

Minutes of the Regents Advisory Committee on Political Science November 13, 2003

The Committee met at the Mountain Creek Conference Center in Pine Mountain, Georgia at 2:00 p.m. Presiding officer was Rebecca Sims of South Georgia College. Twenty-three institutions were represented, a list of which is provided in the appendix to these minutes. Also in attendance was Regents liaison John T. Wolfe.

The minutes of the previous meeting (January 30, 2003) were read and approved.

A discussion begun at last year's meeting regarding an increase of travel mileage ended with the conclusion that due to the current budget crisis, no increase should be expected this year.

Roger Marietta (Darton College) presented the results of a survey analysis of sick leave, summer pay, faculty workload and DTAE credit transferability policies at various USG institutions. Based on the report's findings, several attendees expressed concern regarding how faculty are charged for sick leave vis-à-vis staff, as well as the distinction between faculty teaching load vs. total workload. Because there is no system-wide policy on faculty workload, it was agreed that the RAC position to the Chancellor should emphasize "faculty responsibility" rather than "faculty load," though no formal action was taken on the matter.

John Wolfe (Regents liaison) reviewed FY2004 Academic Affairs priorities, noting that the BOR will forward letters to college presidents putting program review responsibilities into "abatement" until FY2005-2007. The Committee expressed its gratitude to Dr. Wolfe for his attendance and the substantive contributions he made to this meeting.

Members of the Committee exchanged their institution's Area F requirements as part of the 2002 Charge to the Executive Committee regarding compliance with recommendations made in 1997 by the Council on Majors. After extensive analysis and discussion the RAC voted unanimously to certify that the programs were in compliance.

In reference to a 2002 Charge to the Academic Committees regarding learning outcomes (carried-over from last year's meeting), the RAC voted to reaffirm language that was previously developed for this purpose (Motion c).

Motions Passed

- (a) Electronic Dissemination of Minutes: A motion was passed allowing for the distribution of RAC meeting minutes through e-mail. If a quorum of members responds then the minutes will be considered approved.
- (b) Compliance with 1997 Council on Majors Charge to Committee: A motion was passed attesting to Political Science's compliance and satisfaction with existing Area F requirements for the discipline, with the proviso that a system of uniform course numbers and titles should be established.

- (c) Compliance with 2002 Charge to Committee regarding Learning Outcomes: A motion was passed establishing the following statement as the general learning outcome common to all USG Political Science core courses. “Students will comprehend the structures, functions, roles and processes, both formal and informal, of the political institutions of the United States and Georgia.”

- (d) POLS1101 Requirement in Area E: A motion was passed recommending the BOR mandate that POLS1101 be included in all USG institutions’ Area E requirements. The motion stated that, “In the interest of fostering good citizenship all students will demonstrate, by passing POLS1101 or through appropriate alternate examination, competence in American and Georgia governments and constitutions.”

Matters Not Acted Upon

The Committee discussed the question of overloads and compensation relating to e-core courses. Action was deferred because the issue is currently being decided at the system-wide level.

General Discussion

The Committee also shared information and insights on a variety of relevant matters, including effects of the state budget shortfall and possible changes to HOPE scholarships. It was decided that next year’s meeting will be held in Savannah, Georgia.

Respectfully submitted

John P. Vanzo, Bainbridge College

APPENDIX: Institutions represented at the meeting

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Augusta State University, Bainbridge College, Clayton College and State University, Columbus State University, Dalton State College, Darton College, Gainesville College, Georgia College and State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia Perimeter College, Georgia Southwestern State, Georgia State University, Gordon College, Macon State College, Middle Georgia College, North Georgia College and State University, South Georgia College, Southern Polytechnic State University, State University of West Georgia, University of Georgia, Valdosta State University, Georgia Board of Regents