

STATE OF ALABAMA
Articulation and General Studies Committee
Alabama Center for Commerce Building Coast Room
Department of Postsecondary Education Montgomery, Alabama
October 9, 1997 10:00 a.m.

Minutes of Meeting

Committee members present:

Dr. Evelyn A. Ellis, Chair	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Joe Morris	Jefferson State Community College
Dr. Linda Glaze	Auburn University
Dr. James Yarbrough	University of Alabama
Dr. Charles Nash, Alternate	University of Alabama System
Dr. Roy Johnson, Vice Chair	Southern Union Community College
Dr. Rod Britt, Alternate	Southern Union Community College
Dr. Larry Allen	University of South Alabama
Dr. Don Hines	University of West Alabama
Dr. Linda M. Curry	Troy State University Montgomery
Dr. Alfred Smith	Alabama State University
Dr. Elizabeth C. French	Commission on Higher Education
Dr. James Kimbrough	STARS
Mr. Keith Sessions	STARS

Others present: Maryanne Ivey-UAB; Michael Neilson-UAB; Bert Slafter-ADPE; Suzanne McGill-USA; Ross Palmer-UA; Shannon Nichols-STARS; Joey Holley-STARS; and Jay Goldman-UAB.

CALL TO ORDER	Meeting was called to order by Dr. Roy Johnson, Vice Chair. Verification of quorum was made by voice roll call of members present. Curry moved for the adoption of the agenda. Yarbrough requested that one item be discussed under new business. Agenda was unanimously adopted.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Allen moved for the approval of the Minutes of the September 12, 1997. Britt seconded Minutes were approved as mailed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Establishment of New Course Directory

Dr. Bert Slafter reported to the Committee that the two-year system has convened over 200 discipline committees to develop a course directory designed to facilitate the system-wide conversion from a quarter system to a semester system. He stated that the course directory is scheduled for distribution in October 1997 and will be available on diskettes with alphabetical indices.

The four sections of the directory include:

Section I-AGSC	Articulation Transfer Disciplines
Section I-ACS	Academic Support Disciplines
Section II	Occupational/Technical Disciplines
Section III	Health-Related Professions Disciplines
Section IV	College Preparatory/Developmental Studies

Slafter stated that steering committees were chaired by Joe Morris (Transfer), Doug Patterson (Occupational/Technical), and Janice Ingle (Health-Related Professions).

Course Proposal Procedure

Sessions (STARS) reported to the Committee the proposed procedure for submitting courses for designation in the statewide general studies curriculum. A copy of the proposed Procedure is attached. Morris stated that a line for the course number should be added. Yarbrough stated that a time frame should be given to Discipline Committees for the entire process of submission. The Committee agreed that a cycle of 6 to 8 weeks should be targeted for submission, approval, and disapproval of course proposals. Nash stated that the word "brief" should be taken from the explanation line. After further discussion regarding the process of notification of these procedures, the Committee agreed that a course proposal manual developed by STARS would be sent to the Chief Academic Officers for their review and recommendations and then back to the AGSC for adoption.

Curry stated that a letter from the chair of the AGSC should be sent to the Chief Academic Officers supporting this Procedure after approval by the AGSC.

Chief Academic Officers Ad Hoc Committee

Ellis reported that she met with Dr. Sam McManus and Dr. Ed Roach of the Ad Hoc Committee. She stated that Dr. Roach will give a report of the AGSC's September meeting to the CAOs on October 14. The Ad Hoc Committee will be working with an Enhanced Discipline Committee. Roach will contact the current Discipline Committee chairs for a meeting with the Enhanced Discipline Committee to address Area V. Roach will report the outcome of the Enhanced Discipline Committee meeting at the November meeting of the AGSC.

Mathematics Discipline Committee

Ellis reported that she talked with Paul Allen regarding clarification of the Mathematics requirement. Allen requested that the AGSC officially accept or reject the recommendations for the definition of Finite Math, Calculus, Pre-Calculus as defined by the Mathematics Committee. Morris stated that he talked with Dr. Allen regarding the Mathematics requirements and provided him with a draft letter to circulate for clarification. (A copy of the draft letter is attached.) After some discussion, the AGSC agreed that Dr. Joe Morris will draft a letter of response to Dr. Paul Allen for the Chair's signature.

Definitions of Native and Transfer Students

Curry reported that the AGSC subcommittee (Parks, Britt, Nash, and Curry) met and developed definitions for native, transfer, and transient students (A copy of definitions is attached). After lengthy discussion, the AGSC made corrections to the definition of a native and transfer student (copy attached). Curry recommended that the definition for transient student and concurrent enrollment be tabled until the November 14 meeting of the AGSC.

Discipline Committee Duties, Responsibilities, and Rotations

Ellis stated that she talked with some of the chairs of the Discipline Committees. They are frustrated and confused regarding their role. Ellis recommended that the AGSC provide specific guidelines to the Discipline Committee Chairs. Morris agreed to work with Sessions to provide Chairs with the original guidelines given to them and provide other information which may clarify their role.

