Members Attending: Allan Aycock, University of Georgia; Jan Wheeler, University of Georgia; Bryan Davis, Georgia Southwestern State University; Donta Truss, Fort Valley State University; Juliana Lancaster, Georgia Gwinnett College; Susan Campbell Lounsbury, USG: Ruth Salter, Bainbridge State College; Jill Lane, Clayton State College; Tine Butcher, Columbus State University; Sri Sitharaman, Columbus State University; Henry M. Codjoe, Dalton State College; David Gribbin, East Georgia State College; Catherine Murray-Rust, Georgia Institute of Technology; Mickey Williford, Georgia Regents University; Peter Lyons, Georgia State University; Leigh Funk, Kennesaw State University; Michael Black, Valdosta State University; Robert Homer, Southern Polytechnic State University; Jon Anderson, University of West Georgia

Allan Aycock, RACEA Chair, welcomed attending RACEA members to open the meeting at 10:03 a.m. He proceeded by asking each attendee to introduce herself or himself and to indicate at what point in the SACSCOC reaffirmation cycle her or his institution is.

Mr. Aycock proceeded to summarize the developments since the RACEA annual meeting in February.

- Dr. Barbara Brown, who began serving as RACEA Chair after the February meeting, accepted a position with the USG that precluded her from completing her term.
- As stipulated in Article IV Section 4 of the RACEA Bylaws, the executive committee selected the Chair Elect, Allan Aycock, to complete Dr. Brown’s term of service. Bryan Davis was also selected to complete Mr. Aycock’s term of service and Donta Truss to complete Dr. Davis’s term as secretary.
- Dr. Jason Huffman, chair of the Data and Benchmarking Task Force, resigned his position at Georgia College and State University creating another vacancy on the RACEA executive committee. Adam Wyatt, who was also on the Data and Benchmarking Task Force and a candidate to replace Dr. Huffman, accepted another position at Georgia regents University and is no longer a member of RACEA. The executive committee decided to defer the appointment of a new chair for the task force until after the Fall meeting, since it was unclear if the task force was viable.

Mickey Williford, Chair of CPR Standing Committee, facilitated a discussion of Comprehensive Program Review and Program Productivity. This discussion was in preparation for a meeting between Executive Vice Chancellor Houston Davis and Mr. Aycock, Dr. Davis, and Ms. Williford on November 1, 2013 to discuss RACEA’s continuing role in the USG CPR process. Ms. Williford provided context for the discussion by summarizing the history of RACEA involvement in the USG CPR Process.

History of RACEA CPR Peer Review Process: RACEA developed a (non) rubric to assess the effectiveness of institutional CPR processes in consultation with the USG Office of Academic Affairs. RACEA tested its rubric and procedure with selected volunteer institutions, conducted a pilot with other institutions, and completed one round of actual reviews between 2009 and 2012.
The USG and Board of Regents were not satisfied with the RACEA process for two main reasons:

- Did not generate clear listing of low producing programs within the system
- RACEA review proposed review cycle of five years too long

However, individual institutions that participated in the process did receive benefits from it:

- Process analysis review
- External quality review

The conclusion seems to be that RACEA was focused on the process and on program improvement, while USG/BoR was focused on productivity and resource allocation. The Regents were especially concerned about the proliferation of new programs during a period of diminishing resources. The Regents and the USG spent a couple of years redesigning the new program review process, and have now turned their attention to so-called low producing programs.

The discussion continued regarding the USG initiatives on CPR Auditing, conducted by the USG Office of Internal Audit and Compliance using the RACEA rubric, and the DMA Validation Process. Susan Campbell Lounsbury, the USG Representative to RACEA, reported that the process of improving the DMA database is ongoing, and such improvements as consolidation of the Georgia Regents University, University of North Georgia, Middle Georgia State College, and South Georgia State College listings, and the DMA redesign may be complete by the end of the year.

Continuing discussion centered on questions surrounding the USG CPR Policy that aims to demonstrate the quality, productivity and viability of programs. The Regent's focus on so-called low producing programs would seem to equate viability with productivity at the expense of quality. It was suggested that the USG could provide to cost model or methodology to help institutions with program prioritization and that RACEA might have a role to play in creating a more robust methodology for determining program viability that places quality before productivity. Blank, Georgia College and State University, noted that that institution is currently engaged in a program prioritization process that the USG is monitoring for possible use at other USG institutions. A number of other pertinent observations were made including:

- It has yet to be demonstrated that program elimination will save money.
- Credit hours/per faculty member and credit hour production by department or other administrative unit may be better metrics for productivity than degree completion numbers.
- CPR is intended for continuous improvement of programs, not to determine financial productivity.
- Too much emphasis on productivity and too little effectiveness makes faculty buy-in difficult.
- Program viability might be affected by institutional context including what sector a USG institution belongs to

The outcome of the discussion was a set of questions and concerns to be taken up with Vice Chancellor Davis on November 1, 2013 (see attachment)

Bryan Davis, Chair-elect, facilitated a discussion of the USG Policy Review Task Force recommendations that focused on the recommendations associated with New Models for Learning and Collaborative Online Degrees. Susan Campbell Lounsbury, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research and Policy Analysis USG, reported on the work of the task force and on the progress towards implementing its recommendations. Since Dr. Linda Noble, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs for the USG, has been appointed interim Vice President of
Academic Affairs at Fort Valley State University, progress on the implementation of the task force’s recommendations has been slow. There will be a meeting of representatives from all USG institutions on November 6, 2013 to discuss New Models for Learning, and a document entitled “Framework for the USG Expansion of Distance Learning and Development of New Models of Teaching and Learning” has been circulated to USG Presidents and Chief Academic Officers (see attachment).

Dr. Campbell Lounsbury will find out more about the progress towards implementation of the recommendations on Collaborative Online Degrees and how these relate to the NEW Models recommendation. During this discussion it was observed that the USG Office of Academic Affairs has no person assigned to liaison with SACSCOC about the implications of USG policy changes.

Since the discussion of the Policy Review Task Force recommendations was hindered by lack of progress on implementation, Mr Aycock suggested that the balance of time prior to lunch be used to discuss SACSCOC policy implications and problems of collaborative online degrees. Among the observations were . . . (Allan, we will have to depend on your notes since I was on my feet during this discussion--BPD)

David Gribbin, Chair of the RACEA Assessment Task Force, reported preliminary results from the survey of assessment practices composed by the task force. [insert results from powerpoint]

Other Standing Committee and Task Force Reports

Michael Black, Treasurer (for life)
- An Agency Account for RACEA funds has been established at Valdosta State University
- Current Balance: $3750

Mickey Williford, Chair of CPR Standing Committee
- Discussed expanding concern presented to Dr. Houston Davis at the November 1 meeting.
- Tweaked questions for Dr. Davis
- Allan Aycock will circulate a set of proposed questions to the executive committee for comment covering not only RACEA concerns about CPR, but also about the Policy Review Task Force recommendations.

Jill Lane, Chair of Standing Committee on RACEA Web Center
- Updates to assessment resources necessary
- Please do survey on Spring meeting topics as soon as you can

Leigh Funk, Chair of SACSCOC Problem Solver Task Force
- Update on a strategy to address SACSCOC conflict of interest policy will be posted on RACEA Web Site
- It remains unclear how to present RACEA policy recommendations to USG.

Allan Aycock, reporting for nonexistent chair of Data & Benchmarking Task Force
- Task Force will be discontinued for now with the possibility of revival in future.

Allan Aycock, RACEA Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m. and reminded the membership to fill out the annual meeting topics survey.