

Agenda
Regents' Advisory Committee on Academic Affairs
Rehearsal Room, Building M (Theater Arts Complex) - Macon State College
October 21, 2004

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration and Coffee

9:00 a.m. Call to Order, Introductions, Announcements Michael Stoy
Moment of Silence for Dr. Bill Bompat
Recognition of Retirements – Dr. Janis Reid, Dr. Joseph Szutz
Recognition of New VPAAAs – Ms. Carolyn Conley

9:10 a.m. Minutes Marci Middleton

9:15 a.m. Senior Vice Chancellor's Report and Discussion Dan Papp
1) Budget Update
2) SAT/ACT
3) More Open Admissions
4) Statewide Assessment and Mission Review
5) Reformulated Strategic Plan and BOR Initiatives

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. Discussion Items:
1) Possible Legislation on Academic Freedom Frank Butler
2) System-wide Face-to-Face Meeting Curtailment Michael Stoy

12:00 Noon Buffet Lunch and Focused Discussion (based on SVC Report)

1:00 p.m. Action Items:
1) Committee on Off-Campus Instruction Dan Papp, Virginia Carson
2) Graduation Rate Task Force Frank Butler, Cathie Hudson
3) AP Committee Report Bob Boehmer
4) Committee on Sociology, Anthropology, & Social Work Cathie Hudson
Academic Advisory Committee Recommendation
5) Other

2:00 Information Items:
1) Reports
a. PRISM Strategy 10 Subcommittee Frank Butler
b. Electronic Textbooks Frank Butler
2) International Education Handout from Richard Sutton
3) Student Affairs Tonya Lam
4) ACCEL Course Equivalency Frank Butler, Tonya Lam
5) Georgia Mentor Program Shelley Nickel, Kris Biesinger
6) Advanced Learning Technologies Updates Jessica Somers
7) Other

3:00 Announcements

Regents' Administrative Committee on Academic Affairs
Fall 2004 MINUTES/CONCLUSIONS
October 21, 2004
Macon State College

The Administrative Committee on Academic Affairs held its fall business meeting at Macon State College's Theatre Arts Complex in the Rehearsal Hall (Building M) on October 21, 2004. Dr. Michael Stoy, Chair and Vice President for Academic Affairs & Dean of Faculty, called the meeting to order. Dr. Stoy asked that everyone present take time to reflect and remember the spirit, vitality, intellectual acuity, and commitment to academe of vice presidents for academic affairs who are no longer with us in the system. A moment of silence was taken upon the remembrance of Dr. Bill Bompert, former Vice President for Academic Affairs at Augusta State University.

After a moment of silence, Dr. Stoy asked that everyone congratulate and recognize recent retirees: Dr. Janis Reid, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Atlanta Metropolitan College and Dr. Joseph Szutz, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Strategic Research and Analysis, University System Office. The group also recognized Ms. Carolyn Conley, new Vice President for Academic Affairs at Atlanta Metropolitan College.

The minutes of the summer meeting held July 11 – 13, 2004 were approved as distributed.

I. Senior Vice Chancellor's Report and Discussion

A. Budget Update

Senior Vice Chancellor Dan Papp provided an update concerning the University System budget. According to Dr. Papp, the budget has decreased by 64 million dollars when compared with the budget allocation provided at the beginning of the fiscal year. It was revealed at the President's meeting that the legislature would not approve a roll-over of the June 30, 2004 payroll onto July 1, 2004. Although the University System has an 11 – 12% overall part of the state budget, it is enduring a 36 – 38% fund reduction. A mid-year tuition increase would have generated 26 million; however, such action did not occur. The budget deficit is a long-term dilemma. Potential solutions that are under discussion include the following: 1) increase tuition; 2) establish enrollment limitations or caps; 3) increase efficiency efforts; and 4) focus on core competency concentrations. As a result of the increased need to develop a strategy to address the budget deficit dilemma, Dr. Papp requested that each institution provide information concerning measures of quality beyond what has already been provided to legislators. The object of this task is to document the many ways in which quality of instruction and services decline with decreases in funding. In addition to the first request, institutions were also asked to provide departmental level information on how a decrease in funding impacts specific departments in addition to faculty and staff in general.

