Regents Academic Committee on Adult Learning (RACAL)
February 5, 2016
Middle Georgia State University, Conference Center

AGENDA

Time	Topic	Lead
10:00am	Welcome	Dennis Chamberlain
10:10am	Introductions	
10:30am	Approval of the Minutes	
10:35am	eCampus Strategies	Jason Huett
11:00am	Adult Learning System Data	Jonathan Gayles
11:20am	PLA Strategies and Practices	Elke Leeds
11:50am	Adult Learner Approaches/ PLA Credit	Kokila Ravi
12:00pm	Adult Learner Awards	Jonathan Gayles
12:15pm	Lunch	
1:15pm	Date and Time for Next Meeting	Dennis Chamberlain
1:30pm	Other Business	Dennis Chamberlain
1:40pm	Adjourn	Dennis Chamberlain

Welcome and Introductions
Dennis Chamberlain (Gordon State), RACAL Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00am and welcomed the RACAL members to the meeting. Dennis announced that Jonathan Gayles (Georgia State) will succeed him as RACAL Chair.

Approval of the Minutes
The minutes from the February 5, 2016 RACAL meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

Item approved unanimously by voice vote.

eCampus Strategies
Jason Huett (USG eCampus) shared his personal journey as an adult learner and talked about his son, Caleb, a UGA student soon to be a published author.

Jason talked about the growth of eCore, from 3 affiliates enrolling 35 students to 23 affiliates enrolling 33,000 students. eCore support staff handle as many as 1500 calls per day and help arrange proctoring for over 17,000 exams each year. Success rates in eCore courses are 68% to 90%, and they carry a 93% approval rating.

Jason discussed USG's Access and Affordability initiative through eCampus, noting that a major cause of dropout is financial problems and that the average education debt of $30,000 for Georgia students is highest in the nation.
- Recent price adjustments have brought eCore courses down to $169/credit, saving $5M for students. Likewise, eMajor courses reduced in price from $250/credit to $199/credit.
- In looking at Complete College Georgia goals of reaching 60% of the state's population achieving a post-secondary credential, Jason pointed to 54 counties in with a degree attainment rate less than 20%.

- eCampus now handles Go Back Move Ahead (GBMA) inquiries, with over 6,000 GBMA inquiries handled by eCampus so far.
- Georgia is home to eight military installations with over 100,000 active duty personnel, and the state's 800,000 veterans make up 9% of its population compared to the 1% national average.

Jason described two methods to begin eMajor programs, referring RACAL members to Art Recesso, Chief Innovation Officer for eCampus:

1. As part of a collaborative with other USG institutions. Courses would belong to the collaborative, meaning the consortium would need to approve changes.
2. At the institutional level.

Question: How does one advocate for an eMajor program on campus and assure colleagues they will have needed resources to succeed.

Jason outlined the training and support process provided by eCampus.

Question: What is the process for vetting the quality of an eMajor program?

Faculty must sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) outlining expectations. eCampus engages in quality review via measuring faculty response time to students and collecting assignment feedback. eCampus can assist individual faculty or an entire campus in assessing quality either "in-house" or more formally, in what Jason described as the "intersection of academic freedom and instructional design."

Question: What is the cost to the institution?

Jason said that costs vary depending on whether a program resides at a single institution or within a consortium but that prices can be as low as $29/credit.

Question: Has eCampus conducted any outreach to students potentially displaced by the closure of ITT Technical Institute?

Yes.

Adult Learning System Data

Jonathan provided data gathered from USG, including enrollment totals and graduation rates in cohorts of three years for associate degrees and six years for bachelor degrees. [See USG Data attachment]. Most of the data centered on students who were first-time freshmen at age 25 or older at matriculation.

Question: Why the focus on first-time freshmen, and are data for all adult learners available?

The traditional focus has been on first-time freshmen age 25 older at matriculation. Jonathan agreed to follow up with the USG for more data.

Question: Do we have any sense of the impact of Move on When Ready (MOWR) in labeling students as first-time freshmen if they attended a different institution for MOWR from their choice as a degree-seeking student?

After discussion, no one had a clear answer to this question.

PLA Strategies and Practices
Elke Leeds (Kennesaw State) lamented the inconsistency in credit by exam (CBE) policy and reporting she observed on her campus. Some units kept records in paper folders. Some had scores separated from the records. Data entries could be found in numerous different Banner screens depending on the exam. Her office did some mystery shopping about prior learning assessment (PLA) on campus only to get the runaround. They found one process involving six steps and four signatures.

The result of the internal review was the launch of pla.kennesaw.edu, a centralized location for departmental plans. The university is working to get the PLA options added to the course descriptions in the catalog as well. Elke shared the Credit by Exam Process Flow handout [See CBE Flow attachment]. The flow chart represents a standardized process now used campus wide.

Elke distributed a set of data definitions she proposed all USG institutions use as Banner attribute codes to help identify what type of credit for prior learning (CPL) a student used for a particular course [See Attribute Codes attachment]. The purpose would be for reporting number of credits awarded for a given CPL type by the institution, not to create scrutiny upon transfer. The attribute codes would not show on transcripts.

