

STATE OF ALABAMA
Articulation and General Studies Committee
Department of Postsecondary Education
President's Conference Room
Montgomery, Alabama
June 18, 1997

Minutes of Meeting

Committee members were present:

Dr. Joe Morris, Chair	Jefferson State Community College
Dr. Paul Parks	Auburn University
Dr. Carol Daron, Alternate	Auburn University
Dr. James Yarbrough	University of Alabama
Dr. Tom Osborne	University of North Alabama
Dr. Evelyn Ellis	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Margaret Kelly, Alternate	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Roy Johnson	Southern Union Community College
Dr. Rod Britt, Alternate	Southern Union Community College
Dr. John Morrow	University of South Alabama
Dr. Larry Allen, Alternate	University of South Alabama
Dr. Yvonne Kennedy	Bishop State Community College
Dr. Glenda M. Curry	Troy State University Montgomery
Dr. Alfred Smith	Alabama State University
Dr. Julius Brown	Wallace Community College Selma
Dr. Elizabeth C. French	Commission on Higher Education
Dr. James Kimbrough	STARS

Others present: Bert Slafter-ADPE; Joey Holley-STARS; Maryanne Ivey-UAB; Michael Neilson-UAB; Suzanne McGill-USA; and Ada Long-UAB.

CALL TO ORDER	Meeting was called to order by Joe Morris, Chair.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	The Minutes of the May 27th meeting were approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Area V. Dr. Morris stated that he had sent letters to the deans of Business and Nursing requesting that they provide the AGSC with any changes to their recommendations in the general studies curriculum.

Morris received six responses from the Business Deans(UAB, AUM, UM, AU, UAH, UWA). Morris stated that because of a recent requirement in Area IV for a behavior science as well as the two economic courses, these institutions recommended changes.

Yarbrough asked how modifying a change that had already been approved in Area V would be handled. Johnson stated that any change which affected the transfer package would have to come back to the Committee for action. If the change was for an institution it would not need to come to the AGSC for action.

Parks stated that the CAOs have proposed a different approach for approving courses for transfer in Area V in their resolution. The resolution offers an approach which could also include the professional programs. He stated that whatever action the AGSC takes on the resolution would have an affect on how the Committee should proceed. Parks stated that he would need to understand the Committee's position on the resolution before he could vote on any issues concerning Area V. He stated that he supports the resolution of the COPs because it 1) supports the general studies curriculum approved by the Committee; 2) allows flexibility for the four-year institutions to maintain the autonomy and credibility of their degree programs; 3) provides assurance to the two-year institutions that any courses selected under the STARS program would be from the common course book; and 4) supports a strong advising system for students.

Johnson stated that STARS is not the answer. This would entail putting sixteen college catalogs on the INTERNET and expecting students to wade through the information to determine what will be transferrable. This is not an acceptable solution from the two-year perspective. He stated that due to misunderstandings about the process, the Georgia consultants could be invited back along with the CAOs to go over Area V.

Parks suggested that in addition to inviting the consultants, the Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Georgia and a president from the two-year system should also be invited so that the Committee can get a broader perspective of how the system works.

Curry strongly encouraged the Committee to meet with the CAOs and the consultants from Georgia as soon as possible. Kennedy stated that the Committee also needs to invite representatives from the Council of Presidents since it appears that they may be acting independently of their representation on the Articulation Committee.

DECISION ITEMS

Resolution of Council of Presidents (COPs).

Morris stated that the subcommittee of the Articulation Committee was not invited to the June 12th meeting of the COPs. Parks and Morris will coordinate a meeting with the Chief Academic Officers. Parks will report outcome of this meeting to the AGSC and the CAOs.

Adoption of Pre-Professional Programs. Osborne requested approval of Areas I-IV for the Pre-Professional programs due to the fact that institutions need to start making new catalogs. Johnson moved that the Committee adopt the recommendations from Business in Areas I-IV with the revision that in Area IV a course in macroeconomics and a course in behavior science is added. Curry seconded. Unanimously approved.

