

Minutes of the Regents Advisory Committee on Political Science
November 16, 2006

The Committee met at the Doubletree Hotel in Savannah, Georgia at 2:00 p.m. Presiding officer was John P. Vanzo of Bain Bridge College. Nineteen institutions were represented, a list of which is provided in the appendix to these minutes. The Board of Regents was represented by Dr. Bettie Horne, interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Affairs, and Ms. Susan Campbell, Regents liaison.

John P. Vanzo started the meeting by asking all present to introduce themselves.

Hard copies of the minutes of the previous meeting (November 10, 2005) were distributed to refresh the memory of members. Although the minutes had previously been disseminated and approved by email, members were asked peruse through the minutes and check if additional corrections were needed. After this, the minutes were approved again.

A discussion began on the question of whether POLS 1101 could be required in all system institutions in Area E. In response, Dr. Bettie Horne said that this is possible. She recommended that RAC submit a request to BOR Education Committee to look into this matter.

A motion was proposed by Dr. Joe Trachtenberg of Clayton College and State University and seconded to submit recommendation to the BOR that a 3 credit hour course in American Government be required in all USG institutions.

Motions Passed

- (a) POLS-1101 Requirements in Area E: A motion was unanimously passed recommending that the BOR require that POLS-1101 be included in all USG institutions' Area E requirements. The language for the recommendations was revised to the following:
 - 1). We recommend that Area E of USG require a 3 credit course in American Government to be designated as "POLS 1101" or American Government content specific alternative (noting that U.S. History is not a suitable alternative for American Government).

- (b) Dr. Mark C. Milewicz of Gordon College was elected by acclamation as the Committee's new Chair-Elect to succeed Dr. Joseph G. Njoroge. An expression of gratitude to outgoing Chair, Dr. John Vanzo, for his outstanding service to the Committee was passed by unanimous acclamation.

Report by Dr. Bettie Horne

Dr. Horne told the committee that many changes were taking place within BOR. She gave a summary of the proceedings of a recent meeting held at Macon State College attended by RAC chairs.

There are efforts today to move the USG institutions from paper to electronic process. The focus is being put on RPG – Retention Progression Graduation. Those who move the needle, that is, those who make greater improvement in RPG will get an increased share of the system budget. Each program in the system will be reviewed in the context of RPG. The system is also moving towards zero-based budgeting.

More information on these issues can be found on the Advisory Committees web site:
<http://www.usg.edu/academics/comm/>

Ms. Susan Campbell addressed the members, and elaborated further on the discussion given by Dr. Bettie Horne. She also explained how budgets will be analyzed within the system in the coming years.

General Discussion

New recommendations were discussed. The committee considered recommending to BOR that those transferring to Georgia institutions from other States should be required to demonstrate content knowledge in Georgia Constitution as required by Georgia Legislature. The motion was withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph G. Njoroge, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

APPENDIX: Institutions represented at the meeting (As determined by the sign in sheet).

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