

**ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
ARTICULATION AND GENERAL STUDIES COMMITTEE
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Hill University Center, Room 412
Birmingham, Alabama
September 14, 1995**

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

The Articulation and General Studies Committee (AGSC) was called to order by Dr. Don Crump, chair, at 9:30 A.M. The following members of the Committee were present:

Dr. Don Crump	University of Alabama
Dr. Joe Morris	Jefferson State Community College
Dr. Rod Britt	Southern Union State Community College
Dr. Tom Osborne	University of North Alabama
Dr. Larry Allen	University of South Alabama
Dr. John Morrow	University of South Alabama
Dr. Paul Parks	Auburn University
Dr. Carol Daron	Auburn University
Dr. Charles Nash	The University of Alabama System
Dr. Paul Mohr	Alabama Commission on Higher Education
Dr. Evelyn Ellis	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Gary Branch	Faulkner State Community College
Dr. Don Hines	University of West Alabama

Deans Colleges/Schools of Business Present: Jeff Harper, ASC; David Billings, UAH; Stan Scott, AAMU; David Sollars' AUM; Edward Merkel, TSU; Amit Mitra, AU; James DeLoach, TSUM; William Fielding, JSU; Barry Mason, UA; Steve Cross, TSUD; Bill Word, UM; Merle Peper, UWA; John Filer, USA; Gene Newport, UAB; Bill Stewart, UNA.

Others present: Bert Slafter, ADPE; Terry Hickey, UAB; MaryAnn Kachelhofer, UAB; Glenna Brown, UAB.

Dr. Terry Hickey, Associate Provost for Academic Programs, UAB, welcomed the Articulation and General Studies group and the deans of colleges/schools of business to the UAB campus. He then recognized Dr. Glenna Brown and complimented her on the coordination of meeting room and parking accommodations for the meeting.

Dr. Crump began the September 14 meeting noting that there was not an agenda for this meeting since it was to be a discussion between the deans of colleges/schools of business and the Committee for changes/additions to the working draft of the proposed general studies curriculum. For the benefit of the

deans, Dr. Crump condensed the charge to the Articulation and General Studies Committee by the Alabama legislature and the timeframe that the Committee established to complete their project.

Dr. Stewart, UNA, opened the discussion with a request to define precalculus algebra as noted in Area III of the working draft. Dr. Crump responded that college algebra is not consistent from campus to campus but the Committee believed it to be an "intermediate" algebra. After discussion among other representatives, there was agreement to asterisk the precalculus algebra for students transferring in the school of business noting that intermediate algebra is required for credit purposes in that degree program.

The next item of discussion was initiated by Dr. Billings, UAH, was the change in wording in Area IV, from two courses in Economics to one course of Principles of Microeconomics, and one course in Principles of Macroeconomics. There was strong agreement from all representatives to this suggestion and the Committee agreed the change would be made in the next working draft.

Dr. Mason., UA, expressed some concern in the need for flexibility in Area IV, History, Social and Behavioral Sciences. Several others agreed with allowing more flexibility. Dr. Nash referred to the deans to the STARS project. The STARS project is the means by which degree requirements for specific programs of various institutions are identified to assist students in initiating their studies to transfer from one institution to another. Dr. Newport, UAB, brought to the Committee's attention that the transfer situation could worsen rather than improve because of the increasing diversity in business programs that would result in a change of coursework necessary to complete the degree program. Dr. Billings then posed the question to the Committee of how the final document be changed as a degree program changed among institutions. Dr. Crump responded that there would be standing disciplinary committees for each field and they would review materials as necessary and adopt changes in the general studies curriculum transfer policies.

Another concern was the reference in the working draft of the sequence of some courses. Dr. Peper, UWA, suggested deleting the word "sequence" to give the institutions maximum flexibility. Dr. Nash responded to this noting the possibility of a required rising junior exam that would necessitate a student to have certain sequences of subjects to pass the test. Dr. Crump then emphasized that an institution can choose to add requirements for a degree to be satisfied after the student arrives and that all institutions will have to make adaptations of what they have in place now to accommodate the transfer student.

Dr. Stewart, UNA, and Dr. Billing, UAH, turned the discussion to Area I, Humanities and Fine Arts. Both representatives emphasized the need for speech courses in the business program. Some representatives agreed, some disagreed and after further deliberations, Dr. Crump called for a vote of consensus among the deans. In a show of hands to asterisk speech as a necessary transfer credit, there were (12) yes, (2) no, and (1) abstaining.

Dr. Newport, UAB, asked the Committee the time limitations of a potential transfer student to complete the general studies curriculum. Dr. Crump informed him that a student will sign a three-year contract when they begin their studies. If they do not complete the general studies curriculum in that length of time, then all agreements are null and void.

Dr. Peper, UWA, focused on Area V indicating the title of Business Calculus was too restrictive and would prefer to see it named Calculus. Representatives agreed to have it listed as Business Calculus or

Calculus. Other changes requested by the representatives were changing Introduction to Accounting to Financial and Managerial Accounting, and Legal Environment of Business would become Legal and Social Environment of Business. The deans also agreed to eliminate the ranges of semester and quarter hours in Statistical and Quantitative Applications and Financial and Managerial Accounting.

