

Regents Advisory Committee on Political Science
Annual Meeting
November 13th, 2008
The Doubletree Inn
1:00-3:00 p.m.
(Cobalt Room)
Savannah, Georgia

Institutions present: Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Bainbridge College, Clayton State University, Darton College, Gainesville State College, Georgia College and State University, Georgia Highlands College, Georgia Perimeter College, Gordon College, Georgia Gwinnett College, Kennesaw State University, Macon State College, Middle Georgia College, Southern Polytechnic State University, University of West Georgia, Valdosta State University

Call to order: Dr. Njoroge called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. Member introductions followed.

Approval of minutes: The minutes from the November 15th, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

- The committee discussed developments in implementing POLS 1101 as a required course in the USG's core curriculum. Dr. Trachtenberg noted that there seemed to be little progress in the area at the state level.
- Dr. Trachtenberg emphasized the need for this change to be considered and offered to share data on undergraduate political information levels that might provide further evidenced of this need.

New Business:

- Core Curriculum Committee update:
 - The committee expressed the importance of participation in the new core revision process and remarked favorable on the inclusive nature of the new process. Dr. Rotnem expressed a desire to have a more clear vision of the core's new direction and that that should be made known to faculty. It was also noted that there appears to be little information available now to faculty and that faculty would be interested in seeing more.
 - There was a lengthy discussion of possible directions and concerns, but since much of it was speculative at this point, the committee saw no point in discussing specifics until they were known.
 - The committee expressed optimism in participating in the new core revision process.
 - Dr. Trachtenberg noted that a revised core would be well-served by having POLS 1101 as a required course.
- Report of the Executive Committee meeting on April 29th, 2008:
 - Information on the core revision process and strategic planning was shared by Dr. Njoroge.
 - Dr. Njoroge expressed the desire to have a more regular line of communication established between the BOR and the RACs. The BOR representatives agreed.
 - There also was an interest in devoting more resources to RAC chair training. It was argued this would strengthen the over-all process.
 - A need for AP course equivalencies was noted by those in attendance as well as a need to address some assessment issues.
- Charge to the academic advisory committee (item withdrawn).
- Election of POLS RAC chair-elect to succeed Dr. Milewicz:

- Roger Marietta was nominated and unanimously elected.
- POLS RAC core curriculum committee nominee election:
 - Joe Trachtenberg was unanimously elected.
 - Tom Rotnem was elected as an alternate.
- Changes to the K-12 curriculum (item withdrawn).
- Other new business:
 - Dr. Rotnem expressed support for the GIL Express program and noted his concern that the program is facing cuts.
 - *The committee recommends:*
 - that the USG continue full funding for the GIL Express system as a vital academic resource for students and faculty with regard to class assignments and research.
 - As that the core revision process gains momentum, the committee wishes to make the following recommendation:
 - *The committee recommends:*
 - that POLS 1101 (American Government) be a required course in the core curriculum. As much as English Composition and U.S. History are required, so should a course that familiarizes USG students with American Government also be required. An understanding of U.S. Government is essential to civic engagement. POLS 1101 is an effective means of satisfying the Georgia legislative requirement that is currently in place. Regardless of how an institution complies with the Georgia government and constitution legislative requirements, we recommend that POLS 1101 be a required part of the core curriculum.*

* Georgia Institute of Technology's role in the university system is acknowledged to possibly afford them additional flexibility in this regard.

Announcements:

- Dr. Vanzo wished to express his thanks, on behalf of the committee, for Dr. Njoroge's time and leadership over the past 2 years.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn at 2:25pm.

Submitted by:
Mark Milewicz
Gordon College