

Minutes of a Meeting of the Regents Academic Advisory Committee on History

October 27, 2023 at 1:00 PM (via TEAMS)

Members in Attendance

Barney Rickman (Chair, Valdosta State University), Sarah Mergel (Chair Elect, Dalton State College), Bronson Long (Past Chair, Georgia Highlands College), Michael Morris (Coastal College of Georgia), Bob Burnham (Middle Georgia State University), Michael de Nie (University of West Georgia), John L. Tone (Georgia Institute of Technology), Bryan McGovern (Kennesaw State University), Tamara Spike (University of North Georgia), Nathan Orgill (Georgia Gwinnett College), Asleigh Ikemoto (Georgia College and State University), Pedro Rivera (Savannah State University), Jeffrey Rogers (Gordon State College), Danya Daniely (Fort Valley State University), Bryan Banks (Columbus State University), Scott McDermot (Albany State University), Kevin Jones (University of Georgia)

Meeting Minutes

The Regents Academic Advisory Committee on History convened a special meeting to discuss revising the Area F requirements to clarify the intentions and revise the wording of the revisions approved at the February 2023 meeting. The members also discussed concerns about the minimum credit hours for the Citizenship area of the new Core IMPACTS.

Field of Study Requirements

The committee discussed two proposals for revising the recent standards to clarify the intention of the Area F guidelines. Prior to the meeting the chair submitted two draft proposals. Dr. Rickman recommended going with the option suggested by Dr. Mergel, which proposed changing the wording of Section B of the requirements to ensure institutions, not students, determined the appropriate elective courses for their students. Dr. Burnham suggested some additional changes to the listed credit hours to ensure institutions clearly had the ability to offer as many history courses as they chose under the Field of Study (Area F).

Discussion ensued about the intentions of the changes in February (primarily to make foreign language optional), the reason why the revised guidelines listed three hours of required history courses, and how the new language would improve upon the existing language and allow institutions to retain their existing Field of Study courses or modify them to remove foreign languages. The RAACH approved the following language for the Field of Study (Area F) requirements.

A.	REQUIRED: History courses not counted in other areas of the Core Curriculum	3-18 hours
B.	For the remaining credit hours, institutions will determine guided electives appropriate to the needs of their students including, but not limited to, the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anthropology• Computer Science• Economics• Education	0-15 hours

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign Languages • Geography • Introduction to Asia, Africa, Europe, or Latin America • Introduction to Local/Georgia History • Introduction to Philosophy • Introduction to Religion • Introductory Thematic Courses in History • Minorities in American History • Political Science • Psychology • Sociology • Statistics • U.S. History Survey • World or Western Civilization • Other courses deemed appropriate by individual institutions 	
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Members present voted in favor of the changes, which will be forwarded to the Council on General Education for consideration.

Core IMPACTS Citizenship Requirements

The committee members discussed the decision by the University System of Georgia to list a minimum of 3 credit hours in the Citizenship area of the Core IMPACTS. Additionally, members firmly believe the legislative requirement should be split between two courses—a history and a government course—in order to conform to the spirit and the letter of the legislative requirement. While recognizing three of the USG institutions currently use one course to satisfy the legislative requirement, members worry that the minimum credit hours listed in the new policy will encourage administrations to push to remove one of the two courses.

Across the state, institutions are deactivating history programs, which is already troubling when it comes to promoting informed and engaged citizens. Combining the legislative requirements into one course ultimately would have a negative impact on the ability of students to even fulfill the new USG guidelines for the Citizenship area, which state: *Students will demonstrate knowledge of the history of the United States, the history of Georgia, and the provisions and principles of the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Georgia.* The committee collectively wonders how a single course can truly prepare students to be engaged citizens.

Additionally, members discussed the appropriate way to raise its concerns with the University System or Georgia and the Board of Regents. Members present voted to send a letter (via email) to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer of the University System of Georgia raising concerns about pressure to create a single course which has already emerged on more than one campus which did not previously combine the requirement into one course. As part of the motion, the members agreed to meet again virtually in November to discuss the response as further developments on campuses across the USG.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Sarah Mergel.