

Meeting Minutes: Committee on Foreign Languages

Academic Advisory Committee on Foreign Languages Minutes, April 19 & 20, 1999 Clarion Resort Buccaneer, Jekyll Island, Georgia

Dr. Lynne Bryan called the meeting to order and expressed regrets that **Dr. John Wolfe**, Foreign Language liaison for the Board of Regents was not in attendance. **Dr. Richard Sutton**, Director of International Programs and Services was recognized. He also expressed his expectations of **Dr. Wolfe's** presence for the proceedings.

The executive committee for the academic year 1999-2000 will be composed as follows:

Lynne Bryan, Macon State College.....out-going chair
Patty Davis, Darton College.....chair
Stan Webb, Bainbridge College.....chair elect
John Austin, Georgia State University.....secretary/treasurer
Sheila McCoy, Floyd College.....member-at-large

Dr. Richard Sutton began his remarks by reemphasizing several points made by **Dr. James Noblitt**, the keynote speaker of the recently completed Workshop on Foreign Language Technology,. He stressed that technology is transformational; it necessitates a reconsideration of our role as faculty members and augments our role as team builders. He stated that Foreign Language instruction is at the vanguard in the implementation of technology in the University System of Georgia. He noted four unique initiatives to expand Foreign Language instruction in the state:

1. **The Collaboration of South Georgia institutions** which will provide lower level students access to several foreign languages.
2. **The French Collaborative** which will allow upper level students in French on several campuses access to basic upper level course work via the Web and thus maximize research capabilities of respective faculty members.
3. **English as a Second Language Training** for students and instructors
4. **Non Credit Survival Language Skills Training** to better prepare students for experiences abroad.

Dr. Sutton noted that there are four unique initiatives to provide material and expertise in the use of technology in Foreign Language instruction:

1. **The desk-top initiative** to expand student access to instruction.
2. **The Collaborative initiatives** mentioned above.
3. **Teaching and Learning grants** in which foreign language instruction is one of the four designated categories to be funded.
4. **Global Partnership** designed to stimulate creative internationalizing activities.

Dr. Sutton commented that with this sizeable investment of over \$500,000 in foreign language instruction there

are expectations that the faculty will be able to maximize innovative activity and produce new ways of enhancing student learning. He concluded by stating three key objectives for these programs in exploring the ways in which technology can enhance foreign language instruction. These are as follows:

1. **Expand access**--providing more educational product including less commonly taught languages to more people in more places at a greater variety of times.
2. **Strengthen enrollment and retention.**
3. **Improve student learning.**

Next, **Dr. Lynne Bryan** provided an overview of information pertinent to the committee. She drew attention to the 1998-9 **Goals and Objectives, the Bylaws of the University System Advisory Council, a Grant Proposal** for the Academic Advisory Committee entitled "**Technology's Place in Foreign Language Instruction Part II,**" and a letter in support of the Foreign Language Distance Learning Collaborative at Darton, Middle Georgia, South Georgia and Waycross Colleges. The chair also outlined several statewide programs whose objectives are of interest and in some cases parallel those of the Advisory Committee:

1. **The Hispanic Task Force**, which unites the efforts of educators, business persons, elected officials, will study and make recommendations on improving access and success to an increasing number of Hispanic students throughout the state. **Dr. Sandra Walker** noted that the Task Force helps members advocates facilitation of **1)** the transition of Hispanic students from high school to college, **2)** the success of migrant students in K through 12, and **3)** the preparation of teachers to accommodate this growing population. **Dr. Beth Biron** noted the Task Force's success in Dalton in improving Hispanic students' performance.
2. **The P-16 initiative** is to be addressed in Tuesday's meetings by Dr. John Austin.

