

STATE OF ALABAMA
Articulation and General Studies Committee
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Hill University Center
Birmingham, Alabama
September 12, 1997

Minutes of Meeting

Committee members present:

Dr. Evelyn Ellis, Chair	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Joe Morris	Jefferson State Community College
Dr. Paul Parks	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. Elizabeth C. French	Commission on Higher Education
Dr. James Kimbrough	STARS
Mr. Keith Sessions	STARS

Others present: Michael Neilson-UAB; Bert Slafter-ADPE; Suzanne McGill-USA; Gary Swanson-AU; Margaret Garner-UA; Amy Ward-UA; Charolette Borst-UAB; Ada Long-UAB; Cynthia Terry-UAB; Jan Hitchcock-UAB; Pamela Williams-UAB; Douglas Rigney-UAB; Rose Scupa-UAB; Doug Patterson-TSU; Ross Palmer-UA; Cynthia Lybrand-UAB; Foster Walker-UAB Walker; Ed Roach-UWA; Dr. Sam McManus-UAH; and Jennifer Jones-UAB.

CALL TO ORDER	Meeting was called to order by Evelyn Ellis, Chair. Verification of quorum was made by voice roll call of members present. Verification of recent member appointments was made.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	The Minutes of the July 11th meeting were approved with corrections.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Faculty Senate Resolution

Dr. Charolette Borst, University of Alabama at Birmingham presented to the AGSC the Joint Resolution of the Faculty Senates of the University of Alabama, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Auburn University (copy attached). Borst explained the rationale for the joint resolution and strongly appealed to the AGSC to recognize and respect the unique attributes, resources, and autonomy of each institution. A copy of Borst's presentation is attached.

Johnson stated that the AGSC has adopted the Georgia model which the Committee feels accurately reflects the intent of the legislation which guarantees a 96 hour transfer package. The AGSC expanded this model into five areas instead of four to give more flexibility in the Pre-Professional areas (Area V). The AGSC has adopted the first 41 hours and is now in the process of considering the balance of 23 hours.

Dr. Gary Swanson, Auburn University stated that the Faculty Senate is concerned that if the Committee specifies courses beyond the 41 hours, this process will prohibit institutions from establishing their own curriculum particularly for unique programs. Ellis stated that the AGSC has established an Interdisciplinary Committee chaired by Rod Britt-SUCC which reviews unique programs. Britt stated that the Interdisciplinary Committee of AGSC was designed to assist in allowing the autonomy of each institution to exist.

Curry stated that a consultant should be invited to answer questions which are beginning to arise involving this process. Nash stated that the AGSC must acknowledge that there are differences between Alabama and Georgia. He stated that Foster Walker-UAB Walker, who has been a president in the Georgia system may be able to address some of the questions arising. Morris stated that Georgia has revised their curriculum. Morris stated that because of the willingness of the institutions to accept the others' flexibility, the Georgia model works well.

Foster Walker-UAB Walker stated that every institution in Georgia, including the flagship institutions, had to decide how they wanted to handle interdisciplinary courses. The process was shared with the Chief Academic Officers who served as a committee that approved the courses. In Georgia, the primary responsibility for defining courses in Area V is the responsibility of the senior colleges and universities in coordination with discussions with the Chief Academic Officers and the two year schools. There is no expectation that every two year school will be able to prepare students in all fields. Area V is a significant responsibility of the senior colleges.

Johnson stated that the intent of the legislation was to solve transferability in the state. In 1994, the universities represented to the AGSC that STARS was the answer. No contracts have been issued to date that guarantee transferability at a two or four year institution. STARS is an information system and does not solve the transferability issue. Parks stated that the Chief Academic Officers have made a commitment to work with the STARS program in providing the technical support it needs to make it operational.

DECISION ITEMS

Report from the Chief Academic Officers Ad Hoc Committee

Dr. Ed Roach, University of West Alabama gave a presentation on behalf of the Council of Chief Academic Officers (CCAOs) on Achieving Consensus on the Make-up of Area V (copy of presentation attached). After some discussion, Johnson moved that the AGSC suspend the rule that items proposed for voting are delayed for one meeting. Parks seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Committee. Johnson moved that the Articulation and General Studies Committee (AGSC) approve the process presented by the CCAOs for Achieving Consensus on the Make-up of Area V with three recommendations: 1) Areas I-IV as adopted by the AGSC on December 6, 1995 are established; 2) work of CCAOs will be confined to Area V as defined by the AGSC with the understanding that there will be exceptions in some areas; and 3) the CCAOs recommendations will be submitted to AGSC for ratification. If the recommendations of the CCAOs are not ratified, AGSC will return the recommendations to the CCAOs for reconsideration with proposed changes. Parks seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Committee.

Dr. James Kimbrough-STARS agreed to be on the Task Force of Chief Academic Officers. Shannon Nichols-STARS will work with the Technology Committee of the Task Force of Chief Academic Officers.

