

STATE OF ALABAMA
Articulation and General Studies Committee
Alabama State University
ASU Dunn-Oliver Acadome Boardroom
October 6, 2011

MINUTES OF MEETING

Committee Members Present:

Dr. Barbara Jones (conference)	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Sharron Williams	Alabama State University
Dr. Constance Relihan	Auburn University
Dr. Beth Bennett	University of Alabama
Dr. Charles Nash, Alternate	University of Alabama System
Dr. Keith Harrison, Chair	University of South Alabama
Dr. Victoria Rivizzigno, Alternate	University of South Alabama
Dr. William Meehan	Jacksonville State University
Dr. Susan Price	Department of Postsecondary Education
Dr. Mark Heinrich	Shelton State Community College
Dr. Amelia Pearson, Alternate	Southern Union Community College
Dr. Kandis Steele, Alternate	Department of Postsecondary Education

Ex-Officio Members:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Dr. Lloyd Walker, Alternate	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Alfred Smith	Alabama State University
Dr. Jeff Barksdale, Alternate	Auburn University Montgomery
Dr. Richard Holland, Alternate	University of West Alabama
Dr. James Mitchell, Alternate	Wallace State Community College-Selma
Dr. John Schmidt	Troy University
Dr. Terry Roberson, Alternate	University of Montevallo
Dr. Joe Morris	Jefferson State Community College

WELCOME	Dr. William Harris, President, Alabama State University, welcomed the Committee to the campus. He expressed appreciation to the AGSC for making it possible for students to get an education in Alabama in a system that is as seamless as possible.
CALL TO ORDER	The regular meeting of the Articulation and General Studies Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was determined by voice roll call of members present.
ADOPTION OF AGENDA	Rivizzigno moved for adoption of the agenda with additions. Price seconded. The agenda was adopted as amended.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Bennett moved for the approval of the August 11, 2011 Minutes. Rivizzigno seconded. Minutes were approved.

DECISION ITEMS

Executive Director's Report

STARS Usage Reports. Nichols reported that the latest usage reports can be found on the STARS website (copies of July and August, 2011 are attached-#1). There are two years of reports currently available on the website. Contact Shannon Nichols for requests of specific reports or new reports.

Jones stated that there is concern at Alabama A&M University regarding the number of students who are actually coming to the institution with signed guides. She suggested that the AGSC consider some ways to help students at the two-year institutions better understand the value of this service.

Sessions' response was that most institutions have their degree audit system set up to include courses that appear on the guides and/or automatically equate to a course at the institution. The system is picking up these credits and students are not experiencing a problem with transfer. Based on the number of new fall enrollments, Sessions and Moseley will be visiting institutions across the state in early 2012 to promote the use of STARS guides.

Sessions reminded the Committee of the importance of an institution keeping Area V web pages accurate and up-to-date.

ACADEMIC COMMITTEES

Academic Committee Course Recommendations. Sessions presented the following course proposals recommended for approval by Academic Committees (copy attached-#2):

JSU - CY 115 Concepts of General Chemistry

The Chemistry Academic Committee recommended approval for Area III. Bennett moved to accept. Relihan seconded. Meehan abstained. Motion passed.

JSU - CY 116 Concepts of General Chemistry II

The Chemistry Academic Committee recommended approval for Area III. Rivizzigno moved to accept. Bennett seconded. Meehan abstained. Motion passed.

UNA - COM 133 Cinema Appreciation

The IHI Academic Committee recommended approval for Area II. There was discussion regarding the technical nature of the course topics. Meehan moved to table the request for approval pending clarification of the nature of the course topics. Relihan seconded. Motion passed.

AAMU - MTH 115 Precalculus Algebra and Trigonometry

The Mathematics Academic Committee recommended approval for Area III. Rivizzigno moved to accept. Steele seconded. Motion passed.

