

STATE OF ALABAMA
Articulation and General Studies Committee
Department of Postsecondary Education
President's Conference Room
Montgomery, Alabama
May 27, 1997

Minutes of Meeting

Committee members were present:

Dr. Joe Morris, Chair	Jefferson State Community College
Dr. Harold McGee	Jacksonville State University
Dr. Carol Daron, Alternate	Auburn University
Dr. James Yarbrough	University of Alabama
Dr. Charles Nash, Alternate	University of Alabama System
Dr. Tom Osborne	University of North Alabama
Dr. Evelyn Ellis	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Roy Johnson	Southern Union Community College
Dr. Rod Britt, Alternate	Southern Union Community College
Dr. Gary Branch, Alternate	Faulkner State 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. Paul Mohr, Sr.	Commission on Higher Education
Dr. James Kimbrough	STARS
Mr. Keith Sessions, Alternate	STARS

Others present: Bert Slafter-ADPE; Joey Holley-STARS; Maryanne Ivey-UAB; Michael Neilson-UAB; Pat Covey-USA; Bill Jones-UA; and Victoria Rivizzigno- USA.

CALL TO ORDER	Meeting was called to order by Joe Morris, Chair.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	The Minutes of the May 9th meeting were approved with corrections.

Decision items of the committee to date. Dr. John Morrow gave a historical background of decisions which had been made by the Articulation Committee to date. The following are major decisions that were reached by consensus of all members or by actual vote:

The Georgia model would be used as a general guide.

Course distribution requirements would include five Areas with a minimum of 96 quarter hours or 64 semester hours. Areas I-IV would be established first. Area V second.

At a later meeting, the Committee approved Areas I-V.

At the November 1996 meeting in Auburn the Committee approved the proposal from Jane Myer pertaining to teacher education programs in the state. (copy attached)

Deans of the major areas of instruction were asked to look at the other programs to see how they might fit into the course distribution already approved. The Committee was to review and approve their proposals.

Dr. Morrow indicated that there are several deans who are still awaiting action from the Committee.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Adoption of pre-professional programs. Dr. Johnson indicated that for the last several months the pre-professional programs have been before the Committee and ready to adopt. He stated that the Committee has received a resolution from the Council of Presidents which asks the Committee to place Area V with the STARS program. Johnson stated that the Committee should hear the specific concerns of the Chief Academic Officers and the Council of Presidents to reach a compromise. Johnson stated that the resolution is a regression of the Committee's work for the last three years.

McGee urged Committee members to continue to follow the Georgia model. He stated that it provides diversity, allows flexibility to handle professional licensure, and it protects liberal art requirements.

Johnson stated that if the AGSC has an agreement in the pre-professional areas, the Committee needs to move forward with adoption. If the deans have legitimate problems with what they have recommended, they should get back with their colleagues and iron them out and come back to the AGSC and tell us how they want their recommendations changed.

Osborne asked if there was any opposition to approving those pre-professional committee recommendations that are already submitted. Nash stated that the Minutes reflect "acceptance" rather than approved. Morrow stated that the Committee has approved the teacher education recommendations and that the discipline committee is under the impression that their programs are approved.

Discipline Committee Issues. McGee stated that there seems to be a lot of confusion among the committees. The intent of the Articulation Committee was to allow 1 00 or 200 level courses into the general studies makeup. McGee stated that any 1 00 or 200 level general studies course submitted to the discipline committees should be approved. Daron stated that one of Auburn's unique courses was disapproved by the discipline committee. She stated that one of the problems that exists is that the discipline committees are attempting to make all courses similar.

Morrow stated that the discipline committees are recommending to the AGSC not approving or disapproving. He stated that the discipline committees are simply responding to courses submitted by

the institutions and cataloging those courses for purposes of transfer. They have made some mistakes which will be addressed at the meeting with them this afternoon.

Johnson stated that the AGSC needs to make it clear to the discipline committees what their role is. He stated that the AGSC does not wish to intrude on an institution preserving its own program and teaching it the way they want to.