Dr. Crump then thanked the deans for their suggestions and discussion of topics. He emphasized that nothing was etched in stone until a consensus was met and that all input would be welcomed by the Committee. Dr. Crump added that if the deans or a representative group would like to meet again informally to discuss specific areas of concern to please call him and he would make the necessary arrangements.

The Articulation and General Studies Committee adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

Dr. Crump reconvened the Committee at 1:00 P.M. for the meeting with the deans of colleges/schools of engineering.

Deans of colleges/schools of engineering present: Robert Griffin, UA; Charles Evees, UA; W. F. Walker, AU; Jay Goldman, UAB; Gerald Kurr, UAH; David Hayhurst, USA; Arthur Bond, AAMU; Lynn Russell, UAH; and Alan Letton, TUS.

Others present: Bert Slafter, ADPE; Terry Hickey and Glenna Brown, UAB.

Dr. Crump greeted the deans of colleges/schools of engineering and noted that there was not an agenda for this meeting since it was to be a discussion between the deans and the Committee for changes/additions to the working draft of the proposed general studies curriculum. For the benefit of the deans, Dr. Crump condensed the charge to the Articulation and General Studies Committee by the Alabama legislature under Act 94-202 and the timeframe that the Committee established to complete their project.

Dr. Crump then stated that the Committee had received the voluminous information detailing the many different options required for necessary core curriculum work in the different specialty areas for engineering. He expressed the goal of the Committee and the engineering deans was to devise a general studies curriculum that would best serve the needs of the students that initially enroll in a two year institution to transfer to a four year institution to complete an engineering degree program. Dr. Walker, AU, stated that industry does not want all the institutions producing the same engineer. There should be a system of checks and balances and diversity of programs. Dr. Walker stated that schools of engineering had to maintain strict ABET guidelines that emphasized depth and breadth in the field. Dr. Walker proposed a solution would be for each university with an engineering program to be required to establish an articulation agreement with the junior colleges for each program of engineering they teach. Dr. Crump expressed to the deans that they have to reach an agreement for a foundation for the transferring student into any degree program. The general studies curriculum for an engineering degree program should be an acceptable base program for the freshman and sophomore years. The depth and breadth for the field would need to be addressed in the junior and senior years at the four-year institution.

The first topic discussed by the deans was the need for computer literacy and where it could be added to the draft. Dr. Parks, AU, responded that the AGSC had taken all ideas into consideration but to

remain within certain limitations of a transferable curriculum, the Committee agreed that computer literacy could be gained at any level before graduation.

Dr. Russell, UAH, expressed how all the different areas of engineering would be affected by the general studies curriculum. Dr. Bond, AAMU, added that if the engineering schools accepted this curriculum it would add at least one additional year to the engineering students graduation date.

Dr. Crump reminded the deans that the colleges/schools of engineering were not individual institutions but within a university and brought the discussion back to problems that need to be corrected in the working draft. After lengthy conversation, Dr. Bond, AAMU, requested sequences in social sciences and humanities to meet ABET guidelines and Dr. Goldman asked to have the word depth added to Area II, Humanities and Fine Arts; and Area IV, History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Goldman and Walker requested to have sequences designated for specific courses related to specific areas of engineering to ensure depth and breadth.

At this point in the meeting Dr. Letton, Tuskegee, informed the Committee that the current general studies curriculum would add more courses and hours to complete an engineering degree program. He added that this would make his school, a private university, and others in neighboring states more appealing since the student would complete the engineering program sooner and would cost the student relatively the same amount of money.

Dr. Parks remarked that changes will have to be made in all of Auburn's engineering programs and he was sure that changes would be made at other universities with engineering degree programs. Dr. Goldman, UAB, then asked to have an asterisk appear in Area IV suggesting that if a student is planning to transfer into a four year engineering program that it be necessary for the student to take an in-depth course in one of the human/social sciences. Dr. Crump responded that the Committee believed that under the general studies curriculum all institutions would have to be willing to accept whatever depth area that transfer student brought to the school.

The deans agreed on Area III, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, especially the 8 semester to 15 quarter hours in calculus-based physics including laboratory experiences. Dr. Crump then began to concentrate discussion on Area V of the working draft. He stated the Committee chose to highlight science and mathematics in this area. Several deans responded that there were some problems with Area V because of program specificity. Dr. Crump suggested that the Committee could state the number of hours or requirements may vary by major. Dr. Daron proposed the alternative that all courses could be listed with appropriate asterisks applied for each individual course. The STARS program was again mentioned by Dr. Nash as a mechanism for guidance of transferring students. Dr. Crump interjected that an asterisk could be applied with the notation that pre-professional courses in math and science should be appropriate to the intended major by the student.

There were no definite decisions made by the deans and Dr. Crump, noting the lateness of the meeting, thanked the deans of colleges/schools of engineering for their input and direction on the working draft of the general studies curriculum. He also made reference to the STARS program as a mechanism usable by the deans to allow for a transferring student into the engineering degree program. Dr. Crump stated that the Committee would welcome comments and suggestions from the deans and emphasized the need for communication between the colleges/schools of engineering and the junior colleges as the Articulation and General Studies Committee continues its efforts to develop the final general studies curriculum.

The Articulation and General Studies Committee adjourned at 3:20 P.M.
W. Donald Crump, Chair