B. SAT/ACT

Dr. Papp announced that the Governor's Office was interested in two-year college admissions. Dr. Ben Scafidi of Georgia State University has suggested using SATs as a predictor for success at two-year colleges. Discussions are continuing and the University System has not changed its admission criteria or freshman indicators. Discussions on this subject with Dr. Ben Scafidi will continue and an external discussion will be held with all two-year colleges.

C. Statewide Assessment, Reformulated Strategic Plan

Chancellor Meredith has empanelled a system office committee to review "what the system will look like by year 2015 to meet the needs of the state of Georgia." Approximately fourteen recommendations based on statewide assessment have been incorporated into the reformulated strategic plan since last spring. The reformulated plan has approximately 35 action steps versus the former plan that had 119 action steps for years 2002 – 2007.

D. Mission Review

The last mission review of University System institutions occurred during the 1994 – 1995 academic year and Board action was taken in 1996. Currently, the university system is gearing up for another round of mission review in order to focus on the needs of the state by year 2015. Chancellor Meredith sent a letter to all presidents in September 2004 requesting that institutions take an introspective look at themselves based on the needs of the immediate area, external indicators of growth, and goals of their institutions. As a result, four types of mission review categories were made available for presidential selection. The four categories are as follows:

- 1) change that clarifies or simplifies an institution's current mission statement without changing an institution's mission or sector;
- 2) change in which an institution seeks to add or subtract from its current mission;
- 3) change in an institution's name; and
- 4) change in which an institution seeks to change its mission so much that it will change sectors.

A process of measuring institutional viability based on category selection will be developed over the next couple of months. The scope of institutional changes will become less opaque when boundary conditions are established. Mission review changes are to be implemented over a specific period of time. The System Office will provide additional details after the November 2004 Board meeting.

E. BOR Initiatives

The option of early retirement has been discussed as one possible solution to the budget dilemma. The Board of Regents does not support this option because such action would need an infusion of funds up-front in order to be effective. In addition, the impact on departments and faculty may have unforeseen complications.

II. Discussion Items

A. Possible Legislation on Academic Freedom

Dr. Frank Butler, Vice Chancellor for Academics, Faculty, and Student Affairs, provided a report on a student bill of rights with regard to academic freedom. The university system is taking a neutral position on the student bill of rights issue. Institutions are encouraged to let students know that processes are already in place at each university system institution for students to seek appeals based on academic freedom. Mr. Jim Flowers in the university system office is tracking this issue. Dr. Butler indicated that websites devoted to this issue advocate sending complaints to the website rather than to the student's institution directly.

B. System-wide Face-to-Face Meeting Curtailment

Dr. Stoy reminded the VPAAAs that the committee had expanded the number of meetings per year from four to three. Dr. Stoy asked the assembled group to determine whether three meetings should be held each year in order to mitigate the effects of a budget shortfall. It was suggested that RACAA cancel its February meeting due to the propensity of inclement weather. To ease a backlog of items that require VPAA attention, it was further suggested that advisory committee items be dealt with online and that routine actions be streamlined in order to not incur a backlog of actionable items during the fall and spring meetings. Other options discussed include the use of videoconferencing and adding more online information. As a result of the discussion, it was agreed that the February meeting would be canceled and RACAA would then meet three times per year: fall, spring, and summer (jointly with RACSA).

C. Summer 2005 Meeting Plans

After determining that three meetings would be held each year, Dr. Stoy then asked for comments about the location for the summer 2005 meeting. The VPAAAs determined that Sea Palms was not cost prohibitive, especially since the group will now meet three times per year instead of four. Dr. Stoy then announced that he would move forward on finalizing plans to hold the joint RACAA/RACSA meeting at Sea Palms for July 17 – 19, 2005.

III. Action Items

A. Committee on Off-Campus Instruction

Dr. Papp introduced Dr. Virginia Carson, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Floyd College, who provided a summative overview of the report of the Committee on Off-Campus Instruction. Dr. Carson acknowledged the contributions of the committee members: Dr. Barbara Frizzell (Macon State College), Dr. Sharon Hoffman (Clayton College & State University), Dr. Joseph Szutz (System Office), Dr. Edward Thompson (Armstrong Atlantic State U.), Dr. Vaughn Vandegrift (Georgia Southern U.), Dr. Thomas Walter (Gainesville College), and Dr. Richard Sutton (System Office and Committee Chair). Outcomes of the committee's work were to review nomenclature used within the University System to designate off-campus instructional sites, recommend names for off-campus instructional sites to be applied uniformly across sectors, and write guiding principles and policies for external degrees and off-campus offerings. The report of the Committee on Off-Campus Instruction will be sent to University System presidents by November 3. Pending outcomes at the presidents' meeting, off-campus instruction policies will be recommended to the Board for approval. Based on the committee's report, system guidelines will be clarified and external degrees, distance education delivery or site-based, still require Board approval.