Morrow moved that the Committee adopt the recommendations from Nursing in Areas I-IV with three revisions: in Area II add course in Ethics; Area III add course in Inorganic Chemistry; and in Area IV add Psychology and one other behavioral science. Osborne seconded. Unanimously approved.

Johnson moved that the Committee adopt the recommendations from Engineering in Areas I-IV. Ellis seconded. Unanimously approved.

Discipline Committee Course Recommendations. Morris distributed an up to date listing of the courses recommended for approval by the discipline committees (copy attached). Morris stated that where the institution has no courses listed approval is still pending or course proposal has not been received by the discipline committee. Ellis recommended that future updates should include a "pending status" notation where no listing has been received. Ellis moved for the acceptance of the courses recommended excluding any courses that have not had official approval from the institution and allow for corrections as necessary. Johnson seconded. Unanimously approved.

Britt recommended that AGSC funds be allotted to the Chair for support with paperwork and other work related to the Committee. French stated that there was a separate budget for the activities of the Articulation Committee separate from STARS.

Johnson recommended that the Chair write a letter to the Ways & Means Committee of the Legislature requesting restoration of the \$100,000 cut from the STARS budget.

Britt stated that on behalf of the Committee, he would like to thank Joe Morris for his leadership on the Committee. Parks stated that Carol Daron will be retiring and he thanked her for the work that she has done for the Committee.

Election of Officers. Parks nominated Evelyn Ellis- Alabama A&M University as Chair. Johnson seconded. Unanimously approved. Kennedy nominated Roy Johnson-Southern Union Community College as Vice-Chair. Ellis seconded. Unanimously approved.

Transfer of D grades. Osborne moved that with respect to D grades, the policy of the receiving institution should govern provided that native students and transfer students are subject to the same policy. Johnson seconded. Motion unanimously passed.

Transient students. Osborne moved that transferability does not permit students to sign up for a course, get halfway through, withdraw, take the course somewhere else and then transfer their credit back to the institution. Britt stated that transient students have to have the permission of the sending institution to take the course. Kennedy stated that there are other extenuating circumstances that would cause this approval to be restrictive for students. Motion failed for lack of second.

Course Sequence. Osborne moved to remove all language that links Area II to Area IV and require students, other than Engineering and Business, to take a sequence of two courses in literature and two courses in history. Johnson stated that some deans expressed that this would be too restrictive. This would be a curricula decision that would cause realignment and staff changes. It would also take away institutional autonomy. Motion failed for lack of second.

Letter from Neilson. The Committee addressed two questions from a letter from Mike Nielson-UAB:

1. Must the general education or core requirement of each public college and university in Alabama include at least 41 semester hours as defined in Areas I through IV of the general studies curriculum adopted by the AGSC December 6, 1995? Morris stated yes.
2. Will only the courses approved by the appropriate discipline committee be acceptable to satisfy the 41 hours of requirements? Yes. If approved by the Interdisciplinary Committee of AGSC. The Interdisciplinary Committee serves in the same capacity as a discipline committee and will be sensitive to innovative courses that will strengthen the general studies curriculum. Britt stated that there are courses which are unique and will need to go to the Interdisciplinary Committee for review and approval. The Interdisciplinary Committee has 19 courses to review and will vote on them today. Britt will make a report on these programs to the AGSC at the next meeting.
3. If the general education requirements of a college or university exceed the 41 defined hours of Areas I through IV of the general studies curriculum, will all graduates of that institution be required to complete the additional hours? The institution can require additional core requirements above the 41 hours; however, the total number of hours for graduation will be the same for the transfer student as for the native student.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

July 11	FSCC/Gulf Shores
September 12	UAB

Report on STARS. No report was given.

INFORMATION ITEMS DISTRIBUTED

1. Update of Courses Recommended for Approval (copy attached).
2. Sample Approved Major Areas for the State of Georgia (copy attached).
3. Letter of Concerns from Dr. Michael Neilson-UAB (copy attached).

