

Minutes of the BOR Philosophy Academic Advisory Committee  
November 15, 2008

Meeting at Agnes Scott College, Decatur GA

(in conjunction with the Georgia Philosophical Society)

Start Time: 1:00 pm

End Time: 2:15 pm

Attendees: Troy Catterson (North Georgia), Janet Donohoe (West Georgia), Sean Herlihy (Gainesville State College), Ron Jackson (Clayton State), Alan Nichols (Georgia Highlands), Larry Peck (Georgia Perimeter), George Rainbolt (Georgia State), Hall Thorsrud (Agnes Scott College) (guest), Robert Vaughan (BOR liaison), Jim Winchester (Georgia College), Ray Woller (University of Georgia)

1. The minutes of the meeting of November 17, 2007 were approved as distributed.
2. George Rainbolt was re-elected chair of the committee.
3. Troy Catterson, Ron Jackson, and Jim Winchester were elected to be the executive committee.
4. The Committee discussed the BOR Core Curriculum evaluation process.
5. The Committee agreed that we need to complete work on common course numbers and reviewing our Area F. Although we agreed to do this at our last meeting, it did not occur. Ron Jackson agreed to coordinate the process re the common course numbers. George agreed to coordinate the process re Area F.
6. The committee agreed that, to complete the common course numbering and Area F revisions, we need to meet more than our usual once a year. We will meet in the spring in conjunction with the spring meeting of the Georgia Philosophical Society.
7. After discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed that it supports the efforts of the philosophy faculty at Clayton State to institute a major in philosophy. See information below.

Regarding the University's mission statement, Philosophy's multi-cultural, historical treatment of diverse societal and intellectual phenomena, and its concern with perennial issues in fields such as ethics, religion, art, science, technology and literature encourages and provides opportunities for continuous education and growth, and helps students understand the complex global context of contemporary life.

The major in Philosophy will not require any additional resources, and can be serviced adequately by existing faculty and library resources.

Of 628 students surveyed in Fall 2007, 204 (32%) said that they would be either "interested," or "very interested" in majoring in Philosophy at CSU.

Students who will declare a Philosophy major if it is offered: Jason Magistro, Rosemarie Turner, Dipti Khanna, Krystina Lucas, Reynard Pulliam, Katie Turner, Gia Gillies, Antonio Sanguenza, Candace Juhan, Laura Grass, Steve Whiten, Gary Howell, Steven Rivera, Rose Holmes

Students planning to leave CSU because there is no Philosophy major: Rukayat Busari, David Alford

The Philosophy major requires 21 Upper-division hours in Philosophy, allowing students 39 hours of electives and major related courses, making it an ideal second major.

A major in Philosophy would enhance Clayton State's standing among regional universities in our category: Kennesaw State and Armstrong-Atlantic are actively moving to get Philosophy majors.

The proposal for a Philosophy major at Clayton is complete and has been approved by CAPC, which noted its outstanding quality.

A philosophy major will stimulate and enliven faculty scholarship and will contribute significantly to the intellectual life of the university community.

- Clayton's Philosophy faculty created the Southeast Philosophy Conference, an international Graduate/Undergraduate conference, the only such ever hosted at CSU.
- The conference publishes a Proceedings, affording Clayton undergraduate and MALS students opportunity for publication.
- Clayton's Philosophy faculty sponsors an invited lecture series.
- Clayton's Philosophy faculty supports an active student Philosophy club.

Clayton's MALS program is a logical next step for students earning a B.A. in Philosophy from Clayton.

Students who major in Philosophy score higher on the GRE than any other major in Humanities and Arts, Social Sciences, Life Sciences, Education, and Business (including

English); higher on the MCAT than any other Humanities major; third highest overall on the LSAT (outscored, notably, Pre-law majors) ; fourth highest on the GMAT (outscored any of the various Business majors).<sup>1</sup>

A major in Philosophy will provide students with broadly applicable and portable skills that will significantly improve their employability in a wide range of professional fields. The London Times notes (August 15, 1998):

In the US, where the number of philosophy graduates has increased by 5 per cent per year during the 1990's, only a very few go on to become philosophers. Their employability, at 98.9 per cent, is impressive by any standard...Philosophy is, in commercial jargon, the ultimate 'transferable work skill.'

The New York Times Career Planner (1990):

Specific technical skills can quickly become obsolete, but philosophy emphasizes a skill that is needed in every technical area, which is the ability to take a vaguely formed problem and find precise ways to deal with it. Philosophers are playing a major role in artificial intelligence, computer program development and industrial applications of computational linguistics and teaching.

EducationGuardian.co.uk © Guardian News and Media Limited (2008):

Philosophy graduates . . . are in growing demand from employers. The number of all graduates in full-time and part-time work six months after graduation has risen by 9% between 2002-03 and 2005-06; for philosophy graduates it has gone up by 13%. It is in the fields of finance, property development, health, social work and the nebulous category of "business" that those versed in Plato and Kant are most sought after. In "business", property development, renting and research, 76% more philosophy graduates were employed in 2005-06 than in 2002-03. In health and social work, 9% more. In 2001, 9.9% of philosophy graduates were unemployed six months after graduation. In 2006, just 6.7% were. On average, 6% of all graduates were unemployed six months after graduation. In 2001, 9.3% of philosophy graduates were in business and finance roles six months after graduation. In 2006, 12.2% were. In 2001, 5.3% were in marketing and advertising six months after graduation. In 2006, 7.3% were. It is particularly significant that the percentage finding full-time work six months after graduation has risen, since the number of philosophy graduates has more than doubled between 2001 and 2006.

New York Times (April 6, 2008)

Nationwide, there are more colleges offering undergraduate philosophy programs today than a decade ago (817, up from 765), according to the [College Board](#). Some schools with established programs like [Texas A&M](#), Notre Dame, the

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.lclark.edu/%7Ephil/gre.html#source>; scores for the LSAT, GMAT, and MCAT can be found at: <http://falcon.tamucc.edu/~philosophy/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/PhilosophyProgram/WhyPhilosophy>

[University of Pittsburgh](#) and the [University of Massachusetts](#) at Amherst, now have twice as many philosophy majors as they did in the 1990s.