

STATE OF ALABAMA

Articulation and General Studies Committee

Virtual Zoom Meeting

March 23, 2023

1:00 PM

MINUTES OF MEETING

Committee Members Present:

Dr. Wubishet Tadesse, Alternate	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Kathleen Amende, Alternate	Alabama State University
Dr. Norman Godwin	Auburn University
Dr. Charles Israel, Alternate	Auburn University
Dr. Eva Lewis, Vice Chair	University of Alabama
Dr. Tonjanita Johnson, Alternate	University of Alabama System
Dr. Philip Way	Athens State University*
*Represented by Dr. Wehlburg	
Dr. Hal Fulmer	Troy University
Dr. Tim Edwards, Alternate	University of West Alabama
Ms. Mary-Beth Lancaster	Coastal Alabama Community College
Mrs. Jackie Screws	Chattahoochee Valley Community College
Dr. Bruce Crawford, Chair	Lawson State Community College
Ms. Leslie Reeder, Alternate	Wallace Community College -Dothan
Dr. David Campbell	Northeast Alabama Community College
Dr. Chantae Calhoun	Alabama Community College System

Ex-Officio Members:

Dr. Keith Sessions, Executive Director	AGSC/STARS
Mr. Shannon Nichols	AGSC/STARS
Dr. Robin McGill	ACHE

Committee Members Absent:

Dr. Pamela Arrington	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Tanjula Petty	Alabama State University
Dr. Mary Coleman	University of South Alabama
Dr. Eric Loomis, Alternate	University of South Alabama
Dr. Lisa Williams, Alternate	Jacksonville State University

Others Present: Jacinta Whitehurst - ACHE, and Brandi Stacey - UA.

Call to Order:

The meeting of the Articulation and General Studies Committee was called to order by Dr. Bruce Crawford at 1:01 p.m. A quorum was determined by roll call of members present.

Adoption of Agenda:

Dr. Calhoun moved for the adoption of the agenda. Dr. Lewis seconded. The agenda was adopted.

Approval of Minutes: Dr. Fulmer moved for the approval of the November 16, 2022 minutes. Dr. Campbell seconded. Minutes were approved.

Introductions of New Members and Guests: There were no new members or guests present at the meeting.

Course Approvals. Dr. Sessions presented the following course proposals recommended for approval:

Jacksonville State University

AN 225 – Introduction to Archaeology (3 SH)-Area IV

Dr. Lewis moved to accept the new course submitted by Jacksonville State University. Dr. Tadesse seconded. Motion passed.

University of South Alabama

ST-210- Statistical Reasoning & Application (3 SH)- Area III

Dr. Godwin moved to accept the new course submitted by the University of South Alabama. Dr. Calhoun seconded. Motion passed.

Alabama Community College System

MTH-265- Elementary Statistics (3 SH)- Area III

Dr. Campbell moved to accept the new course submitted by the Alabama Community College System. Dr. Lewis seconded. Motion passed.

Dr. Calhoun mentioned there is a non-stem pathway committee working on a new math course that will be presented to the AGSC for approval in the near future.

Templates for ratification. Dr. Sessions presented the following institution specific template for ratification (copies are available upon request):

Interior Architecture & Design (CIP 04.0501) - UNA Only

Dr. Godwin moved for approval of the ratification of the template. Dr. Lewis seconded. Motion passed.

UPDATE – 2023 ACHIEVE Conference Sub-Committee.

Ms. Brandi Stacey presented a recap of the ACHIEVE Conference, which was held in-person on March 1-2, 2023. She stated there were 241 registered guests, and although the survey response was low, the feedback was positive. She thanked the subcommittee and the host institutions for a successful conference.

- Working on a host location for the 2024 conference. So far, Troy University and University of South Alabama have expressed an interest in hosting the conference in 2024. July 1st deadline was set for host locations.
- Dr. Sessions mentioned the Whova app was a success, and it was purchased again for next year.

- Mrs. Stacey mentioned more detailed information on the financial reports from the conference will be shared by the start of summer.