The Committee reconvened with the Deans of Arts & Sciences at 1:00 p.m. The following deans were present,

Name	Institution
L. Brown	TSUD
Joe Hill	AUM
Gordon Pickier	TSUM
William Lawson	ASU
Earl Wade	JSU
Ted Benditt	UAB
Mike Roland	UM
Rebekah Pindzola	AU
Jerry Shipman	A&M
Lawrence Wit	AU
Jack Moore	UNA

Morris welcomed the Deans to the meeting. Morris distributed a copy of a sample of approved major areas from the State of Georgia to give the Deans an idea of the flexibility in Area V (copy attached). He stated that GA uses their discipline committees to look at Area V and that approach could be used with the arts and sciences. Morris stated that the Committee saw Area V as being very broad and flexible. The following concerns were raised by the Arts and Sciences Deans:

The complexity of liberal arts is such that it would be very difficult to come up with an Area V. There is no commonality for the diversity of programs. The needs of the students are well served by the STARS system.

AGSC Response: Morrow stated that the Committee needed recommendations for Area V. He stated that STARS cannot be the sole vehicle for recommendations about courses that need to be taken. Kimbrough stated that based on current work load and staff, it would be difficult for STARS to handle Area V.

Parks stated that the resolution from the Chief Academic Officers (CAOs) enhances the STARS program to take it on line on the INTERNET to establish appropriate WEB sites which would make it easier to interact and use the program for the transfer of courses in Area V. There is strong commitment from the universities that took part in the deliberations to ensure that the resources are available to upgrade the STARS system.

Morris stated that having students look at 16 different degree plans to figure out what's common would be a nightmare in itself. Morrow stated that if a student knows what major he is pursuing and knows which institution he will transfer to, the problem is simplified.

Students change majors more frequently than they change institutions. If Area V were specified by major, it would create more problems.

AGSC Response: Morrow stated that if a student changes majors all bets are off. The rules only apply if the student stays in the field that was designated.

Most institutions want the majority of the courses in a given major taken at it's own institution with it's own faculty. The more courses taught by other institutions before the student transfers, the weaker an institution's major becomes. AU of our major requirements require a minimum of a certain number of courses in the major to be at our institution.

AGSC Response: Morrow stated that this is exactly why the law was written. We are under a legislative mandate that a system must be provided whereby students can transfer two years of course work to the receiving institution and receive degree credit. We are talking about lower division courses not trying to dominate the major of a student.

There is already a core of courses that are a part of each major that a student will be transferring in. Any attempt to broaden that by adding three or four more courses will mean in many cases that the majority of courses are not taken at the institution offering the degree.

Discipline Committees are not the answer to specifying courses in Area V. A discipline is a single discipline, not a curriculum that is outlined by our colleges. If this has to be done, the

Deans would be the appropriate group to look at Area V very differently from what the AGSC has proposed.

AGSC Response: Johnson stated that the goal of the Committee is to identify 60-64 semester hours that will transfer. A student with freshman and sophomore experience should be able to complete in two years, transfer to another institution, and graduate in the same number of hours as a native entering student. We need your help on the best way to get there.

A few courses in some of the sciences may be identified. The humanities and other areas are too broad, and that's one of the reasons we support the President's position of leaving this Area open.

AGSC Response: Osborne stated that there is the possibility of making a distinction between all the Pre-Professional programs and the Arts and Sciences. There would be no stipulations for Area V in the Arts and Sciences with maybe a few exceptions. If we leave Area V as an empty category, you have to accept whatever a student brings. By saying nothing, you are confirming that you will be willing to accept anything for degree credit. This is what is at stake in stipulating and not stipulating.

No matter what is done to try to find commonality, there is still going to be some hours that we cannot fill in. STARS is a very good answer. 1) student consults with STARS; 2) gets curricula; 3) gets the contract from institutions interested in; and 4) talks with advisor.

AGSC Response: Johnson stated that the Committee will meet with the CAOs and the Presidents to discuss their concerns and the best way to handle Area V. After that meeting, the AGSC will meet again with the Arts and Sciences Deans. He stated that it would be helpful if the deans would begin to structure their thoughts and give the Committee their best advice.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Joe Morris, Chair

Deborah Nettles, Recording Secretary