

**Minutes of 2009 Annual Meeting**  
**Foreign Language Academic Advisory Committee (FLAAC)**  
**Macon, Georgia**  
**April 6, 2009**

**Attendees:**

Albany State U

Arnold Odio

A summary of the agenda was distributed. One item on the agenda was changed (Laura James would address the committee at 4:00).

### **Report from Joe Valentine, Georgia Department of Education and Georgia Legislation**

Valentine addressed the following items:

1. Professional Standards Commission is requiring teachers to have P-12 certificates and more methods courses; this will give them the ability and skills to teach a larger range of grades/courses. Georgia Performance Standards are now out for perusal.
2. The Professional Standards Commission currently is looking at all numbers for languages for the state and have noticed an unbelievable growth in Spanish where of the 262,000 foreign language students in the state of Georgia, 202,000 are enrolled in Spanish. He pointed out that the viability of other foreign languages relies heavily on the personalities and dynamics of the teachers.
3. On the website, [www.gadoe.org](http://www.gadoe.org) and under world languages, you can find district



that in the past, this committee never received feedback on the recommendations. Arnold Odio suggested the recommendations be sent to each college's core curriculum representative, and that someone from the FLAAC committee attend a board meeting. Jim Chesnut recommended that the chair of the FLAAC committee attend the Board meeting where our recommendations are discussed and voted on.

### **Next year's meeting**

The committee agreed to meet again in Macon: Monday, April 13, 2010.

### **Other morning items for discussion**

#### 1. The merger of community colleges with technical colleges

Trino Prados mentioned that Middle Georgia College recently merged with Georgia Aviation College. According to Trino Prados, it has been a positive for his college so far. His numbers have increased in all of his Spanish courses. Trino also cautioned that the nature of this merger was unique. GATC is an aviation technical college. The merger has allowed Middle Georgia College to acquire four-year status offering bachelor degrees in the aviation field. This merger is quite different from the proposed mergers. Bernice Nuhfer-Halten asked if this merger was approved by SACS. Trino said the courses were approved by SACS. Committee members posed the questions of transferability of courses from technical college as well as the academic rigor of the courses. Mark Greger pointed out that in Mississippi all two-year colleges all under one umbrella. Mark Greger proceeded to say that in Mississippi, two-year colleges are considered academic institutions that also fulfill a technical mandate. As a representative of a two-year institution at this meeting, Mark Greger expressed his opposition to the merger pointing out if the merger were to succeed as proposed, two-year colleges would be considered technical institutions that fulfill an academic role. Many members agreed that community college would absorb more students from technical colleges than vice versa, if the merger is approved. Jana Sandarg believed the merger could negatively affect her university, Augusta State University. She said her college has, to a certain degree, a quasi community college within it. A number of her students are deficient in college preparatory core, and if the community colleges merge with the technical college, her college would potentially lose students to Augusta Tech. Eric Kartchner suggested that

## **Elections**

need to become familiar with the principles of proficiency in order to help students reach higher levels of proficiency. Some members agreed that upper-level courses did not include enough proficiency standards. Furthermore, a number of committee members concurred that very few students would reach superior level with four-year college

## 5. How universities count double majors





institution might decide to have an Area B of 9 hours and put three 3-hour foreign language courses in there. Or one could expand Area C and put them there. There are lots of other possibilities. 2. At its next meeting the Committee will discuss the following rule: Institutions may decide that the first course in a foreign language falls outside of the maximum number of hours indicated for undergraduate degrees and/or outside of Areas A-F. This rule is part of the current BOR core policy and it can be found at line 249 of the first rough draft document noted above. Some have suggested that this is not a good rule because it discourages the development of a foreign language different from the one studied in high school. Others have suggested that this is a good rule because we do not want students taking a foreign language different from the one they took in high school merely because it seems to them that the first course in a language is easier than subsequent courses. If the FLAAC has input on this rule, the Committee would very much like to hear it. The next (and last) meeting of the Committee will be on 10/18/01.

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Other committee members agreed, emphasizing the need for foreign language education for both native and non-native language learners.

Meeting adjourned: 4:40.

Minutes submitted by Darren Broome.