Dr. Bryan then distributed **Mailing List forms** to update our List-Serve addresses. She informed the Committee that **Dr. Joel Walz** had represented **Dr. Rick Lafleur** in Executive Meetings. **Sheila McCoy** noted that if the Committee's primary interest and mission is to improve the instruction of foreign languages, it is her concern that we use technology "judiciously and appropriately." **Dr. Chestnut** requested that **Dr. Sutton** serve as our advocate in expressing the Committee's position to the Board of Regents. **Dr. Sutton** assured the Committee that the students' concerns, not the technology, should be the driving force in our decision making. He also noted that with the recent emphasis on Board of Regents initiatives the Committee is in a unique position to use technology as a means of building Board of Regents' support for Foreign Language Instruction. **Dr. Lynne Bryan** requested that **Dr. Sutton** convey to the Board of Regents not only our recommendations but our appreciation for the technology grants accorded the Advisory Committee.

Dr. Jim Chestnut next reported on the **French Collaborative**. He informed the Committee that the collaborative which is composed of four institutions: Georgia College and State University, Georgia Southwestern State University, Valdosta State University, and North Georgia College and State University in conjunction with the **Desk-top initiative** was created to provide support to French majors throughout the state by means of three

Web course tools. This collaborative would release faculty from teaching these basic courses so they could teach more upper level courses and in turn attract more majors. The team leaders and courses to be taught are as follows:

Dr. Moses Harden: Intermediate Grammar

Dr. Roger Noel: Business French

Dr. Jim Chestnut: Advanced Grammar

The possible fourth course in **Franco phone Literature** may be created as well. The project is to follow a three-semester time frame: the first semester to develop the course, the second to establish the course on the Web with management through the **OIIT**, and the third semester to teach the course on the WEB. The issues of such a project are 1) the quality and interactivity of the courses, 2) the **Praxis** test, 3) video quality, 4) the work load of the faculty designing the courses, 5) course ownership 6) the location and time of the course offerings, and 7) safeguards to insure academic honesty.

Professor Patty Davis then outlined the development of the **Two-Year College Distance Learning Collaborative of South Georgia** designed to share faculty, to expand offerings, and to provide consecutive sequencing for lower division Spanish, French, German and Japanese courses. The Collaborative has received additional funding to upgrade language laboratory and GSAMs facilities and to hire two full time faculty in foreign languages. They have had good success and satisfaction rates with course offerings. Present projects are to offer **Spanish 1001, Japanese 1001 and German 1001** as **WEB** based courses. Prospects seem exciting, but the future is unsure, especially for the recently hired faculty. **Professor Davis** noted that additional Adjunct Professors may be provided through an Exchange Program to bring language instructors from Spain to Georgia. **Dr. Sutton** confirmed that such a proposal would be considered this summer.

In conclusion, **Dr. Richard Sutton** asked that the Committee consider providing a **FLAAC** representative on the **Council of International Education** and stated that the **Desk-top initiative** is interested in bringing a faculty member with expertise in both technology and foreign language instruction to the central office.

Dr. Lloyd noted that with the proliferation of initiatives, communication from the central office to the campuses is of special concern. In response to **Dr. Bryan's** request for items to be placed on the following meeting's agenda, **Dr. Joyce Peoples** requested a discussion of **CPC requirements**. The meeting was then adjourned until the following morning.

Meeting Minutes, April 20, 1999

The Chair, **Dr. Lynne Bryan**, called the meeting to order and announced that the Board of Regents had funded next year's Technology Workshop and requested members provide input in calendaring the workshop/ FLAAC Committee meeting. (See footnote.) The committee members suggested that we address the possibility of shared licensing of systems and software. Such collaborations would provide students across the state with the best access to technological support and also economize on individual institution's funds. The chair also noted

that in lieu of Dr. McAllister's report, the "white paper" on foreign language instruction would be posted on our list-serve.

Nominations for next year's new Committee executives were voted upon. **Dr. John Austin** will serve as Secretary/Treasure. **Sheila McCoy** will serve as member-at-large.

After corrections, the Minutes of the January 1998 meeting were approved.

Dr. June Legge agreed to place FLAAC Minutes and pertinent documents on the Committee's WEB page with **Dr. Stan Webb's** assistance. **Dr. Sandra Walker** requested that the Minutes be posted early in order to remind sub-committees of assignments.

