

University System of Georgia Board of Regents  
Physics and Astronomy Academic Advisory Committee  
Minutes of the April 17, 2009 Meeting

The Physics and Astronomy (P&A) Academic Advisory Committee (AAC) of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met jointly with the Chemistry AAC at Macon State College on Saturday, April 17, 2009. The meeting was jointly called to order by Bill Dennis (Physics and Astronomy, UGA) and Paul Cerpovicz (Chemistry, East Georgia College) at approximately 9:20 am

The P&A AAC members present were Mellissa Bryan (Darton College), Tom Colbert (August State University), Richard Collison (Dalton State College), Bill Dennis (Chair, University of Georgia), Mariam Dittmann (Bainbridge College), Mark Edwards (Chair, Georgia

Judy AwongTaylor (BOR-USG) provided the following agenda for the joint meeting.

1. Core Curriculum Update
2. Merger of 2year USG Colleges with Technical Colleges
3. ISCI 2001 Course Update Judy Awong-Taylor
4. High School: 4<sup>th</sup> Science Requirement Judy AwongTaylor
5. USG STEM Initiative –Judy AwongTaylor
6. Elections and other business E Jae jeetisg peoc4(e)12(q)4(d)-(e)4(d) nsfo

- Judy Awong-Taylor (BOR-USG) told the joint committees that they needed to make their sentiments known to the USG Core Curriculum Committee very soon as that committee was meeting the same day.
- After some discussion, J.B. Sharma (Edwards) 2 made the following motion:

“The Physics & Astronomy and Chemistry Academic Advisory Committees jointly recommend to the USG Core Curriculum Committee that there be at least 8 hours of science courses required in Area D to minimize transfer problems and prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

- This motion passed with a vote of 31 ayes, 2 nays, 0 abstentions.
- Per Judy Awong-Taylor’s suggestion that the USG Core Curriculum Committee be apprised of this recommendation, Debbie Sauder posted the motion and the vote totals to the Core Curriculum blog.

## 2. Merger of 2-year USG Colleges with Technical Colleges

Most of the discussion of this item focused on two motions introduced by Chris Wozny (Waycross College). The first of

seeking associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degrees. We also learn from each other and gain a greater appreciation for our different roles and institutional structures through our interactions. Therefore, to separate some institutions and place them under the authority of a governing body with a different mission and goals would be detrimental not only to those institutions which have been moved but also to those that remain under the Board of Regents, and ultimately to the citizens of Georgia.”

- Most of the subsequent discussion centered on the necessity of shortening the resolution.
- A wordsmith session ensued.
- The group decided that Bob Powell (West Georgia) and J.B. Sharma (Gainesville State) would draft a shorter version and this was agreeable to Chris Wozny (Waycross).
- Bob Powell offered a Friendly Amendment to the above motion. This amendment was accepted by Wozny.
- The new motion was that Chris Wozny moved that:

building a well-educated, globally competitive workforce for Georgia". The current mini-core of English and mathematics courses represent the fundamental skills of written communication and mathematical reasoning that the USG identifies as Essential Skills. The rest of the USG general education core in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and mathematics is based on the study of "analytical, historical, critical and/or appreciative material," not workplace preparation. In particular, the physical science courses we teach have a different purpose than technical physics and chemistry courses and are not equivalent to courses designated as technical science courses.

We assert that expanding the mini-core beyond 15 hours is detrimental to the mission of the technical college system. An individual enrolling at a technical college, completing 30 hours of general course work, and then transferring to a USG institution did not

4. High School 4<sup>th</sup> Science Requirement– Judy Awong-Taylor also informed the members at the Joint meeting that the BOR is asking members of all of the Academic Advisory Committees to review High School science courses in the Career, Technical, and Agricultural (CTAE) track which may be used to satisfy the fourth science requirement and give their feedback. She told the committees that these courses were currently under review by both the Georgia Department of Education (GA DOE) and by the USG. Members were asked to review the course descriptions (found on the GA DOE web site) and evaluate them for their potential to prepare students to be successful at USG institutions. She added that a web site to accept this feedback was being established.
  
5. STEM Initiative Update – Judy Awong-Taylor also updated the joint meeting on the status of the USG BOR Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Initiative. She informed the AAC's that the budget for this initiative was not yet known.
  
6. Elections and other business– The Physics/Astronomy and Chemistry AAC's met in separate sessions. The P&A AAC held elections for the positions of Chair and members of the Executive Committee. Mark Pergrem (Georgia Highlands College) was elected unanimously as Chair and, after caucusing, the makeup of the Executive Committee was determined to be:
  - Chair– Mark Edwards (Georgia Southern University)
  - Chair-Elect – Mark Pergrem (Georgia Highlands College)
  - Past Chair– Bill Dennis (UGA)
  - Research 1 Representative– Bill Dennis (UGA)
  - Four-Year College Representative – Taha Mzoughi (Kennesaw State University)
  - Two-Year College Representative– Martin Okafor (Georgia Perimeter College)

Finally there was some discussion about the content of calculusbased introductory physics classes PHYS 2211/2212. The committee was concerned that subjects such as thermodynamics were consistently left out of these courses due to lack of time to present them. The committee finally decided to have the Chair contact Judy Awong-Taylor to determine if the BOR approved the curriculum recommendations approved by the Physics/Astronomy AAC in 2005.