Dr. Crawford thanked Ms. Stacey for leading the committee and handling the conference work to make it a success.

Update -Gen Ed/Curriculum Core Sub-Committee

Dr. Lewis updated the committee on the past sub-committee meeting, in which they discussed the following:

- reviewed other core curriculum models,
- smaller core curriculum with less hours and expanding Area V courses by meta majors,
- add/organize student learning outcomes,
- block transfer framework, and
- Gen Ed Curriculum remaining the same.

Dr. Lewis reviewed the survey questions, which were mailed to Provosts in Fall 2022. There were 18 responses to the survey.

Dr. Lewis's summary of the current situation was as follows:

- most institutions have or plan to redesign their core curriculum,
- some might not align with the current AGSC General Studies core,
- sequence requirement is challenging, and
- faculty do own institutional curriculum but students best interest needs to be considered across the board for transfer students.

The following are Dr. Lewis's options:

- Option 1 is to write a rationale of General Studies and Areas I-V, rationale for sequence or leave Areas I-V and credit hours intact.
- Option 2 is to clear rationale for Areas plus student learning outcomes for a revised statewide core, address total number and area credit hours required, align Area V with meta-major concept and Community College curriculum, and consider expert panels at institutions-task forces and requirement of revision of guides.
- Option 3 is to create statewide transfer pathways for degree majors or meta majors' areas, include student learning outcomes, and require work by faculty committees across the state to come to agreement.

Goal: Full articulation of AS/AA degrees to AL universities, transfer at junior level with completed associate degree, in same major.

Dr. Lewis requested a review of the sub-committee and its declining participation. Dr. Crawford stated that after the options are reviewed by the committee as presented, the committee could recommend whether it should continue as is or reshape/redesign the committee to focus on one option or redesign the options with cross analysis of all the options to focus on the best of each option. Dr. Lewis has requested feedback by the end of April.

Update- Alabama Transfer Website

Dr. Sessions mentioned a newsletter being added called the Alabama Transfer Advisor. Dr. Sessions stated he has had a lot of interest in the new website and design, and he has a lot of scheduled presentations.

Update- Letter Sent to Council of Presidents to Ask Them to Nominate New Regional Members on the AGSC

Dr. Sessions discussed a memo distributed to the Chair of the Council of Presidents asking for two new regional members to be appointed to the AGSC because the law requires the appointments have to be made by the Council of Presidents.

Alabama Transfer Landscape

Dr. McGill gave an overview of the presentation “Rethinking Transfer in the Time of Swirl”. She presented at the ACHIEVE conference in March 2023. A copy of the presentation is available upon request.

Dr. Sessions mentioned they are working on a course equivalency transfer matrix and a step-by-step inquiry about equivalency.

Discussion Item-UA Gen Ed Curriculum Changes

Dr. Sessions discussed some questions and concerns for the new proposed general education program UA has voted on for their institution. They have created multiple subcommittees to look at the impact the new program will have on transfer students. Brandy Stacey is on the transfer student subcommittee which is researching all the ways it will impact transfer students and they have a timeline until the end of May to submit recommendations to their leadership team.

Dr. Crawford suggested AGSC to form a group of committee members to research the impact of UA general education changes on the legislative side as well as the impact on the completion rates of our students. The group committee members are Dr. Sessions, Dr. Tadesse, Dr. Wehlburg, Dr. Lewis, Dr. Calhoun, Dr. Campbell, Dr. Johnson, Ms. Reeder, and Mrs. Screws. Dr. Sessions will coordinate the discussions and meetings.

Dr. Johnson mentioned that UA is willing to have a small group meeting with AGSC members to listen to concerns and provide additional details on the changes.

Set Time, Date(s), Location for Summer Planning Meeting & Regular Meeting

July 2023

TBA In-person

Dr. Sessions will send a Doodle poll to the committee members to determine the best possible date, in person or virtual, for the July meeting.

Other Issues or Announcements: None

Adjournment

The March 23, 2023 meeting of the AGSC was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

Dr. Bruce Crawford, Chair

Jacinta Whitehurst, Recording Secretary