

**STATE OF ALABAMA**  
**Articulation and General Studies Committee**  
**Department of Postsecondary Education**  
**Alabama Center for Commerce Building**  
**President's Conference Room**  
**June 17, 1999**  
**10:00 A.M.**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

Committee members present:

Dr. Roy Johnson, Chair	Southern Union Community College
Dr. Rod Britt, Alternate	Southern Union Community College
Dr. Alfred Smith	Alabama State University
Dr. Evelyn Ellis	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Barbara Jones	Alternate Alabama A&M University
Dr. Linda Glaze, Alternate	Auburn University
Dr. Michael Neilson	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Dr. Suzanne McGill	University of South Alabama
Dr. Ed Roach	University of West Alabama
Dr. Mike Malone	Troy State University/Dothan
Dr. Joe Morris	Jefferson State Community College
Dr. Yvonne Kennedy	Bishop State Community College
Dr. Elizabeth C. French	Commission on Higher Education
Mr. Keith Sessions	STARS
Dr. James Kimbrough	STARS

Others present: Maryanne Ivey-UAB; Joey Holley-STARS; Mary Taylor-STARS; George Kozlowski-AU; Jack Rogers-AU; Michael Windham-USA; Susan Salatto-SUCC; and Bert Slafter-ADPE.

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	Meeting was called to order by Dr. Roy Johnson, Chair. Verification of quorum was made by voice roll call of members present.
<b>ADOPTION OF AGENDA</b>	The Appeals Process for Student Transfer was tabled until the July working meeting of the Committee. The agenda was unanimously adopted.
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>	Britt moved for the approval of the Minutes. Glaze seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

**STARS Update & Usage Report.** Holley distributed copies of the STARS Update and Usage Report (copy attached #5). The report included usage information by major. Sessions stated that all the Education templates and guides have been put on the web this month.

**Questions from STARS website.** Sessions presented the following questions to the AGSC for response:

**Question 1.** The University of Alabama Education Department has told our students that they will not accept the courses Physics 111 and 112 because they have never taught them. These courses are on the Transfer Guide that the University of Alabama has agreed to. Can you please follow up on the problem?

**Response:** *Students should take their guide to the Advisor. If necessary, guides can also be taken to the Dean or Academic Provost. These are valid guides and the University of Alabama should accept these courses. If there is no resolution, notify the AGSC.*

**Question 2.** Area V in Chemistry lists Physics and nothing else. It then gives vague directions to take courses from the AGSC section of the Common Course Directory. Does this mean that a chemistry major can only take one sequence in chemistry in the first two years of his/her education?

**Response:** *No. Please see Chemistry template.*

**Question 3.** Will any sophomore class in any science transfer?

**Response:** *On many of the guides and templates, there are approximately 9-12 semester hours in the sophomore year that are left up to the receiving institution to determine. In many cases, these courses will be acceptable to fulfill the requirements as outlined by the receiving institution.*

**Question 4.** When the university says, choose four hours from the Common Course Directory, AGSC section, does that include only "core" courses, or Articulation transfer discipline courses, or even academic support disciplines?

**Response:** *The Alabama College System has a list of approved courses on their website: <http://www.acs.cc.al.us>. Please refer to the approved course listing.*

**Question 5.** Which of these transfer to which university? Bio 202-202; Bio 220; Chm 221-222; Phy 215; Phs 111 & 112.

**Response:** *Courses that are not listed on the STARS Guides (approved AGSC courses) may still transfer. The courses that have been approved are broad in scope and provide a student with a broad view of the concepts in the various disciplines. Some of the courses you mention are viable courses. In many cases these courses will transfer to different universities or colleges. Many of these courses are listed as Area V requirements for certain majors and would certainly transfer in those cases.*

## DECISION ITEMS

**Ratification of Templates.** Neilson presented templates submitted by the Enhanced Discipline Committees (copy attached #1).

The following templates were ratified:

- Middle/High School: Chemistry
- Middle/High School: Biology
- Middle/High School: Physics

The following templates were ratified with the following amendments:

- Physics - (Clarification of Calculus I & II requirement)
- International Studies (UAB) - (Revised wording in Area V - "remaining hours are electives")

The following templates have not yet been ratified:

- Anthropology
- Communication Studies
- Music Education

Sessions stated that a Music Education template has not been created. After some discussion, the AGSC agreed that the Music Education template should be separate from the Music template already approved.

**Discipline Committee Course Approval Appeals.** Johnson stated that every institution has a right to appeal a decision of the Discipline Committee; however, the AGSC has tried to make sure that decisions have reflected a broad consensus of the Chief Academic Officers and the faculty who teach the courses. Johnson reminded four-year institution representatives that when appealing the decision of the Discipline Committee, they should have the support of the Chief Academic Officers. He stated that the AGSC has tried to stress to the degree granting institutions that they pay careful attention to courses placed into the general studies curriculum because these courses will be accepted as satisfying the degree requirements of that particular Area.

Ellis had questions regarding the procedure in appealing Discipline Committee recommendations. Sessions stated that the procedure has been that if the course is not approved, the Discipline Committee sends it back to the institution with an explanation of why it was not approved. Then, the institution has the option of resubmitting the proposal with modifications to the Discipline Committee. If there is some conflict that cannot be resolved, the AGSC will review the course proposal through appeal.

