

Political Science RAC Committee Meeting

11/06/2019 3-4:49pm Summit Room, DoubleTree Hotel, Savannah, GA

In attendance:

Name	Institution	Sub	Email
Dlynn Williams	UNG	self	dlynn.williams@ung.edu
Chapman Rackaway	U West GA	self	crackawa@westga.edu
Kimberly Gill	Columbus State	self	gill.kimberly1@columbusstate.edu
Joshua Meddaugh	Clayton State	self	joshuameddaugh@clayton.edu
Joe Njoroge	Abraham Baldwin	self	ijnoroge@abac.edu
Scott Ainsworth	UGA	self	sainswor@ugc.edu
Christopher Lawrence	Middle GA State	Julie Lester	christopher.lawrence@mga.edu
Michael Herb	GSU	self	herb@gsu.edu
Kris Beck	Gordon State	self	kbeck@gordonstate.edu
Joe Robbins	Valdosta	self	jwrobbins@valdosta.edu
Brett Larson	East GA State	self	blarson@ega.edu
Peter Brecke	GA Tech	self	peter.brecke@inta.gatech.edu
Tom Rotnem	Kennesaw State	self	trotnem@kennesaw.edu

Strategic Plan and Core Redesign

Old Business

-All five courses were approved by the BOR that were sent earlier in the semester

System Wide Strategic Plan

- Dr. Andrew Bell SP from 2020-2024
- Discussion of the decline of college age students
- System Priorities
 - Completion
 - Affordability
 - Efficiency
- System had five regional forums throughout the state and each tier was represented
- Four goals of the new strategic plan
 - Student success—increase degree completion through high quality life-long options, focused learning and eliminating barriers to access and success

- Responsible stewardship—assure affordability by containing costs and optimizing efficiency through the system
- Economic competitiveness—equip graduates with knowledge, marketable skills to meet workforce needs throughout our diverse and complex state
- Community impact—work with communities to increase impact throughout Georgia
- Feedback from USG Faculty Committee
 - Completion is assessed as success
 - Questions of relationship between faculty research and student success
 - Desire to create quality programs
 - Large conversation regarding the need to assist students with emotional and mental challenges—creation of a mental health task force
 - Impact of dual enrollment
 - Maintain quality services while maintaining efficiency
 - Did optimization mean laying people off?
 - Cost cutting has impacted schools by stopping the initiatives in the middle of a cycle
 - Academic Departments are absorbing the costs of dual enrollment—resources are directed to POLS 1101 with little student follow through into the majors. Faculty members are being pulled to a high school where there is low enrollment. If part timers are sent it must be financed by the department.
 - Dual enrollment is driving staffing rather than providing courses in the major
 - Several institutions are heavily impacted by dual enrollment
 - Departments eating the costs—how does this fit with fiscal accountability
 - An institution indicated language that reflected innovation in the system plan
 - Research and economic development
 - If we provide lifelong learning then the technical schools need to emphasize that is not what they do
 - In regard to community impact—need to make sure that it is cooperative
 - Concern with faculty morale—how will faculty be compensated for this role?
 - Does this look the same across the system?
 - Metrics for measurement—the system has not created the metrics for these goals to know if they are achieved or achievable
 - Should be approved by the Board of Regents by the end of the month

Governor asked the system to reduce their budget by 4% in 2020 and 6% in 2021. Revenues were to increase by 3.5 % this fiscal year, but right now revenues only increased by .4%

Two pots of money—teaching and non-teaching—Teaching budgets and exempt from the cuts. Therefore the non-teaching budget cut will be more significant than the overall percentage rate. No reduction in teaching budgets planned. Full funding formula will be available in January.

Conversation regarding tuition increases—most likely not to happen. Salary increases will be at the K-12 level. The administration seems sympathetic to salary increases. 18 of the 26 institutions had declines in enrollment.

A lot of conversation around marketing. System advertising was reported to have low levels of effectiveness. The technical system of Georgia advertises as a system.

TRS/ORP funding TRS at a much higher rate. You picked the market option therefore we are not giving a higher percentage. Reported that the USG has no interest in increasing funding to ORP.