Area V. Morrow stated that the Committee never intended to have one set of courses in Area V unless it was required by licensure or certification. He stated that the Arts & Sciences deans have been misled. The only restrictions that should go in Area V for the arts & sciences are the restrictions that they impose themselves.

Daron stated that she had concerns about discipline committees approving all courses in Area V due to resources and other things.

Johnson stated that since Area V course submittals will be so voluminous for the four year institutions, a brief narrative description of the course may be the answer. Branch stated that the initial submissions will be voluminous but after the first year that will not be the case.

DECISION ITEMS

Resolution of Council of Presidents (COPs). The Committee decided to appoint a sub-committee to meet with the Council of Presidents on June 12, 1997 to address the resolution the Council adopted regarding articulation (copy attached). The next meeting of the AGSC will be scheduled after the June 12th meeting with the COPs.

Arts & Sciences Deans. Morrow stated that the Committee needs to meet with the Arts & Sciences Deans and give them an opportunity to identify programs in Area V. The Committee agreed to meet with the deans as soon as possible after the June 12th meeting with the COPs.

Adoption of pre-professional programs. Morrow moved that the Committee vote on the pre-professional recommendations which were tabled at a previous meeting. Kennedy seconded. Daron suggested that before a vote, the pre-professional committees be given the opportunity to confirm what they have submitted. Seven (7) Committee members voted to remove tabled recommendations one (2) opposed.

Morrow moved that the program recommendations submitted by the Deans of Nursing be approved. Kennedy seconded. Yarbrough stated that the Nursing deans were misled. A roll called vote was taken:

Evelyn Ellis-A&M	No
Roosevelt Steptoe-ASU	Absent
Carol Daron-AU	No
James Yarbrough-UA	No
John Morrow-USA	Yes
Harold McGee-JSU	Yes
Tom Osborne-UNA	Yes

Joe Morris-JSCC	Yes
Roy Johnson-SUCC	Yes
Yvonne Kennedy-BSCC	Yes

Motion did not pass.

After discussion regarding why pre-professional committee recommendations have not been approved by the Committee where no concerns exist, Johnson moved for the adoption of Allied Health recommendations. Morrow seconded. A roll called vote was taken:

Evelyn Ellis-A&M	No
Roosevelt Steptoe-ASU	Absent
Carol Daron-AU	Yes
James Yarbrough-UA	Yes
John Morrow-USA	Yes
Harold McGee-JSU	Yes
Tom Osborne-UNA	Yes
Joe Morris-JSCC	Yes
Roy Johnson-SUCC	Yes
Yvonne Kennedy-BSCC	Yes

Motion passed.

Morrow moved that the program recommendations submitted by the Business Deans be approved. Johnson seconded. Daron stated that the Business Deans still have some concerns. Morrow stated that the Business Deans have been requesting approval. Britt stated that he met with the Business Deans eight (8) years ago and there was dissension from Auburn University then and it still exists. After further discussion regarding how long the pre-professional committees have been waiting for approval from the Committee, Morrow withdrew the motion.

The AGSC decided to inform each pre-professional committee by letter that the Committee will act on recommendations that have been submitted, and that revised recommendations must be submitted in writing to the AGSC before the next meeting.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

June	TBA
July 11	FSCC/Gulf Shores
September 12	UAB

Report on STARS. No report was given.

INFORMATION ITEMS DISTRIBUTED

1. Letter and Resolution from Council of Presidents (copy attached).
2. General Studies Curriculum in Education (copy attached).
3. Letter of Concerns from Dr. Michael Neilson-UAB (copy attached).

