

Chemistry Academic Advisory Council Minutes
March 7, 2008
Georgia College & State University
Milledgeville, Georgia

The Chemistry Academic Advisory Committee (CAAC) met on March 7, 2008 at Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville, Georgia.

The meeting began at 9:00 am and was chaired by Elizabeth Gurnak from Georgia Southwestern University. The chair-elect/secretary was Paul Cerpovicz from East Georgia College. Other committee members in attendance were:

Paulos Yohannes – Georgia Perimeter College
Barry Miburo – Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Jim Baxter – Valdosta State University
James L. Mack – Fort Valley State University
Floyd R. Jackson – Columbus State University
Adegboye Adeyemo – Savannah State University (representing Olaronge Olubajo)
Nick Yang – Macon State College
Bob Zurales – Middle Georgia College
Ken McGill – Georgia College and State University
Tom Crute – Augusta State University
Caroline Clower – Clayton State University
Mark Mitchell – Kennesaw State University
Al Panu – Gainesville State College
Michael May – Darton College
Michael McGinnis – North Georgia College and State University

Also in attendance was Dorothy Zinsmeister of the Board of Regents and Bob Haney from Georgia College & State University.

First, I would like to thank Michael May for acting as secretary on my behalf due to my late arrival to the meeting.

The meeting began at 9:00 am with a welcome from Bob Haney who discussed the mission of Georgia College & State University as Georgia's liberal arts university.

Dorothy Zinsmeister asked if the 2006 meeting of the CAAC took place and, if so, was it held on-line since no minutes for this meeting are posted on the BOR web site. Ken McGill responded that the meeting was held on-line in 2006.

Dorothy Zinsmeister then gave an update on the review of the Core Curriculum, as well as the BOR strategic plan.

Three committees were established to review the current core curriculum and to suggest changes to its format. The three committees are:

1. A Steering Committee chaired by Dr. Dorothy Leland.
2. A Core Curriculum Competency Committee consisting of faculty members from various institutions.
3. A Curriculum Design and Assessment Committee consisting of faculty members from various institutions.

These three committees met at the beginning of February to discuss potential changes to the current core curriculum. Two models were developed for consideration which can be found on the USG Core Curriculum Initiative webpage at:

<http://www.strongfoundations.usg.edu/>

The two proposed models, which have no relationship to the current curriculum, are:

Preliminary Conceptual Model A: Framing Worldviews in a Global Environment

Preliminary Conceptual Model B: From Self to Global Society

An on-line questionnaire is accessible on the Core Curriculum webpage to obtain feedback on the proposed models. The questionnaire will be available through March 31, 2008.

Elizabeth Gurnack asked how the CAAC could respond to these proposals as a group. Dorothy Zinsmeister suggested that one person could fill out the questionnaire and note somewhere that the response was reflective of the CAAC committee as a whole.

A question was brought up to Dorothy Zinsmeister asking where the data are that show that the current core is ineffective. Dorothy responded that some believe that the current core is not "intellectually compelling" and is not "appealing" to students in that it does not look like something students would want to complete. The current core curriculum courses do not tie together well with each other.

Al Panu asked what evidence there is to suggest that the proposed core curriculum models are successful? Dorothy responded that examples of similar models are being implemented, apparently with success, at a few small private and public colleges. Some colleges mentioned were Alverno College and Evergreen College.

A concern was also brought up about the need for resources to implement any changes to the core curriculum. Dorothy responded that there will be professional development opportunities for faculty. There is also a goal to have Teaching and Learning Center Directors available on each campus to assist, advise and give workshops if needed. If a campus does not have a director, there may be collaboration opportunities with a director from a neighboring institution. A list of current Teaching and Learning Center Directors can be found at http://www.usg.edu/academics/fac_dev/tl_centers.phtml.

Further discussion centered on whether there was actually a need for a major overhaul of the current core curriculum. Tom Crute expressed his concern for any changes, commenting that his current program seemed to be working fine. Dorothy responded by saying that employers have had difficulty hiring undergraduates who worked well with others – both socially and on collaborative tasks. It was also pointed out that employers

reported that many graduating students have very poor oral and written communication skills.

In conclusion of this discussion Dorothy encouraged everyone present to look over the proposed models and respond to the core curriculum questionnaire posted on the website, as well as encourage others to do the same. It was also decided that the CAAC will try to post a group response to the initiatives by the 31st of March.

Elizabeth Gurnack then asked if there were other items up for discussion.

Tom Crute asked if it was possible to set up a library consortium that would provide system wide access to major chemistry journals and databases. Dorothy mentioned that a draft of this proposal could be made and presented to the Library Academic Advisory Committee. Tom agreed to work on this.

Mike McGinnis then brought up that Atlanta will be hosting the 2008 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) from May 11-16. The fair will host more than 1500 students (grades 9-12) from over 50 different countries. Volunteers will be needed to judge science projects and to act as interpreters. The website for this event is at <http://intelisef2008.org/>.

It was then suggested by Elizabeth Gurnack that, in light of the core curriculum initiative proposals, the CAAC should meet both in the fall and again in the spring of the upcoming year. It was also suggested that, if at all possible, at least one of the two meetings be a joint meeting with the biology and physics academic advisory councils. This was agreed upon, and the upcoming chair (myself) will work on arranging the meetings.

At this point there was no new business and a discussion was opened up for the election of a new Secretary/Chair-Elect. Elizabeth Gurnack nominated Mike McGinnis from North Georgia College and State University. The motion was seconded and Mike agreed to take on the position. His election was approved unanimously.

It was then brought up that the Executive Committee needed a third member. The by-laws state that the Executive Committee will consist of the chair, the chair-elect, and a third member - ideally from an institutional type not represented by the chair or chair-elect. Nick Yang from Macon State volunteered to make up the third member of the Executive Committee. This was agreed upon unanimously.

Thus, for the 2008-2009 Academic year, the elected positions for the CAAC will be:

Paul Cerpovicz (Chair)

Mike McGinnis (Secretary/Chair-Elect)

Paul Cerpovicz, Mike McGinnis, and Nick Yang (Executive Committee)

At this point the meeting was adjourned.