Core Curriculum Redesign

- VPs indicated if redesign was warranted, it should be significant
- Gen Ed council met and created principles to guide the core—created 40 person implementation committee.
- Timeline –Ready by Fall 2020. Wants core approved by the system in January in 2020. Institutions will then have a full academic year to implement.
- Implement team will choose the courses in relation to the principles. November these choices will be created by the team following a meeting.
- Representation comes from a wide cross section

Design Principles for the new core as reported:

Well Rounded

Foundational Knowledge

Connections/Coherence

21st Century Skills

Success in all settings

Process

Implementation Group—Registrars, Presidents, USG Faculty Groups, VPAs, select faculty, etc...

Streamline so that you are in your major earlier.

Students are frustrated because they have to take so many courses in the core.

42 hours core/micro credentials—certificates etc

Political Science RAC requested representation on the implementation committee to advocate for both:

POLS 1101 –satisfies both GA Constitution/US Constriction requirement.

POLS 2401 Global Issues–will also be advocated within the core curriculum

The standard POLS 1101 course will cover the topics of the constitution as intended in the mandate.

Difficulty in transferability –students must pay for the opposite exam.

Need to take the language from the legislative mandate to the committee. What course is the most efficient means to get the knowledge of effective citizenship?

New Business

Brett Larson (East Georgia State College) recommendation to the RAC committee. Seconded by Kimberly Gill (CSU).

Presently the Area F guidelines are limited to 9 credit hours of POLS 1xxx/2xxx of courses which are foundational. The proposal is to increase count in this area, perhaps up to 15 hours dependent on institution. This will allow the flexibility of institutions to have a higher number of courses while allowing other institutions to have less POLS courses.

Brett Larson (East Georgia State College) recommendation to the RAC committee. Seconded by Kimberly Gill (GSU).

First two sections of the proposal.

1. Changes to Area F Guidelines Political Science Foundation Political Science Courses

Current Area F Guidelines

The current Area F Guidelines specify that institutions can offer the following “foundation courses in political science:” Introduction to Political Science, Introduction to State and Local Government, Introduction to Public Administration, Introduction to Comparative Politics, Introduction to Global Issues, and Introduction to Domestic Issues (Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia Area F Guidelines Political Science, 1.)

Proposed Change to Area F Guidelines

The Area F Guidelines shall be changed to add Introduction to Political Philosophy to the list of foundation courses in political science.

2. Changes to Area F Guidelines Political Science Credit Hours

Current Area F Guidelines

The current Area F Guidelines specify that institutions can offer 0-9 credit hours of “foundation courses in political science” (Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia Area F Guidelines Political Science, 1.)

Proposed Change to Area F Guidelines

The Area F Guidelines shall be changed to specify that institutions can offer 0-15 credit hours of foundation courses in political science.

An electronic vote will take place via email

Chapman Rackaway nominated Kimberly Gill (CSU) to be Vice Chair of the Regents Advisory Committee, Peter Brecke (GA Tech) seconded. Elected through affirmation.

Workday software for travel and time accountability and expense statements was also discussed

In attendance:

Name	Institution	Sub	Email
Dlynn Williams	UNG	self	dlynn.williams@ung.edu
Chapman Rackaway	U West GA	self	crackawa@westga.edu
Kimberly Gill	Columbus State	self	gill.kimberly1@columbusstate.edu
Joshua Meddaugh	Clayton State	self	joshuameddaugh@clayton.edu
Joe Njoroge	Abraham Baldwin	self	ijnoroge@abac.edu
Scott Ainsworth	UGA	self	sainswor@ugc.edu
Christopher Lawrence	Middle GA State	Julie Lester	christopher.lawrence@mga.edu
Michael Herb	GSU	self	herb@gsu.edu
Kris Beck	Gordon State	self	kbeck@gordonstate.edu
Joe Robbins	Valdosta	self	jwrobbins@valdosta.edu
Brett Larson	East GA State	self	blarson@ega.edu
Peter Brecke	GA Tech	self	peter.brecke@inta.gatech.edu
Tom Rotnem	Kennesaw State	self	trotnem@kennesaw.edu

Adjourned at 4:49pm on 11/6/19