B. Graduation Rate Task Force

Dr. Frank Butler discussed the work of the Graduation Task Force and a recommended action plan. The following recommendations have been provided to Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dan Papp:

- 1) The USG will use six-year graduation rates as the standard measure for bachelor degrees. Disaggregated parameters relating to retention and graduation rates will also be provided;
- 2) A set of principles on institutional practices will be developed and institutions will need to develop a plan for improving disaggregated retention and six-year graduation rates;
- 3) Each institution will develop procedures to follow students who transfer to them, analyze the data and develop strategies for enhancing transfer student success;
- 4) The USG will require annual progress reports on disaggregated retention rates for years one through five and on disaggregated six-year graduation rates;
- 5) The system office will provide a set of rubrics for self-assessment by institution and it is further recommended that the rubrics be used by institutions to monitor their progress on implementation of the principles and results;
- 6) The USG will support institutions using the NSSE or CSSE data to improve student learning and collegiate quality; and
- 7) USG institutions are encouraged to develop stronger linkages with feeder schools to narrow the gap between high school and college. Dr. Butler requested that the VPAAAs send via e-mail their suggestions on the report and action plan.

Outcome: No vote was taken on this item, but rather, it was considered a consensus item.

C. AP Committee Report

Dr. Bob Boehmer of the University of Georgia provided consultative analysis of Advanced Placement (AP) in the University System. Dr. Boehmer's summary of the AP Committee report consisted of a discussion of the data collection process and resultant outcomes. Dr. Boehmer commented that the study did not account for SAT II or IB exams. In his statements, Dr. Boehmer indicated that the data is not as clean as projected, thus a follow-up survey will be sent to each institution. Observations concerning the use of AP at system institutions included the following:

- 1) student AP credit performance can be correlated with students who took advanced courses;
- 2) students who complete AP fare better in higher level courses than those who take introductory and then higher level courses;
- 3) AP credit is reevaluated at several institutions;
- 4) variation exists in credit awarded by individual institution and by each course.

Dr. Boehmer informed the VPAAAs that the committee wants to further clean the data and make the following recommendations: 1) take recommendations from this committee to the presidents; 2) provide this information to the academic advisory committees; and 3) fundamentally review the amount of AP credit awarded in the university system. A copy of the AP report was provided to Dr. Butler on disk for broad dissemination to the VPAAAs.

Outcome: The motion to review AP credit information in the University System was approved by the committee of the whole.

D. Committee on Sociology, Anthropology & Social Work Academic Advisory Committee Recommendation

Motion: The Academic Advisory Committee on Sociology, Anthropology & Social Work recommends the addition of the sophomore-level course in criminology to Area F recommendations for the sociology major.

Outcome: The motion carried and was approved by a committee of the whole.

IV. Information Items

A. Prism Strategy 10 Subcommittee

Dr. Sara Connor provided an overview of the activities of the PRISM Strategy 10 Subcommittee. The vision of "PRISM", Partnership for Reform in Science and Mathematics, is to increase science and mathematics achievement for all P-12 students in order to improve their readiness for post-secondary education and careers by enhancing teacher quality, raising expectations for all stakeholders, and closing the achievement gaps through the collaboration of P-16 parents. Strategy #10 is the state-level component of the program in which reward structures would be established to encourage faculty to become involved in improving science and mathematics teaching and learning in P-12 schools. Strategy #10 is composed of a four step, multi-year process. Dr. Connor briefly described each step listed below:

- 1) Step 1, Year 1: Incentives and rewards will be established to enhance faculty involvement in improving teaching and learning in P-12 schools;
- 2) Step 2, Year 2: At least 100 faculty members will be invited to a retreat with the goal of reaching consensus on the rewards and incentives structure;
- 3) Step 3, Year 3: RACAA will be provided recommendation and action items associated with PRISM, Strategy #10; and
- 4) Step 4, Years 4 – 5: Members of the PRISM Committee will write about the process, objectives, and outcomes for publication for national exposure.