Nash stated that the CAOs' Enhanced Committee needs to be informed of the guidelines. Nash stated that the CAOs are operating based on the understanding that they will use the current Discipline Committees as Enhanced Committees to address Area V.

The AGSC members agreed that the Discipline Committees will review courses in Areas I through IV submitted to them. The CAOs are charged with the responsibility of recommending Area V courses using an Enhanced Committee. The CAOs' recommendations of courses in Area V will be referred to the AGSC for ratification.

STARS Report

Kimbrough stated that the STARS office is pleased to accept new responsibilities for handling course proposals. He stated that staff changes have been made to accommodate the additional responsibilities. Joey Holley will assume responsibility for the On-line Usage Report. Keith Sessions will assume more responsibility in working directly with the AGSC and the course database.

Holley presented the On-line Usage report (A copy is attached).

Other Issues

Yarbrough asked if certain courses could be specified within the 41 hours of the general studies at an institution. Committee members stated that yes an institution could specify as long as the same is required of the native students.

Yarbrough asked for an interpretation from the AGSC of the following phrase from the legislation, "... shall develop no later than September 1, 1998, a statewide freshman and sophomore level general studies curriculum to be taken at all colleges and universities." Yarbrough wanted to know if the Committee is interpreting September, 1998 as the date when the articulation agreement is to be in place or the date of implementation. Johnson stated that the Committee has been operating with the goal of implementation in September 1998. After discussion, Committee members were in agreement that the law could be interpreted as the articulation agreement being in place and operational in September 1999. Yarbrough stated that if the AGSC viewed the process as Areas I-V, September, 1999 could be interpreted as a final implementation date. Ellis recommended that the AGSC table discussion of this issue until the Chief Academic Officers have made their recommendations regarding Area V.

DECISION ITEMS

Articulation Committee Decision Items

Yarbrough stated that the AGSC should make institutions aware of official decisions of the Committee. The AGSC agreed that minutes of each meeting should be mailed to the Chief Academic Officers, Presidents of the two year institutions, and Presidents of the Faculty Senates.

Discipline Committee Recommendations

Sessions presented courses recommended for approval by the Foreign Language and Art & Art History Discipline Committees for approval (A copy is attached). The UAH Introduction to Women's Studies is listed but was approved at the last meeting of the AGSC as an Interdisciplinary course in Area II. Yarbrough moved for the approval of the Foreign Language and Art & Art History courses. Smith seconded. Committee unanimously approved.

Sessions stated that future course proposal forms will be stamped and dated "AGSC Approved". The approved course form will then be sent to the Chief Academic Officer of the institution submitting the course proposal.

Sessions will contact Discipline Committees to verify that all course proposals submitted to date have been acted on (Anthropology, Area Ethnic Studies, English Composition).

Interdisciplinary/Honors/Innovative Course Recommendations

Britt reported that Jefferson State Community College submitted eight courses for consideration. The IHIC rejected one course (Interdisciplinary Seminar) of the eight submitted. The seven courses approved are: 1) Classical Medieval Concepts of Man & the Universe-Area II; 2) Discovery Questions & Hypotheses with a lab-Area III; 3) Contemporary Problems in Science & Technology-Area II; 4) The Renaissance to the Romantic Rebellion Culture & Society-Area II; 5) Political & Intellectual Forces in the 20th Century- Area IV; 6) Creative Forces in the Modern World-Area II; and 7) Interdisciplinary Seminar Science & Human Values-Area II. Curry moved for the approval of the eight courses recommended by IHIC. Johnson seconded. Committee unanimously approved.

STARS Fund Request

Kimbrough requested by letter that AGSC approve the use of funds to purchase a fire safe to store valuable documents and underwrite postage costs (A copy is attached). Johnson moved that the AGSC approve the use of AGSC funds to purchase a fire safe and underwrite postage costs. Curry seconded. Committee unanimously approved.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

November 14, 1997	Department of Postsecondary Education
January 8, 1998	Department of Postsecondary Education

The Committee will not meet in December, 1997.

INFORMATION ITEMS DISTRIBUTED

1. Alabama AGSC Course Proposal Procedure (Sessions)
2. Clarification of Mathematics Requirement with letter to Paul Allen (Morris)
3. Draft Definition of Native; Transfer, Transient Student (Curry)
4. AGSC Course Database (Sessions)
5. On-line Usage Report (Holley)
6. Discipline Committee Recommendations (Sessions)
7. AGSC Fund Request (Ellis)
8. University System of Georgia 'tore Curriculum (Curry)
9. Correspondence received from ACHE (Ellis)
10. Pre-Professional General Studies Approval for Business, Nursing, and Engineering (Morris)
11. Articulation & General Studies Committee Updated Membership List (Nettles)

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Evelyn A. Ellis, Chair

Deborah Nettles, Recording Secretary