Jon Sizemore (USG) noted that the USG does not have the ability to see attribute codes housed in Banner at a particular institution. The result of universally adopted the proposed codes would be additional data requests from the USG to each institution, something Jon felt confident the institutions wanted to avoid. He offered that pursuing how to best code CPL awards in a way that the USG could easily report would be an appropriate use of the advisory capacity of RACAL.

Jonathan summarized that he was hearing two things:
1. The need to survey USG institutions about how they record data for CPL
2. A RACAL sub-committee to report back to RACAL and help RACAL craft a data governance proposal to the USG

Jonathan called for volunteers for the CPL Data Governance subcommittee. Roz Fowler (USG) volunteered to lead the subcommittee. Elke agreed to assist.

Elke concluded her agenda item with a review of the MOOCs available at Kennesaw State via Coursera.

Adult Learner Approaches/ PLA Credit
Kokila Ravi (Atlanta Metropolitan) sought advice from RACAL members on a PLA pathway for firefighters. She thought her institution might be able to create a concentration under its public safety administration degree that would be PLA-friendly for firefighters. She received some contact information from colleagues and Jon.

Adult Learner Awards
Jonathan invited feedback on the idea of initiating RACAL-issued awards for the work USG institutions do with adult learners, which he felt is not clearly recognized. He gave examples of Excellence in Outreach or Innovation awards. A quick survey of the room revealed that no one had awards for adult learner-friendly programs on their campus.

After discussion of possible levels of awards (institutional, programmatic, faculty/staff, student) and precedents (Chancellor Awards at the system level), Jonathan called for a subcommittee to generate some ideas for RACAL to review. Danny Gourley (West Georgia) volunteered to lead the Adult Learner Awards subcommittee. Maria Lauro (Georgia Highlands) and Carol Adams (North Georgia) agreed to assist.

Date and Time for Next Meeting
The proposed date for the next RACAL is **February 3, 2017.** Jonathan Gayles, as Chair Elect, is in the charge of the February meeting.

Proposed agenda items included:
- Data collection from the CPL Data Governance subcommittee
- Proposed awards and criteria from the Adult Learner Awards subcommittee
- Update on the renewal of the Adult Learning Consortium MOU from Jon Sizemore

Other Business
Roz informed RACAL members that USG has exhausted funding for GBMA. The initiative remains an important cornerstone for Complete College Georgia, but GBMA has used the front-loaded money for marketing.

Roz sent Jonathan additional data from the USG level on adult learner enrollment and graduation. It can be reviewed in the next RACAL meeting.

Jon advised RACAL members that the Department of Education is going through a round of policy review. One possible outcome is the removal of limits on consumer protection regarding distance education. Another likelihood is official recognition of the National State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA). Part of the Southern Regional Education Board SARA and SREB's Electronic Campus Regional Reciprocity Agreement (SECRRA) help make it easier for students to take online courses offered by postsecondary institutions based in another state. The number of states in such an agreement is up to 43.

Dennis and Jonathan reviewed the slate of officers for RACAL, which typically includes representatives from each institutional classification section. With Jonathan assuming the role of chair, a chair elect is needed. RACAL also needs a recorder.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.

September 16, 2016, RACAL Attendance

Institution	Representative	Attendance
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural State College	Brooke Jernigan	Present
Albany State University	*Danette Saylor*	*Absent*
Armstrong State University	*Delana Nivens*	*Absent,* Becky daCruz
Atlanta Metropolitan State College	Kokila Ravi	Present
Augusta University	*Adam Wyatt*	*Absent,* Lorraine Evans
Bainbridge State College	*Pamela Barnes*	*Absent*

BOR University System Office Liaison	*Felita Williams*	*Absent*
Clayton State College	*LaJuan Simpson-Wilkey*	*Absent*
College of Coastal Georgia	*David Mulry*	*Absent*
Columbus State University	Lisa Shaw	Present
Dalton State College	*Andy Meyer*	*Absent*
Darton State College	*Sarah Kuck*	*Absent,* Jason Armstrong
East Georgia State College	*Georgia Edmond*	*Absent*
Fort Valley State University	*Rayton Sianjina*	*Absent*
Georgia College and State University	Mike Augustine	Present
Georgia Gwinnett College	Kristi McBride	Present
Georgia Highlands College	Maria Lauro	Present
Georgia Institute of Technology	*Leo Mark*	*Absent*
Georgia Southern University	*Thomas Koballa*	*Absent*
Georgia Southwestern State University	*Charles Huffman*	*Absent*
Georgia State University	Jonathan Gayles, CHAIR	Present
Gordon State College	Dennis Chamberlain	Present
Kennesaw State University	Elke Leeds	Present
Middle Georgia State University	Jennifer Barton	Present
Savannah state University	*Frank Williams*	*Absent*
South Georgia State College	*Patrice Nyatuame*	*Absent*
University of Georgia	*Laura Crawley*	*Absent*
University of North Georgia	Carol Adams	Present
University of West Georgia	Danny Gourley	Present
Valdosta State University	Reynaldo Martinez	Present
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE		
Board of Regents	Jon Sizemore	Present
Board of Regents	Rosalind Barnes Fowler	Present