

Meeting Minutes: Committee on English

Academic Committee on English Minutes of Meeting Held in Swainsboro, GA April 9-10, 1999

The annual meeting of the Regents' Academic Committee on English was convened at 1:30 on the campus of East Georgia College. Dr. Jean Bridges was presiding.

The following were in attendance: Harold Branan, Savannah State University; Jean Bridges, East Georgia College; Kathleen Burk, Board of Regents; Peter Carriere, Georgia College and State University; Laura Dabundo, Kennesaw State University; Charles Davis, Waycross College; Barbara DeStefano, Georgia Southwestern State University; Gail Dillard, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College; Valerie D'Ortona, Middle Georgia College; Elsa Gaines, North Georgia College and State University; Sharon Gravett, Valdosta State University; Fred Green, Floyd College; Anna Holloway, Fort Valley State University; Jason Horn, Gordon College; Carl McDonald, South Georgia College; Larry Mobley, Macon State College; Susan Morrow, Southern Polytechnic State University; Robert Parnham, Armstrong Atlantic State University; William Pasch, Clayton College and State University; Curtis Ricker, Georgia Southern University; Daniel Ross, Columbus State University; Thomas Tuggle, Gainesville College; Ted Wadley, Georgia Perimeter College; Robert Weathersby, Dalton State College; Ann Williams, University of Georgia.

Dr. Jerry Ashcroft, welcomed the participants and introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. James Muyskens, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs for the University System of Georgia. Dr. Muyskens addressed the challenges that he sees are facing the English profession, primarily those concerning the integration of technology with the humanities.

Following Dr. Muyskens' remarks, the subcommittees met:

- Freshman English
- Sophomore English
- Testing
- Major
- Executive Committee

A relaxing evening of socializing and eating at McGarrh's Mill concluded Friday's activities.

On Saturday, the meeting reconvened following breakfast. Dr. Kathleen Burk presented some information from the Board:

- Raise money was allocated for 4%.
- There will be significant expenditures in major capital outlays and renovations.
- Beginning July 1, 1999, unused sick leave to retirement will be fully funded.
- There will be an increase in cost of health coverage.

- This year, redirection will see 1% leaving the institutions.
- There will be efforts for the faculty development initiative to be more campus-based instead of gathering folks in Athens.
- Confusion still exists with level 12 standards.
- The System has not adopted the applied courses as being approved for college prep.
- Discussion was held on proposing computerized administration of the Regents' Test as a year of technology action item.

Minutes of the April 24-25, 1998, meeting were approved.

Sub-committee reports:

- Testing Subcommittee: Jean Bridges, Chair
Recommended:

The English Academic Committee recommends that in order to ensure that all university System of Georgia graduates are technologically proficient in period of 3-5 years (see Action plan B.1.d).
Recommendation seconded by R. Weatherspoon; unanimously approved.

- Freshman English Subcommittee: Charles Davis, Chair
Recommended:

Because of the heavy grading load and the necessity for individualized student attention, the Regents' Academic Committee on English recommends a maximum teaching load of twelve semester hours for faculty teaching freshman composition courses.
Recommendation seconded; unanimously approved.

Recommended:

The Regents' Academic Committee on English recommends that we follow the NCTE guidelines for a maximum of eighteen students in freshman composition classes.
Recommendation seconded by Dan Ross; unanimously approved.

- Sophomore English Subcommittee: Dan Ross, Chair
Recommended:

The Regents' Academic Committee on English recommends that every institution require a sophomore-level literature course in the core.
Recommendation seconded by Valerie D'Ortano; unanimously approved.

Recommended:

The Regents' Academic Committee on English recommends that the council on general education should

determine ways of requiring foreign language in the core.
Recommendation seconded by Elsa Gaines; unanimously approved.

Suggested:

A system-wide world literature workshop.
Discussion on the listserv about the effect of semesters on teaching, recruiting, and retention.

- Major Courses Subcommittee: Laura Dabundo, Chair
No recommendations.

New Business:

- Applied language courses:
Recommended:

The Regents' Academic Committee on English recommends that the Applied English courses not be used for college preparatory course work.

Recommendation moved by Dan Ross and seconded by Larry Mobley; unanimously approved.

- After discussion, it was moved by Susan Morrow and seconded by Valerie D'Ortano that next year's meeting be held in early February on a Thursday/Friday; motion approved.
- Curtis Ricker will serve as chair for 1999-2000; Larry Mobley was elected as secretary/chair-elect.

Announcements:

Elsa Gaines is retiring effective July 1, 1999.

The meeting was adjourned at noon for lunch.

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