

Minutes
Annual Meeting of the Psychology Advisory Committee
Atlanta, GA

Date: February 28, 2008

Local Host: Barbara Brown, Georgia Perimeter College (chair-elect)

Convener: John Murray, Georgia Southern University (chair)

Minutes: Nina Lamson (past-chair)

Those present were:

hopefully, approved by APA. Accreditation is necessary for any graduate of the program to be licensed in the state of GA. To gain a better insight into this process, John became an APA site visitor as a generalist. This experience has provided good insight into the process, programs, and as a result he has learned much about clinical training. John wants to encourage members to send students to the program. The date of the official site visit (which is yet to be determined) will determine the date of accreditation. Currently, the program is designed

There was a discussion on the placement of a stats class – which is a requirement at 4 yr schools for the psych major – so, therefore, it can be required at the 2 year college. So, it was stated that if you want to have it as a requirement you can put it in area F or somewhere else.

Barbara was under the impression that if a student takes a lower level stats class they would have to take a higher level one, once they transferred -- but apparently this is not the case, although they are often encouraged to take another (i.e., psych stats).

Dorothy emphasized that the 120 hour rule is based on not changing majors – once a student does then this requirement to not exceed 120 hours doesn't apply. Some of the students are not well advised. Dr. Zinsmeister pointed out that all institutions have transfer ombudsmen to assist students with transfer issues. These have been in place since semester conversion.

Dorothy then drew our attention to the Strategic Plan, stating this is a moving target with much discussion going on at this point. She drew our attention to the USG home page and, in particular, the information on it such as:

Board meetings, agenda, meeting schedule, up and coming news, quick links, and a section called spotlight (she suggested we visit this once/wk)

Dorothy then drew our attention to goal 1 of the strategic plan re: the current core curriculum, where it is being proposed to restructure the core (Dorothy Leland is taking the lead on this). People were thinking decisions were being made without folks knowledge -- so now at website “strongfoundations” – we can check out frequently asked questions, see who are on the core curriculum competencies committee & the curriculum design and assessment committees, and the VPAAAs who are involved. v.2400000 141.334 364.08 cm BT !

College. It was stated that

and two resources for examining policy are the BOR policy manual and the academic affairs handbooks (neither, however, are current). In response to such comments as “it’s a BOR policy,” these resources will help verify if in fact it is. Linda also said to contact her if we have any questions.

Every year the USG has an administrator’s workshop where VPAAAs send representative

A presentation was made by Bill Cranshaw to tell us about the program to write a performance base psychology course and to get our feedback. He discussed the plan using a template from a History course which had already been established. The purpose of the program is to move from fact learning to understanding relationships among concepts, which will lead to better retention of information. The idea is to connect the student's personal life to the concepts for better learning. The goal is to identify what we want students to know, do, and understand and what are they to do to demonstrate this understanding. He stated the importance of developing a rubric to assess their analysis, understanding, and the ability to draw conclusions. He is in the process of forming a committee with high school instructors in psychology and 2 college psych professors, has 1 and Greg Corso (Georgia Tech) volunteered to be the other.

Bill gave QCCs as example of what they are working with now, but the plan is to get rid them. The goal is to write up the new criteria in April 2008, solicit feedback from the appropriate BOR academic committees in August & if they get their approval they will publish the proposal in order to get feedback. Then, the committee will look at everything and take the final version to DOE for their stamp of approval.

So, Bill asked for input as to what to consider and asked that he be contacted at:
wcransha@doe.k12.us

Some feedback stated that any attempts toward standardization may neglect diversity and it was stressed to avoid homogenizing. Also, psychology is different from history, one member stated that there are 15 diverse concepts – don't want to water down intro course. The question was raised as to what is the goal of the psychology high school class – keep in mind it is a unique discipline – the goals for one course may not necessarily align with goals of psychology.

Selection of 2009 Chair-elect and meeting site.

Wendy Kallima (Macon State) volunteered to be the next chair-elect. It was decided to explore the option of having the meeting in conjunction with SETOP and to see if a better price for the banquet room can be negotiated as a result.

Announcements, etc

- Additional items: Lee opened a discussion on the +/- grading issues. Just wanted to understand how to apply it – there didn't appear to be any standards. There was some discussion as to why some students would want an A+ designation. It was determined this is helpful in very competitive circumstances such as law school. Confusion exists about the program, questioning if it is still in the pilot stage and if it was mandatory or optional. Pat thought it was mandatory, but Dorothy pointed out that according to the VPAA minutes– it was optional for faculty to do.
- John wanted to discuss the issue of college sophomores – what should they be able to do in preparation for the major. It was determined that a sub-committee would investigate this and write up a report for us all to review. Those who volunteered were:
 - Wendy, Greg, Donna, Evelyn, Barbara, & Lugenia. They are to get a report together by July 1st on what are the competencies for psych majors when they reach 60 hours.
- John enumerated the action items for next year (copied from an email sent the day after the meeting):
 1. Please incorporate new Area F changes into your psychology degree requirements.
 2. Send out links regarding strategic plan, core curriculum (including models) to the membership (Dorothy Zinsmeister will provide them to John). Responses to models must be done by March 31, 2008.
 3. Members can email Bill Cranshaw (Wcransha@doe.k12.ga.us) with curriculum ideas for a high school psychology course (non-AP; non joint enrolled).
 4. Subset of membership will connect over email to create a list of competencies that a psychology major with 60 hours should have. Subcommittee members will be listed in the minutes. Deadline for completion: July 1. Point person: Barbara Brown (who will be new Chair).
 5. Linda Noble will check with legal counsel regarding liability for USG campus regarding mental health/crisis intervention for USG students. Linda, please respond to me, and I will send out to membership.

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