

**Minutes of the ACMS Meeting Held Feb. 21-22, 2008**  
Albany State University

**Attendance:**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Representative</b>
BOR	Dorothy Zinsmeister
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College	Joy Shurley
Albany State University	Zephyrinus Okonkwo
Armstrong Atlantic State University	Lorrie Hoffman
Atlanta Metropolitan College	Jack Morrell
Augusta State University	Sam Robinson
Clayton State University	Anthony Giovannitti
Coastal Georgia Community College	Ward Shaffer
Columbus State University	Tim Howard
Dalton State College	Javad Zadeh
Darton College	Greg Smith
East Georgia College	John Blackburn
Fort Valley State University	John Dubriel
Gainesville College	Danny Lau
Georgia College and State University	Lila Roberts
Georgia Highlands College	Brent Griffin
Georgia Perimeter College	Margaret Ehrlich
Georgia Southern University	Martha Abell
Georgia Southwestern State University	Carl Mueller
Georgia State University	Valerie Miller
Gordon College	Allen Fuller
Middle Georgia College	Cathie David
North Georgia College and State University	John Cruthirds
Southern Polytechnic State University	Joel Fowler
Valdosta State University	Mylan Redfern
Waycross College	Lisa Howell

**Thursday, Feb. 21, at 1:30-4:30 pm**

**1. Re-cap of Fall 2007 ACMS Meeting – Dorothy Zinsmeister**

On 20 September 2007, eighteen members of the ACMS met at Macon State College to discuss learning disabilities and routes available to obtain teaching certification in Georgia.

**a. Learning Disabilities**

In its February 2007 meeting, the ACMS discussed math related disabilities and recent requests that the USG permit students with math related disabilities to substitute a non-mathematics course in Area A. The discussion revealed some interest among members in finding out more about math related disabilities. Thus, ACMS members met with the learning center directors from Georgia Southern University, Georgia State

University, and the University of Georgia to heighten members' awareness regarding these issues. The directors explained their roles within the system and described what constitutes a math learning disability.

1-2% of college students nationwide have some form of learning disability; 20% of those have a math disability. That is, about 1 in 500 college students nationwide have a math disability. Math disabilities manifest themselves in numerous ways. Common accommodations include extra time for testing and tutoring assistance.

Val Miller mentioned that she had recently talked to a GSU student who claimed she had taken no math whatsoever in her K-16 education.

Dorothy informed the membership that the BOR had attended to a petition to substitute a non-mathematics course for the Area A math requirement and ruled that there can be no substitution.

The ensuing discussion centered on possible accommodations for math disabled students. Maggie Ehrlich suggested focusing on mastery based accommodations. John Blackburn commented that he digitally records everything he says in class so it will be available to students. Dorothy suggested an article entitled *De Anza College: Improving Developmental Math Course Success Rates and Student Retention* to learn more about accommodations that have been attempted.

The group suggested the development of a single, online course that can be accessed throughout the System by math disabled students. The course should incorporate the many teaching and learning tools that are available.

#### **b. Multiple Routes to Teacher Certification**

Trish Patterson and Marcy Demming from the University System Office told the ACMS members about a variety of routes leading to teaching certification in Georgia. These are summarized on the Destination Teaching website, <http://www.destinationteaching.org/>.

### **2. USG Core Curriculum Initiative – Dorothy Zinsmeister**

Three committee members represent mathematics: Robert Marsh (East Ga. Coll.), Pat Humphrey (Ga. Southern), and John Stroyls (Ga. Southwestern) on the committees looking into a new core curriculum. The current core lacks internal coherence. Joel Fowler commented that there should be opportunities for public discussion and comments about the core. Zephyrinus Okonkwo advocated for globally defined outcomes. He asked what percent of freshmen take Math 1111 or Math 1113 in the fall semester. Dorothy said there will be multiple

opportunities to comment on the new core; as soon as something is posted online, she will notify Martha.

