

STATE OF ALABAMA
Articulation and General Studies Committee
Auburn University at Montgomery
Library Tower
10th Floor
North Room
July 31, 2009

MINUTES OF MEETING

Planning Session

The July 31, 2009 Annual Review and Planning Session of the Articulation and General Studies Committee (AGSC) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Members present: Barbara Jones-A&M; Ed Roach-TU; Linda Glaze-AU; Dan Osborn-UAB; James Mitchell-WCCS; Kandis Steele-ADPE; Charles Nash-UAS; Yardley Bailey-UAS; Joe Morris-JSCC; Jeff Barksdale-AUM; Alfred Smith-ASU; Terry Roberson-UM; Keith Harrison-USA; Shannon Nichols-STARs; Keith Sessions-STARs; Anita Walker-STARs; Elizabeth C. French-ACHE; Pamela Arrington-ACHE; Subrena Simpkins-ACHE; and Diane Sherman-ACHE.

Dr. Barksdale welcomed everyone to the AUM campus.

Research and Assessment Annual Update. Sherman gave an overview of the results of the data collected for Stage I of the AGSC Research project (copy attached-#1). She stated that some institutions did not make the quarter to semester transition during the timeframe that the data was collected. She reminded AGSC members that Stage I was a project to examine two-year transfer and four-year native students. For this portion of the study, graduation rates for baccalaureate completions and time to degree were considered.

Sherman stated that before she commits to another annual cycle of the study, members of the AGSC should meet with Dr. Fitch regarding the goals of the project and the continuation of ACHE staff support.

After lengthy discussion, Committee members raised several issues regarding whether or not to continue with Stage II of the Research project:

1. What does the data mean with respect to national and/or regional reports/studies?
2. What are the implications of the findings and what are the future steps?
3. Is there a need for more longitudinal data?

Committee members decided to present the data results of Stage I to the two-year and four-year Chief Academic Officers for discussion to determine the usefulness of the data and determine the benefits of continuing with Stage II.

Glaze moved that the AGSC appoint a subcommittee (Roach- chair, Nash, Steele, and Morris, vice-chair) to review findings of Stage I of the AGSC Research Project and prepare recommendations for

future study and timeline for implementation. A meeting with Dr. Fitch was also recommended. Jones seconded. Motion passed.

AGSC/STARS Annual Report 2008-09. A copy of the Annual Report was distributed to Committee members via email (copy attached-#2). Sessions summarized the report which included a status report of the impact of proration on the budget and an online demonstration of the Area V page survey. It is anticipated that the surveys will ultimately be forwarded to the institutions.

There was discussion regarding STARS inability to travel to institutions for presentations and training due to budget constraints. AGSC members suggested that correspondence be sent to the Institutional Points of Contact alerting them of the travel constraints in addition to announcing that STARS staff is available to travel if expenses are covered.

Business Session

Committee Members Present:

Dr. Daniel Osborn, Vice-Chair	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Dr. Barbara Jones	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Alfred Smith	Alabama State University
Dr. Linda Glaze	Auburn University
Dr. Jeff Barksdale, Alternate	Auburn University at Montgomery
Dr. Keith Harrison	University of South Alabama
Dr. Ed Roach	Troy University
Dr. Joe Morris, Alternate	Jefferson State Community College
Dr. James Mitchell	Wallace State Community College-Selma
Dr. Kandis Steele, Alternate	Department of Postsecondary Education

Ex-Officio Members:

Dr. Elizabeth C. French, Alternate	Commission on Higher Education
Mr. Keith Sessions, Executive Director	AGSC/STARS
Mr. Shannon Nichols	AGSC/STARS

Others Present: Yardley Bailey-UAS; Diane Sherman-ACHE; Subrena Simpkins-ACHE; Pamela Arrington-ACHE; and Anita Walker-STARS

Committee Members Absent:

Dr. Lloyd Walker, Alternate	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Karyn S. Gunn	Alabama State University
Dr. Victoria Rivizzigno, Alternate	University of South Alabama

Dr. William Meehan	Jacksonville State University
Dr. Richard Holland, Alternate	University of West Alabama
Dr. Susan Price	Department of Postsecondary Education
Dr. Nancy Chandler, Alternate	Enterprise-Ozark Community College
Dr. Vicki Hawsey	Wallace Community College-Hanceville

