

DRAFT
Minutes of the Biology Academic Advisory Committee
Thursday, March 31, 2011
Macon State College
10:00

Present: Ray Barber- ABAC, Mary Mayhew- Gainesville State, Bryan Mitchell- Atlanta Metro, Deepa Aorra- Middle Georgia, Rich Griner- Augusta State, Elissa Purnell- Savannah State, Henry Zot- West Georgia, Jerald Hendrix- Kennesaw, Julie Ballenger- Columbus State, Candace Timppte- Georgia Gwinnett , Jacqueline Jordan- Clayton State, Mark Farmer- UGA, Bob Herrington- Georgia Southwestern, David Davis- Macon State, Peter Sakaris- Southern Poly, James Adams- Dalton State, Gaylon Cook- Waycross, Susan Finazzo- Georgia Perimeter, Donna Daugherty- Georgia Highlands, Trish Rugaber- Coastal Georgia, Yoga Sundram- South Georgia, Frank Malinowski- Darton, Virginia Michelich- System Office

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rich Griner about 10:10.

Welcome and introductions

There was a motion and second to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2010 BAAC meeting. The committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Area F Learning Outcome(s) – the committee was charged with coming up with area F outcomes for biology. Rich introduced a statement and discussion ensued. After numerous revisions the statement below was agreed upon by the committee. This single outcome will go into catalog along with all the other area F outcomes for other majors.

“The Students will demonstrate competence in scientific reasoning by using quantitative and qualitative skills to critically analyze data and evaluate biological phenomena.”

Assessment of outcome: lab practicals, questions where students are expected to interpret data. Seventy percent level considered successful.

Discussion of 1107 and 2107 on the following areas:

Chart to compare content of 1107 -1108 at different institutions. Mark Farmer started chart in excel. Rich will send to all committee members to fill out. Discussion ensued from various institutions. Most institutions use the sequence.

Discussion of pros and cons of having a combined lab lecture vs. separate lab and lecture.

Prerequisites for 1107. Some schools require chemistry. More schools require Algebra. Most schools require Algebra for chemistry. Some allow it as a co-requisite.

Transfer credit issue

Discussion of problems associated with transfer of quarter system Biology courses being transferred to USG schools. Brought up by David Davis (Macon State) . Comments indicated this is a problem for most schools.

Student success rate vs. length of time to complete degree

Discussion of getting students out on time vs students being successful and eventually graduating. Virginia commented that the coming USG emphasis will be to try and get students out on time.

Discussion of various efforts to help students be successful.....freshman orientation courses with study skills.....science workshops seem to work for motivated students but not for unmotivated students..... mastering biology homework counts 25% of grade, dismal results at first but seems to be getting better.....forcing students to meet with advisors by changing pins each semester seems to help in some cases.....early warning systems being tried to save some students.....setting up a science grotto (with models, software on computer, microscopes, etc.) with faculty members providing the tutoring at 1-3 hours per week.....

Course numbering – K added to courses in which labs are integrated into the class.

Comparison of textbooks – all will add to chart

Online courses & labs - Virginia started discussion

Ga Tech will not take any online courses

UGA's Cell and Molecular Biology will not take online Anatomy

Committee is formed to look at the issues. It is suspected that the committee opinions will be fall along major vs nonmajor lines. It maybe OK to have online courses for nonscience majors but less likely to get approval for majors online courses, especially labs.

Discussion ensued of online courses that are currently in place. Some institutions offer full online courses including lab with no campus requirement, others have hybrid courses.

If greater than 50% of course is online it is considered an online course. Less than 50% is a hybrid course. If lecture is online and lab is on campus, it is considered a hybrid course.

Important question to ask, is the lab preparing the student for what comes next?

There was discussion of the fact that online courses do not need approval from any body. This may be responsible for the suspicion that is associated with online classes/labs.

Decision whether or not to accept online courses will likely be left up to individual institutions.

Some institutions require an approval process before a student can sign up for an online course.

It seems to be incumbent upon the institution offering the online course to provide evidence that the course provides the equivalent learning experience as a traditional course.

BAAC recommends the following online status of courses for the committee to consider

1. Indicate on transcript if online
2. Students should be informed prior to registration if course is online
3. Individual schools in system must decide whether or not to accept credit
4. Offering schools need to provide content details for transfer institutions
5. Offering schools need to provide assessment data for transfer institutions

Teaching loads, overload pay, undergrad. research credit, etc.

Discussion of teaching loads of faculty at various institutions indicates a lot of variability. Loads vary primarily by type of institution. There was a discussion of overload pay. Again, a good bit of variability. Is credit given for directing undergraduate research? Not at most schools. If it is only for a few students, it is usually just part of the job.

A survey will be sent out to committee members requesting the following information.:

1. the textbook used in the Principles sequence
2. the topic coverage in the two semester sequence
3. the titles of labs
4. the teaching loads by credit hour and contact hour and by semester
5. the lab fee students are charged (if any)

For 2011-2012 the individuals below will serve in the following capacities

Executive Committee:

Ray Barber - Chair (ABAC)

Jerald Hendrix -Chair Elect (Kennesaw)

Mark Farmer - Regional & Research Insti. Rep. (UGA)

James Adams - two yr & State College Rep. (Dalton State)

Jacqueline Jordan - four-year state universities rep. (Clayton State)

The parting discussion of possibly having the 2012 meeting in combination with the Georgia Academy in late March generated some interest. Checking into this further and ultimately deciding on date and time for the meeting would be the responsibility of the incoming chair.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2 p.m.

Amendment to minutes: from Virginia via Rich (email)
Area F learning outcomes will be posted on the USG website and will not need to be placed in institution catalogs.