

University System of Georgia
Board of Regents Academic Advisory Committee on English
Minutes from the Annual Meeting
28 March 2014
Southern Polytechnic State University

USG Representatives in Attendance: Barbara Goodman, Clayton State University; Robert Bleil, College of Coastal Georgia; Carmen Skaggs, Columbus State University; Barbara Murray, Dalton State College; Elizabeth Perkins, Darton College; Carmine Palumbo, East Georgia College; Washella T. Simmons, Fort Valley State University; Rebecca Flynn, Georgia Gwinnett College; Jesse Bishop, Georgia Highlands College; Rebecca Burnett, Georgia Institute of Technology; Ted Wadley, Georgia Perimeter College; Todd Hoffman, Georgia Regents University; Dan Bauer, Georgia Southern University; Debra H. Matthews, Middle Georgia State College; Michael Schroeder, Savannah State University; Mark Nunes, Southern Polytechnic State University; Joyce Stavick, University of North Georgia; David Newton, University of West Georgia

Other Attendees: Leslie Caldwell, Board of Regents and Rachana Bhatt, Board of Regents

Absent: Wendi Harrison, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College; James Hill, Albany State University; David Wheeler, Armstrong Atlantic State University; Lisa Mallory, Atlanta Metropolitan State College; Emily Dowd, Bainbridge State College; Angela Coleman, BOR University System Office Liaison; Elaine Whitaker, Georgia College & State University; Eugenia Bryan, Georgia Southwestern State University; Janet Ann Gabler-Hoover, Georgia State University; Jason Horn, Gordon State College; Bill Rice, Kennesaw State University; Rhonda Kelley-Heath, South Georgia State College; Mike Moran, University of Georgia, and Mark Smith, Valdosta State University

Call to Order

Dr. Mark Nunes, chair of the Board of Regents Academic Advisory Committee on English (ACE), called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Stingers Restaurant at Southern Polytechnic State University (SPSU). Dr. Zvi Szafran, Vice President of Academic Affairs welcomed all participants to the campus.

Dr. Nunes provided an overview of 2013-2014 activities including a brief discussion of the importance of college and career pathways and how the English degree would articulate within those pathways. Tabitha Press from the Office of Educational Access and Success is the K-12 Liaison.

Update from the Board

Leslie Caldwell and Rachana Bhatt provided an update from the System Office. They described a pilot currently underway with the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG). The University System currently has an articulation agreement with the TCSG for 27 courses that would transfer in for 2 years. The pilot, which involves 6 or 7 institutions, will examine how well students perform when they transfer from a TCSG institution to the University System. The emphasis will be on access and affordability, and there will be more of a student-centered focus

as opposed to an institutional one. Additionally, there will be two new Vice Chancellors, one for international education and one for military support.

Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Developmental English and Reading

Dr. Carmine Palumbo, co-chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Developmental English and Reading provided a report on the work of the Task Force on Transforming English and Reading Remediation and the work of the Implementation Team as part of the Complete College Georgia (CCG) Plan. The recommendations from the Task Force for Transforming Remediation include the following: a combined reading and writing course, which has received some resistance; terminate the use of COMPASS as an exit, and a co-requisite model which would allow students who score at a certain level to enter a gateway course with adequate support.

In Fall 2012, BORAACE Chair, Dr. Nunes, identified members to serve on the Implementation Team, and the group met at Gordon College where work groups were formed. The work groups addressed recommendations 2,3,4,6, and 7, and the System Office addressed 1 and 5. Some institutions have already implemented the co-requisite model. College of Coastal Georgia is in its second year and eliminated English 97. The math faculty have also adopted the co-requisite model. Georgia Tech implemented a combined reading and English course three years ago which was very successful. It was a limited population, and the course is no longer being offered.

Discussion continued regarding class size for LS English courses, the combined reading and writing course, who teaches the courses, what happens if students fail one course and not the other, placement scores, and faculty load.

Leslie Caldwell asked if the co-requisite version supports what is happening in English 1101 as opposed to going back to 9th or 10th grade content for English. Dr. Bleil responded that at Coastal Georgia, English 1101 is the same instruction, and there is no resemblance to English 098.

In terms of placement, according to Mr. Caldwell who worked with the mathematics group first, “The idea is now there is a two-step approach using SAT score and GPA from high school as a predictor of college success and followed by adding a COMPASS score, in some cases, to that information.”