The Committee reconvened with the Chairs of the discipline committees at 1:00 P.M.. The following discipline committee chairs were present:

Committee Chair	Discipline	Institution
Dr. Ali Yazdi	Physics, Physical Sci, Astronomy	JSCC
Dr. Bobby Roberson	Chemistry	Bevill
Dr. Larry Gerber	History	AU
Dr. David Laband	Economics	AU
Dr. Bruce Bizzoco	Anthropology, Socio, Human Geo.	Shelton
Dr. Rick Wilmarth	Psychology	Central AL
Dr. Ellen Gunter	Political Science	CVCC
Dr. Richard Boyd	Biological Science	AU
Dr. Victoria Revezzigno	Geology, Physical Geo, Earth Sci.	USA
Dr. Patricia McCullum	Area/Ethnic Studies	Lawson
Dr. Brian Martine	Philosophy & Religious Studies	UAH
Ms. Carol Davenport	Speech	JSCC
Dr. Jonathan Michaelson	Theater & Dance	UA
Dr. Richard Synder	Music & Music History	Enterprise
Dr. Steven Daniell (Rep.)	Foreign Language	AUM
Dr. Alan Belsches	Literature	TSU
Dr. Jim Raymond	Written Composition	UA
Dr. John Schnorrenberg	Art & Art History	UAB

Others present; Dr. Douglas Rigvey-UAB-Engineering; Herb Stappenbeck-GSCC- Literature; Ada Long-UAB; Jim Kinney-WCCD; Rosemary Johnson-WCCS; and Faye Earnest-Enterprise.

Dr. Morris welcomed everyone present. Morris referred committee chairs to the memorandum circulated to the Chief Academic Officers on February 28, 1997 which addressed concerns regarding the amount of detail required by the Invitation to Submit Courses for General Studies Designation. Morris reiterated that the intent of the AGSC is to require only the necessary information needed to determine if a course would meet the general studies designation. He stated that the AGSC expects the discipline committees to work directly with the institutions to rectify any problems that arise in submitting courses. Morris opened the floor for questions and concerns. The following concerns were raised by the discipline committees:

Music & Music History

Difference between a syllabus and a course outline. Institutions submitted what an instructor would pass out to his class. Discipline committee considered a syllabus that is on file with the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools. (Synder)

History

Extent of judgment of acceptability. Allowing core credit for a course which discipline committee was not approving for transfer credit. Committee's position was that we were dealing with courses that would be acceptable in terms of transferability, not that we were necessarily telling institutions that for their own native students they couldn't offer certain courses. Rejections were simply saying that we don't want this course to be acceptable for transfer credit. How is the AGSC defining the task of the discipline committee? (Gerber)

Morris: We had that on the agenda this morning but did not get to it.

Branch: You are correct in determining transferability. My understanding is that this is the route we want you to go.

AU proposed its History option in History of Technology & Civilization which will be allowed. The discipline committee looked at the syllabi for both the Human Odyssey program and Technology & Civilization. They looked like interesting courses. We have no problem if AU wants to offer those to their own students but they are not traditional (World History, Western Civ., or U.S. Surveys) under the guidelines the discipline committee set for transferability. The discipline committee did not feel it was appropriate to approve them. But we unanimously interpreted in terms of transferability not what AU could do for its own students. (Gerber)

Morris: Did your committee come to a consensus that you thought it should be transferable?

The committee was of the opinion that it should not be required as a mandatory acceptance on the part of the receiving institution to which an AU student might transfer. But that other institutions could accept it if they wanted to. (Gerber)

Philosophy & Religious Studies

How exactly is a native student going to be defined? (Martine)

Morrow: A native student is one who starts at an institution and graduates there. Any student who transfers is not a native student at the receiving institution.

What if a student transfers in with 9 hours? Would 2 hrs from another institution mean that that student is a transfer student? (Martine)

Morrow: You have to accept the hrs they bring with them and your institution requires the balance in that discipline.

Art & Art History

Disapproved several courses because they were not either 3 semester hours or 5 quarter hours. We understood that was the requirement if the course was to be transferrable. Were we right or wrong? (Schnorrenberg)

Morrow: The requirement is that the student must earn 3 semester or 5 quarter hrs in Fine Arts. We didn't say how those hrs are to be accumulated. They could be in three 1 hr courses.

Daron: Those courses were probably AU courses. We have got to move to semester system. We will have 3 semester hr courses in Art. We cannot move our 3 qrt hr courses in Fine Arts to 5 qrt hr courses between now and 2000. It cannot be done. If we must, we'll have to say, "Put us in jail." We cannot do it.

