

Minutes of 2008 Annual Meeting
Foreign Language Academic Advisory Committee (FLAAC)
Jekyll Island, Georgia
April 14-15, 2008

Present:

Armstrong Atlantic SU	Ellen Blossman, Chair
Augusta State U	Jana Sandarg, Secretary
Bainbridge College	Stan Webb
Clayton State U	E. Joe Johnson
Dalton State College	Nancy Mason
East Georgia College	Jeniba J. Dart
Fort Valley State U	Victoria V. Dubriel
	Joyce O. Jenkins, Berlethia Pitts, guests
Gainesville State College	Eric Skipper, substitute
Georgia College & SU	Roger Noël
Georgia Highlands College	Mark Greger
	Renva Watterson, guest
Georgia Institute of Tech.	David Shook
Georgia Perimeter College	Dina Foster
Georgia Southern U	Donnie Richards
Georgia SW State U	Elena Odio
	Peggy Ellington, guest
Georgia State U	German Torres, substitute
Gordon College	Darren Broome
Kennesaw State U	Bill Griffin
Macon State College	David de Posada
Middle Georgia College	Trino J. Prados, Chair Elect
North Georgia CSU	Jim Chesnut
Savannah State U	Boniface K. Kawasha
University of Georgia	Martin Kagel
Valdosta State U	Viki Soady
Georgia DOE	Elizabeth Webb
USG Office of International Education	Rick Sutton

FLAAC 2008 Recommendations and Endorsements:

3. The FLAAC recommends that foreign language faculty members who serve as directors of study abroad programs or centers, or who serve in other capacities related to the instructional mission of the department or school, be compensated for that service in fair and kind.

Monday, April 14, 2008

Chair Ellen Blossman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a. m. in the conference room at the Days Inn and Suites on Jekyll Island.

The meeting began with formal introductions.

Last year's minutes were approved on-line prior to the conference.

The status of the Foreign Language Academic Advisory Committee recommendations from 2007 was reviewed and discussed.

1. The Foreign Language Academic Advisory Committee recommends that proficiency in a foreign language be included as an essential skill in the USG core curriculum in order to meet th

to institutions for internationalizing the curriculum. The call for funding proposals for this year can be found on the webpage for the Office of International Education at www.usg.edu/oie

Georgia state budget:

Medical education is a big item this year.

The salary increase is 2%.

Core curriculum

The Chancellor decided to open discussion on the core curriculum to see if we are giving our students the transformative education they need in order to be successful. Since 1998, the BOR has established the framework for the curriculum in terms of broad objectives. Information on the presidential task forces and curriculum development is available at www.usg.edu

Dr. Dorothy Leland, who is in charge of the core curriculum development, has extended the deadline until fall 2008 in order to reshape the process of examining the curriculum. Instead of one representative per institution, there will be a team of four or five faculty that will be a purveyor of ideas and disseminator of information. The chairs of the academic advisory committees will be integrated into the process and will represent their respective disciplines. The new teams will be in place before the end of the semester. Instead of looking at how our courses will fit into the core, we will be looking at the desired student outcomes for the core and the competencies we wish our students to have. We will design core courses once the competencies are established. Every institution will have the flexibility to pursue how it will achieve the desired outcomes and competencies. Viki Soady noted that we needed to ensure that the team members were faculty who taught core courses.

Report from Elizabeth Webb, Department of Education

Elizabeth reported on the new graduation rules for Georgia high schools. A new law requires that American Sign Language (ASL) will count as foreign language credit in high school. She noted that other states and the American Council on Teaching Foreign Languages (ACTFL) have recognized ASL as a language. Our state superintendent sees it as a critical need and the standards for ASL level one and level two are modeled after the Modern Language standards. A GACE test for ASL is being developed. Only a few USG institutions offer ASL; a few ASL programs are housed in the Department of Family Health Professions. Vicky Soady stated that there is a real need for English as a Second Language (ESOL) signing for children of other languages. Foreign Language departments could move into this area. She noted that there is a Spanish speech therapy program in Valdosta.

College credit for the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma earned in high schools was approved by the USG. The IB program originated in Geneva, Switzerland. More information is available at www.ib.org.

Last year the funding for the Foreign Language Elementary School (FLES) program was redirected to the media centers of all elementary schools for purchasing foreign language technology. Schools would work with the Georgia Public Broadcasting using _____, a FLES technological program for Spanish. The funding for this program

leadership is a competency we want our students to have, and each institution has different resources that would allow them to address it differently. We will have transferability between institutions. Therefore, if leadership competency were satisfied at one institution, it would transfer to another.

It was noted that some faculty expect basic skills to be taught in high school, and more difficult skills and concepts would be taught in college. However, foreign language teachers must teach students very basic skills, which are essential before moving our students forward to more difficult concepts. Rick replied that each institution would make those decisions.

We began a discussion about ASL and decided to continue after lunch. The morning session adjourned at 11:35 am.

The committee reconvened at 1:30 pm.

Elections

The first item of business was the election of our secretary for 2008-2009. Following our

long-term sequence of foreign language like we do in math and science. There is no reason why we can't have one, too.

Rick suggested we combine foreign language with other disciplines, such as pairing art and music with foreign language, or pairing business and technology with foreign language.

It was noted that there were two suggested models for the core on the web site and that the current core should also be an option. Rick stated that the current core will be put up on the web page as another option. The timeline is not set, but the new core could be

+Exit exams.

Some institutions use the OPI and have students cover the cost.

+Review of foreign language 1001-1002 content.

Elena Odio stated that the common descriptions from the 1998 configuration included speaking, listening, r