



**RACEA Spring Meeting**  
**Callaway Garden Mountain Creek Inn**  
**Thursday, April 25, 2019 – Friday, April 26, 2019**  
**MINUTES**

**Mickey Williford, Chair:**

1. Welcome and introductions
2. History of RACEA (PowerPoint on website) Feels the committee has been meeting its purpose
3. FY 20 nominations will be accepted today – chair-elect, secretary, and General Education Council representative. Committee chairs will also be chosen.
4. Proposed amendment to the RACEA Bylaws –RACEA would like the General Education Council rep. to serve on the executive committee. This will be voted on Friday.
5. Tina Butcher, from Columbus State University, is retiring this year. We wish her well and thank her for her 10 years of service on RACEA.

***Speakers***

**9:45-10:15 Speaker 1. Dr. Bob Boehmer, President of East Georgia College**

“Reinvisioning the core-curriculum” (PowerPoint slides attached)

Dr. Boehmer gave an overview of the Gen Ed Council in GA, including the council structure. Described the Council as a hard-working group. Looking at general education policy was never a task for this group, and this was frustrating for the Council as they felt the underlying system was broken and in need of major revision. It is inconsistent and not responsive to emerging needs.

Handed out a white paper “**Re-envisioning the Core Curriculum in the University System of GA A Proposal by the USG Gen Ed Council Nov. 15, 2018**”

This white paper the result of that frustration. This is an upheaval.

Read from book “What do you think, Mr. Ramirez? The American Revolution in Higher Education” (2017) this book is an argument for inclusion of the humanities in higher education. Dr. Boehmer posed the question, “Is our general education structure in the USG capable of that kind of life changing impact?”

Chronicle of Higher Ed (2018) has a series on reforming general education. He recommends this be read. Limitations for USG- we have to pay attention to transferability issues which makes it more complicated.

What prevents us from achieving our goals:

1. Grandfathering in courses
2. Communication disconnected from k-12
3. Checklist approach to advising do we provide enough room for students to explore?
4. Common course numbering system is not used
5. Current process for system wide review of proposals for changes to the core
6. Learning outcomes for areas established at the institutional level
7. Goals: the institution adopts own learning outcomes for each area consistent with its goals.  
Great if we were one institution but we are not.

Proposal involves expanding the role of the gen ed council (see white paper)

The new SACSCOC standards added “closing the loop” to the gen ed standard so that is positive.



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Recommends looking at Texas Higher Ed system website: “Texas Gen Ed Core Curriculum”

We are not as clear as we need to be in GA on our terms and our purpose.

**10:35-11:05 Speaker 2: Dr. Pat Donat, SACSCOC VP**

Gen Ed 1. Structure and Content

2. Assessment

1. SACSCOC begins any review of this area by looking at the BOR policy on Gen Ed

The revised standard 9.3 key compliance components:

Rationale- coherence

Level- post-secondary

Curricular weight- number of hours and credits

Course distribution- 3 subject areas

Evaluator’s challenge is how to evaluate coherence, failure to address all key compliance components

You can have inter-disciplinary course

2. Assessment: Student outcomes 8.2

Key compliance components

ID outcomes including appropriate ways to measure and evaluate the outcomes

Assess achievement of outcomes

Use findings for improvement

First priority for institutions is orienting reviewers on how your system works.

We must show a full cycle. Don’t go to into “weeds”. Confusing - simple is better, give a roadmap.

Compliance: do the assessment methods yield some type of actionable data and are they aligned with the institutions stated outcomes?

8.1 student achievement you must include a benchmark and grad rates

Financial aid- discussion on student indebtedness.

13.8 open and closed office of civil rights cases. Looking for a pattern

4.2 g BOR self evaluation

Q and A Summary SACSCOC using Salesforce will move some processes on-line simplify.

Approved Sites listed for clarity – DOE wants to see this from SACSCOC



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Sub change policy revision in the works – need to start from scratch.

Negotiated rulemaking- may see some changes here and ability to innovate and partner more easily with other universities. This may ease some documentation.

SALESFORCE will be used for a decision tree type submission for sub change.

**12:30 -1:30 TASK Force meetings and 1:30 -2:00 Task Force reports**

(TASK Force meetings and reports combined below)

1. **CPR - Jill Lane:** Cover sheet works, reporting vehicle will still be used- it is up to your provost.

Gen Ed program review. CPR in the SACSCOC standards- 8.1 a, b, c

Program review under the 8's.

2. **Accreditation – Danielle Buehrer and Loraine Phillips**

RACEA website will be updated with a spreadsheet supporting the new standards

The committee will work with BOR to develop and post resources for accreditation reporting.

We will archive current postings on website and work with Sabrina Thompson from the BOR.

3. **BOR initiatives - Kevin Cantwell**

NEXUS fact sheet developed for institutions who are thinking about offering these “degrees”.

Marti said to hold off sending any NEXUS degrees through the BOR approval process until we receive SACSCOC approval on at least one. There are several submitted to SACSCOC from Columbus State currently.

Ga Film Academy another initiative this committee seeking feedback from other institutions.

System office and policies: the BOR may develop new policy in reference to the SACSOC financial aid info standard.

RACAA has developed an MOU about the Adult Ed Consortium and they want folks to review. Middle GA won't sign this year. They want to see what others think.

BOR approved new policies this fall/2018 3.0, 3.1, 3.2)

Each statement begins “Shall”

Each institution shall have policies that will answer this.

**2:15 – 3:15 System Office Update:**

John Fuchko, Marti Venn, Sabrina Thompson - BOR speakers

**Mr. John Fuchko:**



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CAR (Comp Administrative Assessment) – What do we do now?