Report from Course Review Sub-committee. Jones reported that after discussion of Sessions' proposal to "eliminate the approved course listings for the four- year institutions," the sub-committee makes the following recommendations to the AGSC (copy attached-#3):

1. Continue current review/approval of new courses (those not previously approved by the AGSC) for the public two-year and four-year institutions in Alabama for inclusion in their respective general studies programs;
2. Continue to maintain the approved course listings on the AGSC/STARS website;
3. Discontinue tri-annual review of previously approved courses;
4. General Studies Academic Committees (GSACs) conduct a bi-annual review of templates from their areas as initiated by the STARS office;
5. Pre-professional Academic Committees (PACs) conduct an annual review of templates from their areas as initiated by the STARS office;
6. General Studies Academic Committees (GSACs) and AGSC will review previously approved courses under the following conditions:
 - a. when there is a significant change in the content of a course;
 - b. when the institution wishes a course to be considered for approval for a different area; and
 - c. (or) when AGSC deems it appropriate to review a course;
7. Maintain current membership structure of GSACs and the PACs with the understanding that both two-year and four-year institution membership will be reviewed by the appropriate parties to ensure that members have credentials to serve and also have an interest in serving;
8. STARS office consider new procedures for maintaining a more precise record of votes by GSAC committee members; and
9. Two-year and four-year institutions will continue to submit updated syllabi for approved general studies courses every two years

In an effort to increase discipline committee participation, Rivizzigno suggested that AGSC members be copied/notified when the STARS office sends any information to discipline committees for review. Discussion continued regarding how the AGSC will monitor the level of participation from the academic committees. Sessions stated that in the future, each time a new course is being reviewed, STARS will send notification to AGSC members with a list of academic committee members and how they voted. He plans to send this information electronically.

After discussion regarding the discipline committee member selection process, Sessions stated that the selection process is already included in the role and responsibilities of academic committees. The role and responsibilities of academic committees will be updated with the sub-committee recommendations and posted on the STARS website.

Meehan moved to adopt the sub-committee report. Bennett seconded. Motion passed. Jones thanked the sub-committee (Steele, Morris, Bennett, Sessions, Rivizzigno) for their participation.

Ratification of Templates

Engineering. Nash reported that there are four courses offered by the two-year institutions that are under consideration to include on the civil engineering template: Engineering Foundations, Computer Graphics for Engineers, Computer Methods for Engineers using Math Lab and Engineering Mechanics Statics. He stated that all four courses may or may not be accepted in the engineering curricula by the four-year institutions. Sessions stated that if the academic committee agrees to accept these courses, they will appear in Area V not in Areas I through IV. After academic committee review, a recommendation will be given to the AGSC.

Sessions and Nash will continue to work with the Engineering committee and assured that all future discussions regarding AGSC courses will include the two-year representatives.

Template Review Schedule. Based on the recommendations of the course review sub-committee, Sessions distributed a revised template review schedule (copy attached-#4) that will be implemented by July, 2012.

There was discussion regarding the number of institutions that have institution specific templates and accessing the different CIP codes listed in the ACHE program inventory for the same program. Sessions will make a request to ACHE to add a CIP code column to the search page of the academic program inventory on the ACHE website.

OTHER

SACS Representative. At the August 11, 2011 meeting, Committee members discussed the possibility of a SACS representative coming to speak to the AGSC. Sessions requested that members provide him with suggestions on who to invite. Nash suggested a point of contact: Dr. Belle Wheelen, President, Commission on Colleges.

There was further discussion regarding what to expect from a SACS presentation. It was agreed that the AGSC is interested in current perspectives on curricula of a general studies program, learning outcomes, and SACS requirements under Standard 3. Sessions will poll the AGSC members for a specific topic for the SACS representative to present.

Update on AGSC Membership. Dr. Terry Roberson-UM is no longer a regional representative on the AGSC. Sessions requested that since Roberson is a regional representative, the Council of Presidents needs to make a new appointment. Meehan will make sure the appointment is put on the next Council of Presidents agenda.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE AGSC MEETINGS

January, 2012	TBA	Jacksonville State University
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INFORMATION ITEMS

1. STARS Usage Reports (Nichols)
2. AGSC/STARS Course Recommendations (Sessions)
3. AGSC Sub-committee Report on Course Review (Jones)
4. Revised Template Review Schedule (Sessions)

The October 6, 2011 meeting of the AGSC adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Keith Harrison, Chair

Deborah Nettles, Recording Secretary