The group then spent some time discussing academic advising. Dorothy mentioned that many students have commented to the chancellor that advising needs some attention. She said there is one USG campus that runs a program through which its faculty members become certified advisors. There was some discussion about the importance of upper administration support to advising (granting release time and recognition in the promotion/tenure process). Increasing reliance on part time faculty exacerbates the problem.

### 3. **IB Credit**

There was some discussion about math credit for student achievement on International Baccalaureate Program mathematics exams. Val said that at Georgia State students receive calculus 1 credit for a score of 5, 6, or 7 on the Higher Level mathematics exam.

### 4. **Subcommittee meetings**

Martha Abell distributed charges to the subcommittees. The full committee adjourned for the day and subcommittees held their discussions.

**Friday, Feb. 22, at 8:30 am - 12:15 pm**

### 5. **Subcommittee Reports**

**Computer Science:** Valerie Miller reported that there seems to be a trend among computer science programs to lessen the amount of mathematics required.

**Distance Learning:** Someone asked if eCore success rates have improved. Dorothy Zinsmeister stated that it is a good model for students who are self-regulators. Tim Howard said that Columbus State University had changed the registration process for eCore courses to advise first-time students about the technical and disciplinary requirements for success in eCore courses. Ward Shaffer noted that a freshman success class at Coastal Georgia addresses habits related to self regulation. Margaret Ehrlich said eCore students at Georgia Perimeter College do well until mid-term. She added that GPC students need scheduling flexibility and shorter time cycles, and that both can be achieved with online courses.

Martha Abell asked if any institutions are working on online degrees in mathematics. Valerie Miller said Georgia State is working on an online master's degree for secondary education.

**Faculty Development and Math Awareness:** The two subcommittees reported together. They proposed a merger of the two subcommittees. Joe Fu reported that the Department of Mathematics at the University of Georgia has a web site at which colloquium announcements can be posted for statewide awareness.

**Placement/Learning Support Liaison:** Subcommittee chair Joy Shurley distributed a summary of placement and learning support practices throughout the USG and outlines of System learning support math courses. Tony Giovanatti said that at Clayton State all students take Accuplacer for math course placement; they will soon study the effects. Margaret Ehrlich said Georgia Perimeter College is considering a threshold SATM score of 440 for students to be exempted from Learning Support mathematics.

**Texts and Courses:** The survey has been fixed but few have responded. Institutional representatives are also asked to update their information in the calculus inventory.

**Curriculum and Transfer Credit:** Actuarial programs not all listed on USG site. We need to set policies for AP and IB credit. The AP committee will try to get together, share data, and make a recommendation.

**Successful motion:** Form an ad-hoc committee chaired by Tony Giovanatti and also consisting of Tim Howard, Ward Shaffer, and Javad Zadeh to research the IB math courses and make a recommendation to the larger group by March 10.

Lila Roberts reported on the integrated precalculus/calculus course sequence offered at Georgia College and State University, which began in fall 2007. A chemistry cohort had begun the sequence. She noted some concerns with the text selected and the ordering of the material. They are thinking about changing the order of course topics. It is still too early to draw many conclusions.

6. **New Business.** Martha Abell gave the Executive Committee's list of nominees for the Executive Committee. This list was approved by voice vote to create the following 2008-2009 Executive Committee: Martha Abell (Past-Chair), Tim Howard (Chair), Ward Shaffer (Chair-Elect), Brent Griffin (At large), and Joel Fowler (At-large).

**Successful motion:** Conduct the 2009 meeting at the College of Coastal Georgia on dates to be determined later.

**Motion:** Merge the Faculty Development and Math Awareness Committees.  
Voting to be conducted online at least four weeks hence.

**Announcement:** In consultation with the ACMS chair, Dorothy Zinsmeister will invite selected individuals to comment on proposals for new baccalaureate programs that have been submitted to the System office for review.

The meeting adjourned around 12:15 pm.