Dr. Caryl Lloyd raised the concern of **hidden prerequisites** of foreign language courses. She commented that the System was initiating an audit of such problems. **Dr. Thierry Legér** noted that similar problems at Kennesaw State University were resolved by reducing foreign language requirements by one course. **Sheila McCoy** reported that Floyd College sends memos to students in order to remind students of prerequisites not explicitly stated in the College Catalogue. **Dr. Sandra Walker** noted that Valdosta State University lists prerequisites in terms of hours (not courses) in order to remove any misunderstanding.

Dr. Dale Crandall raised the issue of **placement instruments** and system wide agreement on a commonly used tool. **Dr. Joel Walz** noted that placement tests were obligatory at the University of Georgia and administered for French, Spanish, and German. He agreed to share cut off scores with the Committee via e-mail. *A subcommittee of Dr. Legér, Dr. Crandall and Dr. Walz was formed to research testing instruments in order to encourage a commonality and to insure that institutions have knowledge of and access to the best place instruments.*

Dr. Bryan then read a memo from past-chair **Dr. Conan** in which she requested information from the Committee members regarding the effects of the change to semesters on the instruction of foreign language. The Committee was in agreement that the trend to offer courses in larger time blocks but for fewer days during the week was detrimental. **Dr. John Austin** reported that according to the findings of the Undergraduate Studies Council, foreign languages, as basic skills courses, needed added reinforcement through the week. Such trends of limiting the number of course meetings are counterproductive and a deterrent to the students' success, especially as they will be in competition with students who have been better prepared through courses that have provided adequate reinforcement. The chair, **Dr. Lynne Bryan** agreed to write a letter to Dr. Muyskens to voice the Committee's concern and distribute a draft of it through the list-serve for input. This will be done after the minutes of this meeting are posted on the Web.

Dr. Jim Chestnut then presented the subcommittee report on **The Survey of the Foreign Language Requirements in the University System of Georgia prepared by Jim Chestnut-chair, June Legge, Sheila McCoy, and Sandra Walker**. He noted some statistical points. Of the 27 schools responding 17 do not give credit for the 1001 level course, but satisfy CPC deficiencies.. Concerning the change to the semester system, 11 reported the change hurt foreign language offerings, 6 noted no effect, and 3 institutions reported that the

change has helped. **Dr. Gerald Townsend** requested that four year institutions need to clearly delineate course requirement so that the two-year colleges can better prepare their students for the transition to their junior and senior years. **Sheila McCoy** asked for clarification on course descriptions; content of the intermediate 2001 and 2002 are only designated as the third and fourth courses without distinction as being either language (grammar) or literature based.

Dr. Lynne Bryan noted that the chair had prepared a file folder of pertinent documents to be passed on to next year's chair **Patty Davis** in order to insure continuity of the Committee's projects. *The chair requested the assistance of **Dr. Biron** and **Dr. Walker** to serve on a subcommittee in preparing to resubmit recommendations #9 submitted the previous year.* The recommendation which should be supported with factual detail would be voted on by the Committee via e-mail. A copy would also be directed to Dr. Muyskens.

Dr. John Austin announced that Georgia State University had approved a 5 year program combining a Foreign Language BA with an MA in International Business with internships and study abroad components. He then reported on the **P-16 initiative**, a coordinated effort of the Department of Education, Adult and Technology Boards, and the Board of Regents. The initiative creates four local area Councils housed at the Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs of Georgia State University, Armstrong State University, Fort Valley State University, and Valdosta State University. Foreign language is one of the six areas of concern in which standards and benchmarks will be established to assess progress and to better align course work to enhance students' performance. **Sheila McCoy** recommended that much of the rationale used in the **P-16** cover letter could be used in resubmitting the previous year's recommendation.

Committee members commented on the need for the presence of **a liaison** to the **Board of Regents** during our business meetings. The liaison's attendance is of utmost importance to provide continuity and to give feedback regarding the previous meeting's recommendations. His/her presence is imperative in order that the Committee can work effectively. The Committee requested that these concerns be included in Dr. Lynne Bryan's letter to Dr. Muskens. The meeting was then adjourned.

Footnote: The announcement that the Committee had received confirmation of funding for next year's Technology Workshop was in error and referred to funding for this year's Technology Workshop. **Patty Davis** will look into the possibility of making another submission to fund next year's Technology Workshop.

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Stan Webb, Secretary/Treasurer.

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