The science and math faculty symposium is scheduled for February 17 – 18, 2005.

B. Electronic Textbooks

Dr. Butler announced that legislation was under deliberation concerning whether all books for students should have an electronic version. Issues that incite debate and discussion are low inventory textbooks, costs, academic freedom, and bookstore profits. Additionally, any supportive legislation will take into account learning disorders and intellectual property and copyright laws.

C. International Education

Dr. Richard Sutton distributed a handout concerning upcoming events in International Affairs. VPAAAs were encouraged to visit the international education website for updates throughout the year (URL: www.usg.edu/oie). Dr. Sutton also announced that the 2004 International Briefing Book and Study Abroad Catalog had been mailed to each institution last month.

D. Student Affairs

Ms. Tonya Lam announced that SAC leaders would be holding a meeting in the coming months. Dr. Carole Middlebrooks would facilitate a session on issues germane to the student body.

E. ACCEL Course Equivalency

Dr. Butler and Ms. Lam indicated that PSO, post-secondary options, would be phased out and no longer used by the University System in favor of ACCEL course equivalencies. Ms. Lam suggested that the VPAAAs visit the GSFC website, www.gsfc.org, to obtain specific details on which courses will be paid by HOPE, a delineation of core courses, and at what time such courses may count towards student aid. Below is an excerpt from the GSFC website regarding ACCEL:

The ACCEL Program is for students classified as high school juniors and seniors at accredited public or private high schools in the state of Georgia, and is operated in all school terms except summer. The program allows students to pursue postsecondary study at approved public and private colleges and technical colleges while receiving dual high school and college credit for courses successfully completed.

Courses pursued by students under this program must come from the approved course directory (below) which is supplied to high school counselors in the state. Courses are available only in the areas of the core graduation requirements for college preparatory students: English; Mathematics; Social Studies; Science; Foreign Language.

At public colleges the program pays for tuition, mandatory fees and provides participating students with a book allowance, in keeping with the benefits provided by the HOPE Program. At private colleges the program pays \$125 per semester hour or \$84 per quarter hour. Transportation and other expenses are the responsibility of the student, including tuition and other expenses for non-core courses, if any are taken.

F. Georgia Mentor Program

Ms. Shelley Nickel and Dr. Kris Biesinger presented the Georgia Mentor Program. The project is a student portal that provides information on postsecondary institutions and student participation. Ms. Nickel and Dr. Biesinger then proceeded to demonstrate GAcollge411, “a statewide initiative to simplify the process of planning, applying and paying for college in Georgia.” GAcollge411 is a consolidated web portal that contains information on all public, independent, and technical colleges in the state. In addition to a presentation of the portal sites, Ms. Nickel announced that high school grade point average would be used to determine HOPE eligibility after year 2007 based on a 4.0 scale. It is anticipated that by year 2007, electronic transcripts will be made available. Ms. Nickel also shared that GSFC would provide information on student loans in addition to scholarships. At least five regional kick-off meetings of GAcollge411 are scheduled from November 15 through November 19, 2004 in which several campus personnel have been invited to attend.

G. Advanced Learning Technologies Updates

Dr. Jessica Somers provided an update on developments in Advanced Learning Technologies. First, the VISTA implementation will have a live, on-line demonstration hosted by UGA. A transition to VISTA 3.0 will be phased in by summer 2005. E-core participation has increased by 20% with 1,314 enrollees, 21 courses, and 43 sections. E-core is in the process of obtaining certification from the American Academy of Liberal Education. The WebBSIT has 35 students enrolled in its program and the WebMBA “went live in fall 2004” with at least 16 students.

V. Announcements

Dr. Cathie Mayes Hudson announced that the state legislature had requested information on faculty workload with specific data points for the number of courses taught by each faculty member in the University System over the last four years.

Dr. John Wolfe announced that golf teams for the Chancellor's cup are forming. The next match is scheduled for March 12 – 13, 2005 at Bayton Hills Golf Course (1st exit off I-475). Announcements concerning the Chancellor's Cup are forthcoming.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m. with no remaining issues to be discussed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marci M. Middleton, MBA, MS
Director of Academic Program Coordination