CALL TO ORDER	The regular meeting of the Articulation and General Studies Committee was called to order at 12:45 p.m. A quorum was determined by voice roll call of members present.
ADOPTION OF AGENDA	Glaze moved for the adoption of the agenda as distributed. Roach seconded. The agenda was adopted.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Glaze moved for the approval of the May 22, 2009 Minutes with corrections. Jones seconded. Minutes were approved with corrections.
RECOGNITIONS	Sessions announced the newest members of the AGSC: Dr. Terry Roberson, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, University of Montevallo and Dr. Kandis Steele, Director of Academic Programs, Alabama College System.
SPECIAL RECOGNITION	Dr. Susan Price was presented with an award for her service as Chair of the AGSC.
AGSC VICE-CHAIR	Morris nominated Dr. James Mitchell-WCCS. No other nominations were presented. The AGSC unanimously voted Dr. Mitchell as vice-chair. DECISION ITEMS

Executive Director's Report

2009-2010 AGSC Priorities. There was discussion regarding accomplishments of last year's priorities. The following are the 2009-2010 AGSC Priorities:

1. Maintain the integrity of the AGSC/STARS Program.
2. Review findings of Stage I of the AGSC Research Project and prepare recommendations for future study and timeline for implementation.
3. Develop and implement a cost-effective plan to strengthen communication about the STARS Program with the various publics.
4. Initiate a new three-year cycle of review of AGSC Approved Courses and Ratified Templates for program offerings.

Smith moved for approval of the 2009-2010 Priorities. Jones seconded. Motion passed.

STARS Usage Reports. Sessions reported that the monthly usage reports are published on the STARS website as usual (copy attached-#3). Any specific requests may be directed to the STARS office.

ACADEMIC COMMITTEES

Academic Committee Course Recommendations. Sessions presented four course approvals recommended for approval by the English & Literature Academic Committee for UNA (copies attached #4):

- UNA - EN 211 - Survey of English Literature I
- UNA - EN 212 - Survey of English Literature II
- UNA - EN 221 - American Literature through Whitman
- UNA - EN 222 - American Literature from Whitman to Present

After discussion regarding pre-requisites, the AGSC decided to table course approval until prerequisites have been clarified.

Ratification of Templates. Sessions presented the following institutional specific template for ratification (copy attached - #5):

- International Studies (UA, AUM, USA, UAB)

After discussion regarding whether or not specific courses should be listed in Area IV, Roach moved that the template be sent back to the International Studies Ad Hoc Committee for clarification. Jones seconded. Motion passed.

OTHER ISSUES:

House Bill 485 (Electronic transcript and Common application)¹. Osborn provided an overview of the electronic transcript initiative, a mechanism for high school students to have the ability to transfer their transcript to a two or four-year college with no problems.

After lengthy discussion as to whether electronic transcripts and common college applications are an AGSC issue, the Committee decided that the members of the AGSC who are on the subcommittees of these groups keep the AGSC informed of the progress.

Sherman will provide AGSC members with a two-page executive summary which explains the e-transcript and common application (documents attached).

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE AGSC MEETINGS

October 23, 2009	10:00 a.m.	TUM
January 22, 2010	10:00 a.m.	UAB
April 16, 2010	10:00 a.m.	TBA

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. AGSC Research Project Overview (Sherman/Sessions)
2. AGSC/STARS Annual Report/Area V Page Online Survey (Sessions)
3. AGSC/STARS Usage Reports (Sessions)

4. AGSC/STARS Course Recommendations (Sessions)

5. Ratification of Templates (Sessions)

The July 31, 2009 meeting of the AGSC adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Dan Osborn, Chair

Deborah Nettles, Recording Secretary

¹ Sponsor Rep. Hilliard (Birmingham) and co-sponsor Rep. England (Tuscaloosa) introduced House bill 485 to establish an undergraduate common admission application. House bill 485 proposed that the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) establish an undergraduate common admission application to be established for freshmen and transfer undergraduate students making admission applications to any public two-year and four-year institutions of higher education. The bill was passed out of Committee (March 2009) but put to vote in the last legislative session; however, Rep. Hilliard plans to pre-file the bill for the upcoming January session. Subsequent to the introduction of the legislation, a tiered committee was established to identify and address the needs of all stakeholders in the design, development, and implementation of both the common application and electronic transcript initiatives. The tiered structure includes an institutional forum committee, a steering committee and an executive committee.