

MINUTES

BOR PHILOSOPHY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 24, 2012 (12pm EST)

In attendance: Robert Lane, chairperson (University of West Georgia); Larry Peck (Georgia Perimeter College); Jack Simmons (Armstrong Atlantic State University); Jim Winchester (Georgia College).

1. We approved the minutes from our December 9, 2011, teleconference, as distributed.
2. Lane updated everyone on the status of the "Value of a Philosophy Graduate" document that the committee was charged with drafting during the 2011-12 academic year. After our discussion of a draft of the document during our December 2011 teleconference, a subcommittee consisting of Lane, Erik Nordenhaug, (Armstrong Atlantic State University), and Jack Waskey (Dalton State College) finalized the document and submitted it to Felita Williams, our BOR liaison. She was pleased with the document, and in fact indicated that she would provide it to other BOR academic advisory committees to use as a model. The final version of the document is now online at our committee's website [http://www.usg.edu/academic_planning/committees/view/philosophy].
3. We discussed the ongoing project of standardizing prefixes and numbers of philosophy courses that are in the Core at USG institutions and of Area F standards for philosophy. Changes have been completed at many campuses but are still in progress at the following schools:
 - Atlanta Metropolitan College
 - Clayton State University
 - Fort Valley State University
 - Gainesville State College
 - Georgia Southern University
 - Kennesaw State University
 - Middle Georgia College [the standardization has been put on hold here, due to MGC's pending merger with Macon State]
4. Simmons updated us on the status of the proposal to establish a degree program in philosophy at Armstrong Atlantic. The proposal met support on campus at every level, including the Faculty Senate, until it reached the desk of Armstrong Atlantic's president, who chose not to send it forward to the BOR at this time. The other members of the committee expressed their support for the proposal and our hope that it will soon be sent forward to the BOR.

5. We discussed the requirement set by the BOR that degree programs graduate at least 10 students each academic year or else be “triggered” for review. We unanimously agreed that it is inappropriate to have the same minimum number for degree programs at any USG school, regardless of the size of the school or the size of the department within which the relevant degree program is housed. We agreed that the threshold for “triggering” should be lower at smaller campuses (e.g., West Georgia, Armstrong Atlanta) than at larger ones (e.g., UGA, Georgia Tech). Lane agreed to contact Felita Williams to express our views on this matter and to ask whether there has been any discussion in her office about varying the “triggering” threshold based on campus or department size.
6. Lane was re-elected as chairperson of the committee, to serve until our spring 2013 meeting.
7. Peck suggested that the next committee meeting should be in person, in conjunction with the fall Georgia Philosophical Society meeting. We agreed that we would meet along with GPS, although Lane noted that member participation in our December 2011 teleconference was much higher than it has been at any recent in-person meeting. The GPS is considering meeting earlier in fall semester than usual, perhaps in mid- to late-October, and the earlier-than-usual date may enable more BOR committee members to attend.
8. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:45pm EST.