

REGENTS ACADEMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HISTORY

Minutes

April 12, 2002

Coastal Georgia Community College, Brunswick, Georgia

Attending: John Hutcheson of Dalton State College (Chair); Jonathan Bryant of Georgia Southern University; Gene Hatfield of Clayton State College and State University; Wayne Mixon of Augusta State University; John Ricks of Middle Georgia College; Don Butts of Gordon College; Thomas A. Scott of Kennesaw State University; Don Kagay of Albany State University; Alice Pate of Columbus State University; James E. Bagwell of Georgia Southwestern State University; Bill Mugleston of Floyd College; John Rhodes of Fort Valley State University; Glenn T. Eskew of Georgia State University; Mike Price of Armstrong Atlantic State University; Pam Colbenson of Georgia Perimeter College; Mike Butler of South Georgia College, John Fair of Georgia College and State University, and Patrizia Stahle and Jean Choate of Coastal Georgia Community College.

Dr. John Hutcheson, Chair of the Regents Academic Advisory Committee on History, called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M. in Room 109 of the Academic Building of Coastal Georgia Community College in Brunswick. He introduced Douglas Tuech, Academic Vice President of GCCB, who welcomed the committee members to the campus and praised the University of System of Georgia for fostering such a body that could meet annually to share information about common concerns. Dr. Hutcheson also thanked Jean Choate of the History Department at GCCB for taking care of all the local arrangements for the meeting. The attending members then introduced themselves individually. At that point the minutes of the previous year's meeting at Augusta State University were approved unanimously with only one minor correction.

Dr. Hutcheson then recognized that the next order of business is usually a report from Dr. Joseph Szutz, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Planning and Liaison between the Central Office and the Committee. Unfortunately Dr. Szutz, owing to other more pressing commitments, was unable to attend this year's meeting. He did, however, send along several memoranda from the Central Office for distribution to members of the committee. These included a memo. from Dan Papp, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Fiscal Affairs, dated March 14, 2002, regarding implementation of the Mini-Core Project Policy, two draft memos., dated April 2, 2002, on the establishment of definitions of indicators for retention and graduation rates by the system, and a memo. containing data pertaining to mission-related characteristics, retention rates, graduation rates, Regents test passage rates. There was no discussion on these items.

The next order of business was a report by Dr. John Fair of Georgia College & State University of a meeting of the chairs of the Academic Advisory Committees that he attended, in place of Dr. Hutcheson, at Macon State University on September 25, 2001.

After opening remarks from the President of Macon State, Dorothy Zinsmeister, Senior Associate for Academic Affairs, opened the meeting and asked whether we all had executive committees within our respective disciplines. Obviously this is something we are expected to

have and don't at the present time. She emphasized the importance of having our secretaries sending out minutes of our annual meetings to her in a timely fashion—within two months.

Frank Butler, the new Vice Chancellor for Academics, Faculty, and Student Affairs, spoke and answered questions for well over an hour. He has been on the job for only about two months and was not always able to give exact answers. Priorities for his office include serving and coordinating responsibilities for the thirty-two campuses in the system. He wants us to produce people who can think—a point especially relevant to the current national crisis. There is a system-wide need to devote more attention to students—especially under-achievers, and Butler wants more rapid input from the campuses to the system office. He also addressed points on various other headings, namely, retention, data, service to students, accountability, academic programs, and access. A continuing conundrum is that people want system control AND institutional autonomy. There must be a balance. “Personal contact between a faculty member and a caring administrator will set a student in the right direction” is perhaps the most profound statement he made all afternoon.

After a longish break, Tonya Lam explained CAPP to everyone, noting that its hallmark is not technology, but it should be thought of as a program that requires direct personal input. It standardizes (through BANNER) the way in which data are maintained. The aim is to implement CAPP on all 32 campuses. It is already set up for Georgia College as a pilot, but it is not yet operational. We still need to reach “step 5.”

Then several women from the system office explained USG SCOUT. The purpose is for SCOUT to provide advanced learning technologies to assist in university teaching. E-Core is an example of the latter, and what they have done is extract seven courses from the E-Core framework to apply SCOUT. Most of these courses are in the sciences, and history is not as yet one of them. With SCOUT, faculty can go through the materials that are provided and choose what they want for their courses. These are on-line materials that have been prepared by the experts. In their selection process, they have tried to deal with concepts that are most difficult for students and use technology to simplify the matter. We were then given a demonstration on how SCOUT can be accessed on the system website.

Dr. Fair then, at the chair's request, gave a short report on the extent to which CAPP (Curriculum Advising and Program Planning) has been implemented on the Georgia College campus. He stated that a lot of work was done to get ready for CAPP but that it has only been made operational on the administrative level, owing to the fact that the reports it generates in BANNER are not user-friendly. A better web-based interface is needed. When this happens, probably some time in May, CAPP will be made available to faculty and students for advising purposes. The Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and several other institutions have already reached this stage, and twelve others are supposed to be there by the end of the year. When fully implemented, this system should aid in the recruitment and retention of students system-wide.

Under the heading of new business, much of the remainder of the meeting, about an hour, was taken up with discussion of a question posed by Bill Mugleson of Floyd College, namely, how administrations throughout the system deal with faculty teaching overloads and course

limits for part-timers. After some discussion at large, the chair requested that we go around the room and allow each member of the committee to share information on how each campus deals with the problem. With a few exceptions, the general conclusion seemed to be that it was often difficult to find sufficient qualified part-time faculty members, especially in rural areas, and there was a general tendency to push and even exceed the system limitations on their use. Every campus seemed to have its own way of coping with excess numbers of students who have to be taught and shortage of funds. Sometimes the results were frightening, leading one committee member to suggest an idea that had been brought up on his campus of calling in the fire marshal to deal with excess numbers of students in a classroom! This very fruitful and lively exchange then led into a desultory discussion on comprehensive program review and Praxis II. On the latter subject concern was expressed that it was almost impossible on most campuses to reach the system's passage rate of 95%. But this problem was being solved at some schools by funneling students out of major specific undergraduate programs and into the graduate level.

The next order of business was to create an executive committee for our organization. At the suggestion of the chair, it was decided by acclamation that it would consist each year of the past chair, the present chair, and the chair-elect. The final item on the agenda was the election of a new committee chair. Dr. Wayne Mixon of Augusta State University was nominated for this position and was accepted by acclamation.

Dr. Hutcheson then mentioned that he thought next year's meeting would be held at Georgia Southwestern University in Americus. Possible subjects for general discussion at that time will be CLEP exams, football coaches teaching history, and the legislative requirement for Georgia and American history.

Dr. Hutcheson adjourned the meeting at 12:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Fair
Chair-Elect