

STATE OF ALABAMA
Articulation and General Studies Committee
Department of Postsecondary Education
Alabama Center for Commerce Building
President's Conference Room
October 16, 1998
10:00 A.M.

Minutes of Meeting

Committee members present:

Dr. Roy Johnson, Chair	Southern Union Community College
Dr. James Yarbrough, Vice Chair	University of Alabama
Dr. Charles Nash, Alternate	University of Alabama
Dr. Alfred Smith, Alternate	Alabama State University
Dr. Rod Britt, Alternate	Southern Union Community College
Dr. William Walker	Auburn University
Dr. Linda Glaze, Alternate	Auburn University
Dr. Evelyn A. Ellis	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Barbara Jones, Alternate	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Susanne McGill, Alternate	University of South Alabama
Dr. Mike Malone, Alternate	Troy State University at Dothan
Dr. Joe Morris	Jefferson State Community College
Dr. Yvonne Kennedy	Bishop State Community College
Dr. Ed Roach, Alternate	University of West Alabama
Dr. Elizabeth C. French	Commission on Higher Education
Dr. James Kimbrough	STARS

Others present: Maryanne Ivey-UAB; Mike Neilson-UAB; Barbara Turner; and Bert Slafter-ADPE.

CALL TO ORDER	Meeting was called to order by Dr. Roy Johnson, Chair. Verification of quorum was made by voice roll call of members present. Johnson welcomed Dr. William Walker as a new member of the AGSC.
ADOPTION OF AGENDA	Smith moved for the adoption of the agenda. Morris seconded. AGSC unanimously adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Britt moved for the approval of the Minutes of September 17, 1998. Yarbrough seconded. Minutes were approved as mailed.
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DISCUSSION ITEMS

STARS Usage Report. Kimbrough distributed copies of the STARS Usage Report for August 15 through September 30, 1998. The report included the number of users accessing the STARS Home Page, New Transfer Assistance Pages On-line; and Usage Report by Major and by Institution. (Copy attached #3) Ellis requested that usage report information be provided for the four-year institutions.

Resolution of Area V Requirements. Yarbrough stated that the subcommittee has discussed this issue. He stated that specifying 100-200 level courses for every major does not allow students the flexibility in developing a series of courses for a pre-major or a series of courses that would be adjunct to their field of study. Yarbrough stated that students should have flexibility in 100-200 level courses to choose as they see fit relative to the major they are pursuing.

Roach referred the AGSC to the Area V Clarifying Statement approved by the Chief Academic Officers which was used as a guide in submitting templates for ratification. He stated that the minutes reflect that the AGSC decided to examine each template where controversy exists on a case by case basis. He stated that a rigid policy should not exist that does not allow for flexibility.

Johnson stated that the two-year representatives continue to contend that more than 6 hours can be specified without inhabiting student flexibility or their options.

Britt distributed a matrix chart developed from contracts used last year on the STARS system. The chart compared commonality in Foreign Language, Literature, Speech, and Computer Science. (Copy attached #2) Britt stated that most universities have no information on their web site that would assist a two-year advisor in Area V. He suggested that each university have a "hot button" that goes to Area V programs for each institution.

Ellis stated that the AGSC discussed adding the "hot button" after all templates were in.

Johnson suggested that the AGSC: 1) Identify 6 hours of a list of courses that students can choose from; and 2) Identify 12 hours that would transfer without the four-year institutions having to change their curriculum for their native students. He stated that this would give the students a choice but would restrict choices to the most commonly accepted courses.

Nash stated that the senior institutions thought common to mean everybody did it. He stated that the number of hours specified in Area V was targeted to the size of the program. For example, if the program had 120 hours, 6 hours would be defined in Area V. If the program had 128 hours, 9 hours would be defined in Area V. He stated that the question continues to come up of defining how many hours should be in Area V for a particular major. Nash suggested that if the programs are 128 hours or more, then the AGSC should indicate 23 hours in Area V. When changes are made, then the range of 19-23 should be indicated.

Yarbrough stated that the subcommittee will work on a list of courses that could be used by a given major that would be transferable without extending the students' overall program.

Johnson asked the subcommittee to report at the November meeting with a recommendation.

Course Sequence Definition. Neilson requested that the definition of sequence be clarified by the AGSC and that the definition be included in the Minutes. The following three hypothetical situations were presented for consideration (copy of email request to Johnson is attached #4):

1. Could a student take one world history and one US history course to count as a sequence?
2. Could a student take one world literature and one British literature to count as a sequence?
3. Could a student take an introduction to literature course followed by one course in a specific literature (i.e., British) and count as a sequence?