John Fuchko shared an org chart for the BOR Organizational Effectiveness Unit at the system office.

Data: all offices touch each other. Marti and John worked on a re-org of offices using data from the CAR activity assessment. Offices realigned based on function.

Realized some efficiencies and eliminated some positions.

Created the Director of Accreditation Support- Sabrina Thompson.

Sabrina will work with Marti, John and with the USG institutions to create a resource for institutions undergoing accreditation reporting and visits. Instead of responding to ad hoc requests the BOR will develop a resource web page with evidence and forms that universities often request for accreditation reports. Also- evidence for the BOR board evaluation as well as conflict of interest and ethics documents.

BOR wants to be notified when a university is placed on monitoring.

RACEA will work with Sabrina to develop this resource site.

CAR- there will be a re-visiting of the CAR so that institutions do not back-slide.

They want reporting that comes out of the CAR- documenting that this process wasn't wasted.

BOR will also start sending monthly policy updates to the RACEA list as many in RACEA also deal with policy.

**Dr. Marti Venn:**

Marti along with Barbara Brown work to align their reporting with what SACSCOC requires us to show evidence for. This is a way to be efficient.

CPR for now- keep doing what we are doing. Tristan Denley asked for CPR reports to be available but do not need to be submitted.

Dr. Donat reviewed the new standards in the SACSCOC template.

12.6 Institution provides info to students about indebtedness

BOR is starting a program called "Know more, borrow less" Will work with student affairs to explore best practices.

There will be a GA Teacher's prep effectiveness measure required. A public website where data on schools of ed will be placed for the public to see. How students do on tests.

They will be drawing data from DOE-Deans will look at this. We need to be aware.

DMA: We are going through your DMA and we will meet by phone or in person. This will be cleaned up. There is a plan to take Marti Venn out of the loop so the process can move more quickly. Danielle in the system office will be the contact person.

We can align this process with the Institutional Summaries that universities are required to submit to SACSCOC.



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The new academic program forecasting memo has not proved to be very helpful. USG will investigate other methods such as Cal State which has a good process looking over five years.

**Sabrina Thompson** – Accreditation support for institutions is planned. Sabrina will reach out to all and will assist in developing web-based resources for accreditation reporting.

**Friday April 26, 2019**

**9:00-9:45**

1. New Principles Panel:

Panel presented their experiences with the new SACSCOC standards as both reviewers and reporters

Discussion focused on the flow of the new standards as a plus but a need for more clarity in the language of the standards 7.3 and 8.1.

**10:00-10:30 reports and elections**

2. Michael Black

**Treasurer's Report:** \$9,872

Fall 2018 meeting was provided free to attendees because we had saved money from prior meetings.

Balance does not represent the payment to Callaway Gardens for Spring meeting.

3. **Elections:**

- a. Nominations were called for a final time and the slate was presented:
- b. Chair- elect: Mary McLaughlin
- c. Secretary: Darby Sewell
- d. Gen Ed Council rep: Bryan Davis

**Final call for nominations- none. Make a motion, yes, motion accepted. Passed unanimously.**

Committee chairs will be determined in the group meetings.

4. Second motion to amend the bylaws.

**Proposed change to RACEA Bylaws**

The following amendment was proposed to the RACEA Executive Committee:

Amend Article III, Section 2, g (changes in red font)

Current language:

The duties of the RACEA USG General Education Council Representative are to:

- i. Represent the issues and concerns of RACEA to the USG General Education Council
- ii. Provide the USG General Education Council accreditation advice and expertise



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Proposed language:

The duties of the RACEA USG General Education Council Representative are to:

- i. **Serve on the Executive Committee**
- ii. Represent the issues and concerns of RACEA to the USG General Education Council
- iii. Provide the USG General Education Council accreditation advice and expertise

RACEA will have the Gen Education council rep serve on the executive committee.

**Motion forwarded, second offered and approved, Vote, all approved.**

**10:30 -11:15 Task Force Meetings**

1. Accreditation: DOE not much change in sub change policy so the focus of this group will be SACSCOC resource page for the RACEA body. Will work with Sabrina Thompson at BOR. New Programs: no notice. How can BOR support accreditation? Regents contact, conflict of interest minutes from board meetings, web site, letters for report, policy change notification, SACSCOC liaison list as well as state calendar of accreditation. Group will send a survey to see if any other feedback. Available archive of info as part of reorganization. Spreadsheet of standards will be finalized by Danielle Buehrer. Further discussion on clarity in standard 8.1 (thresholds) and 7.3 (closing the loop)
2. Program Review task force: Jill Lane  
Section 8 of principles of accreditation:  
Achievement  
Gen Ed  
APR  
Student Achievement  
Group will focus on gen ed program review based on SACSCOC 8.2b  
Inventory gen ed outcomes to give input on outcomes of courses.  
Group will look at closing the loop, e-core assessment and continuous imp. outcomes.  
Gen Ed and E-core not the same.  
Board Initiatives Task Force: Allan Aycock new chair  
Finalize and distribute FAQ on NEXUS  
Monitor dev. of Gen Ed reform and report to RACEA in Oct.  
(July/June Gen Ed Council meeting and July RACAA mtg)  
Bryan Davis Gen Ed council rep



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Spring Meeting: Cathi Jenks

One proposal is for a joint meeting with RACEA and RACIRP

We may create a master calendar so we can avoid conflicts with other meetings.

Dates proposed: Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

Location: Middle Georgia SU

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Minutes typed by Darby Sewell.

Minutes revised slightly by Michael Black, 06/13/2019.