

Meeting Minutes
Academic Advisory Committee for the Biological Sciences
March 23-24, 2000
Valdosta State University
Valdosta, GA

Attendees:

Regents	Dorothy Zinsmeister
Ga. Tech	No Representative
Georgia State	No Representative
MCG	No Representative
UGA	Catherine Ketter
Ga. Southern	No Representative
Valdosta	David Bechler
Albany	No Representative
Armstrong Atl	No Representative
Augusta	Emil Urban
Clayton	Rebecca Halyard
Columbus	George Stanton
Fort Valley	Ronald Abe (Substitute for Clinton Dixon)
Georgia Coll/St U	No Representative
Georgia Southwestern	Elisabeth Elder
Kenesaw State	Ralph Rascati
North Georgia	Mark Davis
Savannah	Chandra Franklin
Southern Polytech	Bill Burnett
State U of West GA	Greg Stewart
ABAC	Leon Benefield
Atlanta Metro	Barbara Morgan
Bainbridge	Nancy Goodyear
Coastal Georgia	Eugene Keferi
Dalton	John Lughart
Darton	No Representative
East Georgia	No Representative
Floyd	No Representative
Gainesville	Caywood Chapman
Georgia Perimeter	Betty Molloy, Virginia Michelich
Gordon	Theresa Stanley
Macon	David Davis
Middle Georgia	John Pasto
South Georgia	Terry Harrington
Waycross	Clint Resaly (Substitute for Andy Madison)

On Thursday afternoon a joint meeting of the various science AACs was held. The keynote speaker was Jeanne Narrum from Project Kaleidoscope. The theme of her presentation was “Science Education: Then, Now and the Next Decade”. The thrust of the presentation can be found in a Project Kaleidoscope report of the same title. The report can be obtained from the Project Kaleidoscope office:

Project Kaleidoscope
1730 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Suite 803
Washington, DC 20036

Their email address is pkal@pkal.org
Their web site URL is <http://www.pkal.org>

On Friday morning, in the absence of Chair, John Averett, the Biology AAC session was called to order by Chair Elect Ralph Rascati at 10:30 am.

Leon Benefield agreed to take minutes of the meeting.

- I. Ralph Rascati distributed the summary data on faculty workloads at the various institutions. However, because the data were presented in different ways by different institutions it was difficult to come to any conclusions. Therefore, it was decided to redo the survey in such a way that the data can be presented in a consistent format so that comparisons can be made. Ralph will handle before the Fall meeting.
- II. A major discussion ensued about the future of Science Education programs in light of BOR decision to eliminate Broadfield Science programs in favor of single discipline programs.
 - One point of discussion centered on what constitutes a major. For example does a Biology Education major for someone intending to teach K-12 need to be the same as a Biology major for someone intending to go to a graduate program in biology? The need for a K-12 teacher to be exposed to material needed to cover QCC requirements suggests that the two may not necessarily have to be identical.
 - One question that was raised was the possibility of dual-field certification (e.g. Bio/Chem, Chem/Phys). This would be difficult, if not impossible, for a 120 hr program and still cover all of the required QCCs as well as the Professional Education courses. Some suggestions for approaching dual field certification included:
 1. Programs above 120 hrs (i.e. 126 hrs). There was some indication that the BOR might entertain proposals for such programs. However, even 126 hrs may not be enough.

2. 5th Year Masters Program was another option mentioned.
 3. Alternative certification (through RESA's) is another option. This would eliminate the need for the Professional Education courses in the undergraduate major and possibly allow for enough content for dual-field certification. This option is being developed by West Georgia for its Biology Education Program.
- Other institutions (e.g. Augusta State, Kennesaw State) are developing single-field programs.
 - Creative solutions involving swapping high-school and college teachers to avoid out-of-field teaching are also being discussed.
- III. A discussion occurred relating to problems encountered with transfer of Organic Chemistry as 2000 and/or 3000 level courses. This should be automatic. Dorothy Zinsmeister (BOR Liason) indicated that she would look into the problem and see how it could be fixed.
- IV. In response to a letter from Joan Lord, Chair of the Council on General Education the question was raised as to whether a specific Math course should be mandated for Biology majors in Area D2. All other science majors specify Calculus. Currently, such a course is not mandated for Biology majors.

After some discussion a motion was made by Emil Urban and seconded by Dave Bechler that "The third course in Area D2 be specified as Mathematics, Science, or Technology" and that all courses acceptable to the Council on General Education will be acceptable to meet this core requirement. The motion passes.

- V. Becky Halyard is continuing to accept student-learning outcomes for non-majors Biology courses. Please submit at your earliest possible convenience.
- VI. Ralph presented an update on the status of the joint proposal with the Chemistry AAC to host a conference/workshop on New Approaches to Teaching Science to take place in Spring 2001. The proposal was submitted for \$19,000.

Post-Meeting Update: The proposal was funded. The system office recommended some changes, which were incorporated into a modified proposal. The actual funded amount was \$21,500. The increase (\$2,500) was specifically earmarked to help defray travel costs to make it possible for teams from more institutions to attend.

- VII. ECore Update – Ralph Rascati presented an update on the status of the eCore:
1. The committee has expanded to include representatives from institutions other than the home institutions and from disciplines not previously represented.

2. At a recent meeting on the Columbus State campus the committee decided to adopt the Common Student Learning Outcomes that were developed for General Education courses system-wide.
3. The list of courses to be developed is not yet finalized but the science courses for non –majors (Area D1) will not include: a) a 4 hr – Biological Science course (with lab); b) a 4 hr – Geological Science course (with lab); and c) a 3 hr Integrative Science course (with an environment science theme) that will not have a lab.
4. The science courses for science majors (Area D2) include an 8 hr Chemistry sequence and an 8 hr Physics sequence. Each of the courses would have a lab.
5. New courses to be developed have a three - semester development cycle. Compensation for faculty developing and/or teaching these courses involve a combination of stipends reassigned time.
6. Proctored exams/writing assignments will be a significant portion of the grade determination for each course and mechanisms for these exams are under discussion.
7. Allocation of EFT, tuition, and salary for faculty is still under discussion.
8. The question of whether to have “hands-on” labs (as opposed to virtual labs) for all science courses with a laboratory component is under discussion. There is some sentiment that virtual labs may be acceptable. After some discussion the following motion was made by Dave Bechler and second by Becky Halyard:

“eCore laboratories will include a significant component of hands-on, directed, non-virtual lab experiences.” The motion passed and will be conveyed to the eCore committee by Ralph at the appropriate time.

- VIII. Under new business Caywood Chapman was elected to be Chair-Elect for the next Academic Year. Caywood also agreed to explore locations in the Gainesville area for a Fall meeting.
- IX. The other current members of the Executive Committee (Dave Bechler and Elizabeth Elder) agreed to continue on the executive committee. John Pasto was elected as the 2-yr-institution rep.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph J. Rascati, Chair Elect
Kennesaw State University