After discussion, the consensus of the committee was that the definition of sequence is to take courses from the same discipline. (Example: History: American History and a continuation of American History or World History and a continuation of World History)

Student Advising. Johnson stated that since contracts have been eliminated from STARS, there is no current reference to Area V on the web site. He stated that since contracts are no longer available, two-year counselors are having to look at individual college catalogs in order to advise students on what courses to take. Johnson asked if STARS should list all ratified programs on the web for advising purposes.

After some discussion, it was the consensus of the AGSC that 1) the two-year institutions begin to move as quickly as possible to the new general studies curriculum; and 2) that students should be handled on a case by case basis allowing as much flexibility as possible in line with the institution's current policy regarding transfer of hours.

Other issues discussed were:

1. Sending transcripts electronically, especially for students who follow the general studies curriculum perfectly (Malone);
2. Developing a Transfer Form that would be used by all institutions. The form would serve as a cover sheet for all transfer students and would include information such as general studies areas, courses taken in areas, etc. (Ellis);
3. Completing Common Course Directory for the two-year system; (Ivey-UAB); and
4. Completing a list of AGSC approved courses (Ellis).

DECISION ITEMS

Discipline Committee Course Recommendations. No course recommendations were presented for approval.

Discipline Committee Chair Elections. Kimbrough distributed an updated list of Discipline Committee Chairs elected to date (copy attached-#5). The list included the remaining committees who have not submitted nominations for 1998-99.

Morris moved for the approval of the Discipline Committee Chairs. Kennedy seconded. AGSC unanimously approved.

Area V Pre-Professional Courses. Roach gave a status report on Area V courses. He stated that some templates need to be reviewed by the Chief Academic Officers. Roach presented the template for Computer Science. (Copy attached #1) After discussion of revisions, Yarbrough moved for ratification of the Computer Science template. Britt seconded. AGSC unanimously approved.

Nash stated that on behalf of the AGSC appreciation is given to Dr. Ed Roach for his willingness to continue monitoring pending course templates.

Interdisciplinary/Honors /Innovative (IHI) Course Recommendations. Slafter stated that the University of Alabama submitted two courses to the IHI: Aerospace Science for Educators (Area III) and Artificial Intelligence Systems in Science. (Area III)

Kennedy moved for approval of the IHI courses submitted. Morris seconded. AGSC unanimously approved.

Fine Arts Programs. Yarbrough stated that he continues to receive questions regarding which courses fit into the general studies fine arts area.

After some discussion regarding which courses are designated as fine arts courses, the consensus of the AGSC was that if an institution has a course that is not a traditional fine arts course clearly defined as art, music, theatre or dance, the vehicle the AGSC has established for resolution is the Interdisciplinary Committee.

Johnson stated that if the program is an approved general studies curriculum course designated for Area II, the intent of the AGSC is that the program satisfies the fine arts department.

Morris stated that STARS can designate which courses are fine arts courses.

Morris moved that the AGSC consider those programs that satisfy the fine arts requirement and that the AGSC ratify programs already identified by the subcommittee from the Common Course Directory. Yarbrough seconded. AGSC unanimously approved.

Morris moved that the AGSC approve Humanities 130 (Mankind and History Art) and Interdisciplinary 110 (Renaissance to Romantic Rebellion: Culture & Society). Yarbrough seconded. AGSC unanimously approved.

There being no further discussion, Johnson asked the AGSC to consider addressing the following issues at the November meeting:

1. Ratification of pending templates
2. Identify Courses Approved & Ratified
3. Identify pending courses such as Athletic Training, etc.
4. STARS listing Area V programs for advising purposes on Internet
5. Arts & Sciences Programs (Yarbrough)
6. Approval of pending courses held by Discipline Committees
7. Student Dispute Resolution

8. Quality Assessment of Articulation
9. Evaluation of Articulation
10. Presentation to Legislature

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

November 19, 1998	Department of Postsecondary Education President's Conference Room - 2nd Floor
December 15, 1998	Department of Postsecondary Education President's Conference Room - 2nd Floor

INFORMATION ITEMS DISTRIBUTED

1. Chart Comparison of Majors in English (Britt)
2. Letter from Neilson w/attachment of Computer Science Template (Roach)
3. STARS Update & Usage Report (Kimbrough)
4. Email from Neilson re: Sequence (Johnson)
5. Discipline Committee Chair Elections for 1998-99

Morris moved for the adjournment of the meeting. Smith seconded. The October meeting of the AGSC was adjourned at 12:40 A.M.

Roy Johnson, Chair

Deborah Nettles, Recording Secretary