**Economics – Alabama A&M.** Sessions stated that Dr. Earl Shinn, Chair of the Economics Discipline Committee could not appear at the meeting and had communicated with him via email (copy attached #2). Jones stated that A&M is requesting that Basic Economics be approved as an option under Area IV (copy of syllabus attached #3). She stated that this course is not meant to be a substitute for Principles of Microeconomics or Principles of Macroeconomics. The course takes basic elements from

both microeconomics and macroeconomics to give an introduction to economics as a discipline for students who are not going to take the traditional series.

Sessions stated that Shinn interpreted the approval to mean that A&M's Basic Economics course would transfer and substitute for Principles of Microeconomics and macroeconomics. He stated that placing an asterisk by the course on the course listing with a note would help in advising students.

After further discussion, the AGSC decided that the course proposal for Basic Economics will go back to the Economics Discipline Committee with the understanding that it does not substitute for microeconomics or macroeconomics. A Spring 1999 syllabus will also be given to the Economics Discipline Committee.

Sessions will e-mail Shinn and let him know the decision of the AGSC.

**Mathematics - Auburn University.** Glaze distributed copies of three course proposals in mathematics that were disapproved by the Mathematics Discipline Committee. She stated that AU is requesting that students who transfer from AU to another institution will fulfill their core math requirement if they take these courses.

Glaze stated that the reason given for the disapproval in all three instances was not a question of whether the courses were accepted as a core or general studies course. The Discipline Committee response was that the course "does not transfer as an equivalent standard course." Glaze referred to a memo addressing issues and answers written to the Discipline Committees from Dr. Joe Morris (June 10, 1997). It states, "It is the intent of the AGSC to require only the information that is necessary to determine if a course would meet the general studies designation. The committees are asked to generally approve or disapprove a course without mandating specific details. A course should be within the general parameters that the committee has established while at the same time allowing as much autonomy and academic freedom as possible."

Windham, Chair of the Mathematics Discipline Committee, stated that the Discipline Committee decided to establish a core of mathematics courses that all institutions recognize since students take so many math courses. He stated that the Mathematics Discipline Committee has operated on the basis that if a course does not clearly fit within the course structure, then it is not recommended for approval. He stated that students transferring the first two years should be able to recognize calculus courses easily. The philosophy of the Committee is if a course looks like something it isn't, then it's better not to have it on the approved list that applies to the entire state. Windham stated that the Mathematics Discipline Committee is concerned that students will get these courses confused.

After further discussion, the AGSC agreed that since the Mathematics Discipline Committee does not have a problem with the content of the courses, but the transferability in the Schools of Business, the three course proposals will be sent to the Chief Academic Officers. The Chief Academic Officers will be requested to contact the Deans of the Schools of Business for their input.

Windham asked for clarification of the role of the Mathematics Discipline Committee. Johnson stated that the AGSC has relied on the Discipline Committees to recommend and approve courses for general studies that are equivalent and are transferable. Although every institution has the right to appeal Discipline Committee decisions, the AGSC has asked the Discipline Committees to define courses that are broad based enough to satisfy the degree requirements without question.

**AGSC Election of Chair and Vice-Chair.** Roach reported that the four-year nominating committee has nominated Dr. Ed Roach as Chair of the AGSC. Johnson reported that the two-year nominating committee has nominated Dr. Rod Britt as Vice-Chair of the AGSC.

Neilson moved to accept the nominations. McGill seconded. AGSC unanimously approved.

Roach requested that the AGSC meet on July 22 and 23 to address issues for the coming year. AGSC members unanimously agreed. The new meeting date will be posted on the web site: July 22, 1999 at 3:00 P.M. and July 23, 1999 at 9:00 A.M.

Comments from Dr. Roy Johnson: *I appreciate the Committee allowing me to serve as Chair of the AGSC. I thought that Area V would be the most difficult part. As Dr. Ellis finished the work on the first four areas last year, this Area has been very difficult. I think that is the single most important achievement that we've had this year and I think we've done it with compromise. We need to make sure that our presidents are fully tuned in.*

Ellis stated that the Committee is grateful for Johnson having served as Chair.

**OTHER ISSUES.** Ellis reminded the AGSC that the decision was made to present a STARS demonstration to ACHE. She stated that such a demonstration will help inform others of what the articulation process is.

Johnson stated that the AGSC funding was increased by \$100,000. He stated that this increase reaffirms the support of the legislation for the work of the AGSC.

## **SCHEDULE OF FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

July 22, 1999	Faulkner State Community College Gulf Shores Campus – Culinary Arts Center
July 23, 1999	Faulkner State Community College Gulf Shores Campus – Culinary Arts Center

## **INFORMATION ITEMS DISTRIBUTED**

1. Templates Recommended for Ratification (Neilson)
2. Email from Dr. Earl Shinn (Sessions)
3. Alabama A&M Basic Economics Course Proposal (Jones)
4. Auburn University Mathematics Course Proposals (Glaze)
5. STARS Update and Usage Report (Holley/Sessions)
6. Questions for the AGSC (Sessions)

The June meeting of the AGSC adjourned at 12:35 P.M.

Roy Johnson, Chair

Deborah Nettles, Recording Secretary