McGee: There was no intent to mandate 3 hrs.

The mandate was not clearly written. The directions we've gotten are vague. (Schnorrenberg)

Music & Music History

We thought that there was a 5 qrt hr mandate. We agreed that anything less than that would be a reduction in the instruction time and could not be in the best interest of students. (Synder)

Speech

We ran into the same thing. We decided to accept only 3 semester or 5 quarter hr classes because those that were teaching 3 qrt hr classes did not fulfill the criteria and the guidelines the committee set down. We felt it wasn't possible to cover that when they reduce the number of contact hrs. in the classroom. (Davenport)

Morrow: How many discipline committees are having trouble with the number of credit hrs. being submitted? (4 RAISED HANDS - Speech, Biological Science, Music, Art & Art History)

Physics

Our committee discovered that Physics sequences are not treated content wise the same way at different institutions. We were not sure whether to allow the transferability course by course or sequence by sequence. (Ali Yazdi)

Morris: Several disciplines approved it as a sequence. The AGSC feels that sequence would be the logical way.

Art & Art History

Problem with resources. We went by the first guidelines. We did not follow the second guideline. We rejected several things because of resources, such as number of slides, books, etc. (Earnest)

Morris: We never intended to hold schools to that type of scrutiny.

Political Science

State and Local Government was left on the Invitation to Submit Courses when it went out. Almost every institution sent in syllabi on State and Local Government, I did not send those submissions to the AGSC because I knew there was going to be a change but I never received the change from this Committee. (Gunter)

Osborne: That was a clerical error. Some other changes had to be made to Invitations but I think yours was sent out without the correction of removing state and local.

Morris: We'll get you a corrected copy.

Nash: I have it here. (She was given a corrected copy at the meeting)

There is continued confusion of what courses should be in general studies based on how broad, international, and holistic... there are some people on our committee who voted to reject a course if they thought it was too specific but others are arguing that it allows for international breadth. I'm not sure that the language really defines for us what needs to be there. (Gunter)

Osborne: Are the courses Comparative Government or International Relations? {Yes} One of the tasks the AGSC asked the discipline committee to perform is to make recommendations about courses sometimes offered at the 300 and 400 level and sometimes offered at the 100 and 200 level - where should they go in the system.

GUNTER: I never realized we were given that charge. We would appreciate your recommendations on this.

No signature of school authority. Leaving out information. Do we send back to them? We didn't want to fix it for them. Do we give them a set time to respond?

Morris: The only way we're going to be able to get this done is for the discipline committees to communicate directly with the institutions. We expect you to make those contacts and get the clarification needed. Yes give them a deadline.

Economics

Is it our responsibility to forward this Committee a revised syllabus from the school involved essentially with our recommendation at the time you accept the revised syllabus? (Laband)

Morris: Yes. We have two principles courses that are different from one another. The occasional school in Alabama has a one semester course that combines elements of both. Our committee drew up guidelines for the two stand alone courses rather than a merged course. We received several syllabi that have merged the courses. Do we have a continuing mandate that permits us at some point in the future to draw up guidelines for something like this merged course and make a recommendation to your committee?

Morrow: Yes.

Morris: We depend on you to do that kind of thing because you are the experts in the field.

Political Science

There is some confusion about whether we are approving courses or syllabi. Are we looking at courses or individual school syllabi? (Gunter)

Morrow: I think the syllabus was intended as a piece of evidence to help explain the nature of the course. Certainly we are not approving syllabi.

GUNTER: I'm still not sure if we have the authority to say that we don't think the course description is explicit enough. Therefore we're not going to approve it.

Morrow: But if you don't get enough information from the evidence presented to make your decision about the nature of that course, then you ought to send it back and ask for additional information.

