

Regents Advisory Committee on Political Science

Annual Meeting

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Callaway Gardens

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Pine Mountain, GA

**Institutions present:** Atlanta Metropolitan College, Columbus State College, Darton College, Gainesville State College, Gordon College, Georgia College and State University, Georgia Highlands College, Georgia Gwinnett College, Georgia Perimeter College, Georgia Tech University, Macon State College, North Georgia College & State University, Southern Polytechnic al State University, Valdosta State University

**Call to order:** Dr. Mark Milewicz called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Member Introductions followed.

**Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Old Business:**

- Core Curriculum update:
  - The legislative requirement that POLS 1101 remain in Area E is still in place
  - A blog was set up to generate input from political science faculty
  - Major emphasis of the Core Curriculum Committee was learning outcomes
  - Learning goal of mandatory American Politics course
  - Area E minimum reduced from 12 to 6
  - Institutions should ensure learning outcomes include institutions and fundamentals of rights
  - Most Colleges/Universities don't want to reduce Area E to 6 hours – change driven by professional programs
- GIL Express recommended full funding by USG

**New Business:**

- RAC Executive Committee meeting in September cancelled
- No interest in a LIST SERV or FACEBOOK page for RAC
- New Degree Program – GA Gwinnett asking for support for a BA in Political Science - Motion made “recognize the need and support future development of this program” – unanimously approved
- New Degree Program – Gainesville State requests support for BA in Secondary Education with a Concentration in Political Science - Motion made “recognize the need and support future development of this program” – unanimously approved
- Announcement GPSA Executive Board Meeting at 8pm
- Motion made to support full funding of the GIL Express; seconded; discussion – to encourage library personnel to weigh in on GIL Express in terms of student usage and how it brings value to students; passed unanimously

**Institution reports:**

- Columbus State – 20% budget cuts over 18 months; 6 furlough days may go up to 12 next year; fundraising emphasized
- Gordon College – many RAC members could not attend due to budget cuts
- Georgia Highlands College – had to give back \$2 million of budget; 8-10% budget cut and 6 furlough days; 12% enrollment increase; travel reduced plus \$125,000 giveback

**USG RAC representative Dr. Susan Campbell, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research, report:**

- FY 11 Budget – expect more furloughs
- BOR Budget Request for FY 11 - \$2.2 billion
- Reduction plans for July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 – 4%, 6%, 8% - more furloughs decision from BOR in November/December meetings
- Door open for layoffs and reduction in force
- Presidents have flexibility to meet their reduction targets through number of furlough days
- Providing information to legislators on faculty workload, student workload
- Data will be provided on full time/part time mix
- Data on faculty turnover will be provided if available
- PEW Study shows state in financial stress
- No more discussion of Two-year institutions moving to TSG in the USG office; no plans being made – not high on the Governor’s priority list
- Governor developing longitudinal data system for P-16 education system
- **Legislature looking for solutions from USG for problems that exist today**
- Focus of FY 10 General Assembly on HOPE Issues – getting it/keeping it
- Will HOPE run out of money?
- May want to model Texas – top 10% of high school seniors automatically admitted to flagship/regional universities – Florida has similar policy
- Chancellor’s Budget presentation to committee in early December – to joint session in January
- No push to reduce Area E to 6 hours
- Regents more concerned with graduation rates asking Presidents to develop plans to improve graduation rates – 3 years for Associate Degrees – 6 years for BA/BS degrees
- Regents has a task force on Learning Support and is reviewing number of students requiring LS, how many exit LS, how they do in regular ENGL/MATH later; and will make recommendations on improvements to LS
- Regents reviewing IPEDS data on enrollment, degrees offered, locales, and full time/part time faculty mix
- USG Annual Report posted to their website with goals and strategic plan; yellow light – enrollment up, graduation rates down a little in 08; retention rates took a dip
- Q and A: Question “is there a correlation between funding and graduation rates? Answer: “USG looks at time to graduate”
- Q and A: Question “are two year schools given credit for transfers before graduation?” Answer: “USG does but there are no national numbers to compare to”
- A and A: Question “are there plans to transfer two year schools to the technical college system?” Answer: “ not in the USG Office – not high on Governor’s list – not going ahead”

**Adjournment:** Motion made to adjourn at 3:05 pm

Submitted by Roger Marietta, Darton College, POLS RAC chair-elect