The committee expressed unanimous support for the co-requisite model. Dr. Nunes encouraged the group to continue discussion regarding concerns during the working lunch, especially the Freshman Subcommittee.

Dr. Elizabeth Perkins volunteered to send the group copies of the *University System of Georgia Ad Hoc Steering Committee Report on Transforming English and Reading Remediation*.

Working Lunch: The subcommittees met, and members of the Executive Committee met to establish a slate of candidates for the upcoming year.

Reports from Abbreviated Subcommittee Sessions:

Freshman Subcommittee: Dr. Carmen Skagg, Chair, Columbus State University

Discussions regarding the recommendations for transforming English and reading remediation continued:

- The subcommittee recommended 0989 for the combined English/Reading course with each individual institution being able to structure the course to meet the needs of the institution.
- The subcommittee also recommended consistency of the title for the combined course in the document. It is referred to as both the *Foundations for College English* and *Foundations for English Composition*.
- For placement, the recommendation is to use SAT and Act scores when available without the COMPASS.

The motion was made by Dr. Barbara Goodman and seconded by Dr. Michael Schroeder. The motion passed unanimously.

Sophomore Subcommittee: Dr. David Newton, Chair, University of West Georgia

The subcommittee has no recommendation at this time; however, the group had a productive conversation regarding literature courses.

Major Programs: Dr. Joyce Stavick, Chair, University of North Georgia

The subcommittee has no recommendation at this time; however, the group had a productive conversation regarding recent consolidations.

Assessment, Testing Subcommittee: Dr. Robert Bleil, Chair, College of Coastal Georgia

The committee is interested in collecting information on how we assess. A motion was made by Dr. Bleil and seconded by Dr. Palumbo that the Assessment Subcommittee collect information on how System institutions conduct formal assessments and use *Google Docs* to ask for input, and then produce a white paper.

Old Business

Dr. Nunes called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 31, 2013-February 1, 2013 meeting. The motion was made by Dr. Carmine Palumbo with a second by Dr. Robert Bleil. The motion passed unanimously.

The First Year Subcommittee had a draft statement regarding class size, and Dr. Nunes read the recommendation. Dr. Debra Matthews asked if the 30-hour mandate had created the problems that some institutions had anticipated.

Mr. Leslie Caldwell indicated that it was difficult to answer the question at this time. Discussion regarding the policy followed with the group in agreement that the NCTE recommendation should be followed, especially for the co-requisite models with no more than 20 to 24 students per course.

The chair continued to discuss the minutes from last year with attention to other subcommittee comments including online courses and Quality Matters Standards, as well as marketing of

English Programs in a way that the System Office could present to the legislature as had been suggested.

New Business

Dr. Carmine Palumbo provided a brief history of the committee regarding chairs and efforts to balance regionally. He also asked if there would be any resistance from any campus if there were a return to a retreat-style meeting at somewhere like Jekyll Island. He suggested a return to the two-day meeting in late March or April.

Dr. Burnette reminded the group that the Conference on College Composition and Communications (CCCC) meets in March. A discussion followed. Late march meeting date/location that would allow more of a retreat setting

The group discussed other issues/concerns facing English Departments including entry level salaries for English faculty and the challenge of filling positions. Dr. Burnett pointed out that salaries for positions in technical communications are higher than traditional English lines.

Dr. Washella Simmons asked a question related to credentialing, and a general discussion regarding credentialing and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) requirements followed.

Election of Officers

Dr. Nunes, BORAACE Chair, presented to the full committee the slate nominated for the 2014-2015 term of service by the Executive Committee:

Chair: Dr. Barbara Goodman, Clayton State University

Chair-Elect and Recorder: Dr. Robert Bleil, College of Coastal Georgia

At-Large (two years at large): Dr. Rebecca Burnett, Georgia Institute of Technology

At-Large (one year remaining): Dr. Debra Matthews, Middle Georgia State College

Dr. Carmen Skaggs moved to approve the slate, and Dr. Carmine Palumbo seconded the motion. The committee unanimously approved the slate of candidates.

Note: the past chair would normally also serve on the Executive Committee; however, he will no longer be part of the University System as of July 1 and is, therefore, not included.

Dr. Nunes thanked the committee and turned the meeting over to Dr. Barbara Goodman, who will serve as the new chair.

The committee thanked Dr. Nunes for serving as chair and hosting the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Minutes were recorded by Debra H. Matthews.