Written Composition

Transfer of credit by examination. Will the committee come up with something or will discipline committees do it? Whatever you do please consult the discipline committee members. Consider as a policy of this Committee to make submission by research institutions have the latitude to develop those fundamental courses... (Raymond)

Morris: We have discussed both of those issues. Georgia continues to have a problem with the FT credit. Arkansas resolved it by simply saying check with the institution you're transferring to. Florida has resolved it by legislative act.

If it would help you for our committee to make a recommendation to you we can do that. Morrow: We would appreciate a recommendation from your committee. (Raymond)

Art & Art History

Guidelines exclude Art Studio courses. Is it appropriate for us to pursue this issue? Do we address ourselves to you? (Schnorrenberg)

Morris: Yes.

Schnorrenberg: We received Art Studio proposals in which we took no action. We are confused by the way the rules were written for which there seems to be no clear explanation. We have a draft proposal attached to our committee minutes.

McGee: Would you send that please, John?

Political Science

On Studio Art, are we supposed to go into those pre-professional courses any time soon? (Gunter) Am I lost?

Morris: We'll let you know.

Britt: Your recommendations are welcomed.

Psychology

General Psy and Human Growth Development. Will they be handled as a sequence? (Wilmarth)

McGee: Sequence

Theater & Dance

Are we to track down the syllabi from the institutions? I've only received 11 from 4 yr and only 1 from the 2 yr institutions. Are those coming? What's the process? (Michaelson)

BRIT: The 2 yr system will only submit one for the system. {Bert Slafter was asked to make sure he got the right submission}

Music & Music History

Will all statewide appreciation courses be 3 semester hr courses, or will there be some that are 2 hr or 1 hr.? (Synder)

MORRIS: I don't know I can only speak of 2 yr. It'll be 3 there.

SCHNORRENBURG: I think this is really a question for your Committee. Disciplinary committees should not be reaching different decisions. Your Committee needs to tackle this.

McGEE: I think this will all self correct once the word is out. We appreciate your comments. Please keep telling us your concerns.

OSBORNE: There is also a staff problem.

History

We decided not to try to outline courses in Area V for History majors for the first 2 yrs. We wanted to leave as much flexibility as possible. (Gerber)

MCGEE: The original intent there was not to limit things but to allow everything in that was lower division. There was never an intent to restrict that.

Philosophy & Religious Studies

We strongly recommend that Area V should be left open. Will we start receiving syllabi that will fall under that category? (Martine)

Larry Allen: No. Your groups may be asked to make recommendations about it, but I think for our purposes here you don't need to concern yourselves with Area V. Unless you feel there's something this Committee should know.

Osborne: If your discipline requires something outside Areas I-IV for students to move smoothly from one school to another after 2 yrs and continue in that major, please make a recommendation.

Is there a timetable to give you recommendations? (Martine)

Morris: There's really not a timetable at this point. We're going to schedule a meeting with the Arts & Sciences deans and then we'll have a better idea about the time frame.

Psychology

Several committee members would like to know what is the future of the discipline committees? (Wilmarth)

Morris: We anticipate that the first year of your work will be a monstrous task. After that, we anticipate your meeting once a year, keeping abreast of the changes, making recommendations to the AGSC on modifications of the course approval process or guidelines. You are the most important part of this process. The meeting that you will have once a year needs to be communicated statewide.

Speech

Concerns about transferability and catalogs coming out, the time constraints. What happens if they print information the old way, we reject it? (Davenport)

Morris: That's one of the reasons we're trying to hurry this process by September 98. Get approvals in as soon as you can. I think you print "subject to change" in the catalog anyway.

Dr. Morris told the discipline committee chairs that clarification will be sent to them on the concerns that had been raised. He also stated that the AGSC has a budget that would take care of expenses of committee members, excluding travel.

Dr. Morris informed committee chairs that he had course proposals with him that had been disapproved or had conditional approval. He asked that they check with him before they left to get those proposals and that they contact institutions directly to work out any problems with the course proposals. He also urged the committees to contact those institutions in which nothing has been submitted.

Dr. McGee urged the committees not to hesitate to contact the AGSC if there are ever any concerns.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P.M..

Joe Morris, Chair

Deborah Nettles, Recording Secretary