Nash asked members present from the Faculty Senate if the approval of the CCAOs procedure for Achieving Consensus on the Make-up of Area V addressed their concerns. Borst stated that, "the AGSC has addressed some of their concerns about flexibility and preserving institutional autonomy. If this remains with the CCAOs it remains also with the faculty as well. It does give us some hope that indeed some of our concerns have been met."

STARS Report Sessions gave an updated Usage and On-line Report (copies attached). Sessions stated that due to late submissions or no submissions at all, there is a delay during the summer in preparing contracts. The intent of STARS is to give each institution adequate time to get information to STARS, input information into the system, and have information available in a timely manner. This doesn't always happen. Curry moved that a deadline of July 1 be set by STARS for institutions to submit curriculum material. Institutions not in compliance are bound by last year's catalog requirements. Johnson seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Committee.

Interdisciplinary/Honors Course Recommendations Britt requested that the title of the Interdisciplinary/Honors Committee be changed due to the kinds of courses that are being received for approval. Curry moved that the title of the Interdisciplinary/Honors Committee be changed to Interdisciplinary/Honors/Innovative Courses Committee. Johnson seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Committee.

Britt reported that the following courses have been submitted to the Committee for approval:

UAB: AST 105, Astronomy 105, and Extraterrestrial Life. The Committee recommends the Extraterrestrial Life course be included in Area III as a science course.

TSUD: CLA 260 Classical Mythology, CLA 290 Classical Literature. The Committee recommends that both courses be included in Area II.

TSU: CLA 260 Classical Mythology. The Committee recommends the course be included in Area 11.

Johnson moved that the courses submitted to the Interdisciplinary/Honors/ Innovative Courses Committee be approved. Curry seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Committee.

Discipline Committee Recommendations

Ellis stated that she has received recommendations from the Foreign Language Discipline Committee for approval of the following syllabi from UWA, USA, and UAB: UWA-Intermediate French II, Intermediate 202 & 201, French 1 01 & 102, Spanish 201 & 202, Spanish 101, 102. USA-Introductory Spanish LG 131, Spanish I, LG 132, Introduction to Spanish II. UAB-Introduction to Spanish 101, Introduction to Spanish 102, Introduction to Spanish 103, Introduction to Spanish 104. Johnson moved that the courses submitted for approval by the Foreign Language Discipline Committee be approved. Yarbrough seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Committee.

Morris distributed copies of 1) approved general studies curriculum; 2) nine Pre-Professional programs approved May 27, 1997; and 3) list of approved courses by institution. Morris stated that this was the most current information on courses approved. He stated that he has had difficulty getting in touch with Discipline Committee chairpersons. Morris stated that the AGSC needs to 1) send each Discipline Committee chairperson a list of courses that have been approved; 2) find out what courses are still pending; 3) encourage Discipline Committees to meet to select new chairpersons.

After lengthy discussion regarding STARS being responsible for the oversight of the administrative process for course proposals, the AGSC decided on the following process. STARS will prepare and present a proposed time line for this process at the October meeting:

- Initial submissions or resubmissions of course proposals will be submitted to STARS;
- STARS will submit proposals to Discipline Committee Chairs for review;
- Discipline Committee Chairs will submit their recommendations to STARS;
- STARS will submit Discipline Committee recommendations to the AGSC for action;
- AGSC will act on recommendations and submit back to STARS for archiving; and
- STARS will notify Discipline Committee Chairs and institutions of the action of the AGSC.

Britt moved that the Committee adopt this process. Curry seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Committee.

Dr. Ellis will contact Discipline Committee Chairs to find out if there are some course proposals still under review.

Native Students: Ellis stated that she has reviewed several catalogs and found that they were all different on this issue. In some cases, if the student is eligible to return to the school from which he/she is leaving, then that student is not considered a transfer student. The student is a permanent student. The institution specifies how many hours (30 hours) a student can take at the new institution before they can be considered a permanent student.

In other cases, institutions use grades. Students can transfer in courses with less than a D, but they cannot get credit toward the major. They can get credit for fulfilling a course requirement, but not get credit towards the major.

Nash stated that House Bill 505 states that, "Under this articulation agreement all applicable credits transferred from a two year institution to a four year institution shall fulfill degree requirements at the four year institution as if they were earned at the four year institution." Nash questioned whether it matters if a student is native or transfer. Ellis stated that the transfer from four year to four year is still in question.

Curry agreed to chair a subcommittee to work on the native students and transfer issues. Subcommittee members will be Rod Britt, Charles Nash, Roosevelt Steptoe, and Paul Parks. The subcommittee will report back to the AGSC.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

October 9	Department of Postsecondary Education
November 14	Department of Postsecondary Education

The Committee will not meet in December, 1997.

INFORMATION ITEMS DISTRIBUTED

1. Approved General Studies Curriculum (copy attached)
2. Nine Pre-Professional programs approved May 27, 1997 (copy attached)
3. List of approved courses by institution (copy attached)
4. Presentation: Achieving Consensus on the Make-up of Area V (copy attached)
5. Comments from Faculty Senate (UA/UAB/AU) (copy attached)
6. STARS Usage and On-line report (copy attached)

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Evelyn A. Ellis, Chair

Deborah Nettles, Recording Secretary