valley State University)
Wendy Kennedy (philosophy, Darton State College)
Carolyn Medine (religion, University of Georgia)
Alan Nichols (philosophy, Georgia Highlands College)
Ari Santas (philosophy, Valdosta State University)
Jack Waskey (philosophy, Dalton State College)
Steve Weiss (philosophy, Georgia Regents University)
Chad Wilkes (philosophy, Georgia Gwinnett College)

The minutes of the last meeting (March 29, 2014) were formally approved, and were sent to Felita Williams at the USG Central Office, for posting on the committee's Web site. [Note: these have been posted.]

The new Bylaws for the committee, which were written as a result of the addition of religion members to the committee, were discussed, modified, approved, and sent to Dr. Williams for posting on the Web site. [Note: these have also been posted.]

Kathryn McClymond gave a brief report on the efforts of the Religion Subcommittee to acquire new religion members for the overall committee, and to write a new USG system-wide Area F for religion.

Larry Peck made a brief report on the September 19, 2014 meeting of BOR advisory committee chairs. He relayed the comments of Assistant Vice Chancellor Teresa Joyce about the BOR demanding more accountability for academic programs. Dr. Joyce also said that if an institution has a new program coming up for approval at a BOR meeting, that institution should have someone represent it at that meeting.

The committee then took up the request of Assistant Vice Chancellor Barbara Brown (also at the advisory committee chairs meeting), that each advisory committee select a "math pathway" for its subject area; that is, math courses in Areas A2, D, and F, that the committee recommends that its majors take. Dr. Brown had suggested that the advisory committees choose one of two suggested pathways, but the philosophy members of the committee thought that either pathway might be appropriate for philosophy majors, and approved the following response, which has been sent to Dr. Brown and Dr. Williams:

"We recommend that students with a strong interest in mathematics and logic take Math 1111 in Area A2, followed by Math 1113 in Area D, followed by a calculus course in Area F. For other students, we recommend that they take Math 1001/1101 in Area A2, followed by an Area D course that matches their interests."

Merryll Penson, Executive Director of Library Services for the USG, then gave the committee an update on Affordable Learning Georgia, Open Educational Resources, and eCore. Lisa Yount described her role in designing the Introduction to Philosophy course for eCore, and George Wrisley described teaching it.