

Academic Advisory Committee on Mathematical Subjects (ACMS)
Annual Meeting Minutes, February 18-19, 2010
Atlanta Metropolitan College

Attending:

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College	Geoff Clement
Armstrong Atlantic State University	Lorrie Hoffman (for James Brawner)
Atlanta Metropolitan College	John Morrell, Shreyas Desai
Augusta State University	Sam Robinson
Bainbridge College	Mary Glenn Grimes
BOR University System Office Liaison	Dara O'Neil
Clayton State University	Anthony Giovannitti, Chair
East Georgia College	John Blackburn
Gainesville State College	Danny Lau
Georgia College & State University	Robert A. Blumenthal
Georgia Gwinnett College	Alvina Atkinson
Georgia Highlands College	Brent Griffin
Georgia Institute of Technology	Michael Loss, Tom Morley
Georgia Perimeter College	Margaret Ehrlich
Georgia Southern University	Martha Abell
Georgia State University	Florian Enescu (for Guantao Chen)
Gordon College	Allen Fuller
Kennesaw State University	Sean Ellermeyer, Lynn Stallings
Macon State College	Mary Wolfe
Middle Georgia College	Catherine M. Davis
North Georgia College & State University	John Cruthirds
Savannah State University	Samuel Dolo
South Georgia College	Derek Westwood
Southern Polytechnic State University	Joel Fowler
Valdosta State University	Ashok Kumar (for Mylan Redfern)

February 18, 2010

The meeting was convened at 1:30 by Chair Tony Giovannitti, with committee member Lori Hoffman attending via Skype. The group was welcomed by Atlanta Metropolitan College President Gary McGaha.

Dara O'Neil, the committee's liaison with the University System office delivered updates on USG enrollment increases, state budget cuts, implementation of the new Core Curriculum, the possibility that the Regents Test may be eliminated, the increase in online courses and degree programs throughout the USG, new program reviews, and the development of an integrated data system. She mentioned that the USG strategic plan, which is available online, includes goals involving program excellence, enrollment capacity, research and economic activity, partnerships with other state entities, affordability, and greater efficiency. Three task forces have been formed in the USG. They are devoted to increasing graduation rates, assessing the value of Learning Support,

and leadership development. Questions from the committee concerned access to course success rate data, how likely the USG is to merge with the technical college system (not at all likely), and how fixed-for-four tuition is being handled (now eliminated, but still in a phase out period for current students).

The committee moved on to a discussion of how new program proposals should be vetted. The committee receives such proposals from the USG office for comment. Questions concerned how little information is contained in most Letters of Intent, though some do include curriculum, what the purpose is of the ACMS commenting on proposals, and what formal process the ACMS should follow when gathering comments. It was suggested that a proposal vetting charge be added to the Curriculum and Transfer Credit Subcommittee of the ACMS (see Business Meeting action items).

Macon was discussed as a possible location for the 2011 ACMS meeting (see Business Meeting action items).

Several announcements were made for various conferences around the system. Georgia Southern will hold an Undergraduate Conference on March 6, Georgia Perimeter will hold its conference tomorrow (Feb. 19), and the annual Valdosta Technology Conference will be held next week.

The committee then held a lengthy discussion of the New Core Curriculum, led by Brent Griffin, who serves on the USG Council on General Education. Much discussion was devoted to whether a statistics course is or isn't appropriate for Area A. A flow chart prepared by AMATYC, which includes a wide variety of more specialized courses as the "first" college level mathematics course (including statistics), was presented for comment, and received it in abundance. The business for the attention of the ACMS is how new courses can be added to the core by an institution. Such a request would be made to the Council on General Education, but the ACMS would be consulted on matters mathematical. It was suggested that a charge be added to the Curriculum and Transfer Credit Subcommittee of the ACMS for setting the process for adding courses to Area A (see Business Meeting action items).

Other elements of the discussion of the core touched on an effort to expand the mini-core, relaxation of Learning Support suspension rules (per the USG Task Force's recommendation), the need for the ACMS to develop Learning Outcomes for the Area F courses in Mathematics degrees, and the availability online of a form for proposing new courses for the core. It was also noted that all courses currently in the core are grandfathered into the new core. That is, existing core courses do not need approval to be a part of the new core.

Before adjourning into subcommittee discussion groups for the remainder of the afternoon, information on how to access the WebCT ACMS site was given.

The site is: atlm.view.usg.edu

The username is: [your first initial]_[your last name]

The password is: acms007

February 19, 2010 Business Meeting

1. The 2009 ACMS meeting minutes from February 2009 were approved unanimously.
2. No old business was presented.
3. Subcommittee Reports:
 - a) **Assessment:** Nothing to report
 - b) **Distance Learning:** Comments were made on how online fees vary and the offering of upper level mathematics courses online.
 - c) **Computer Science:** The various computer science requirements in mathematics degrees were discussed. Data will be collected on institutional practices.
 - d) **Faculty Development and Mathematics Awareness:** Mu Alpha is a means some institutions use to promote mathematics awareness. A Facebook page might be a way of gathering announcements for mathematical activities throughout the USG.
 - e) **Placement and Learning Support:** The ACMS information on Learning Support placement needs to be updated by the institutions. Some institutions are examining new ways students can exit Learning Support sequences early.
 - f) **Courses and Textbooks:** Update your information, including whether e-books are in use. Brent Griffin is collecting the data.
 - g) **Curriculum and Transfer Credit:** Motions prepared by the subcommittee are voted on later in the meeting.
4. Election of the 2010-2011 Executive Committee.

The following slate was elected by acclamation: Chair – Joel Fowler, Chair Elect – Jack Morrell, At Large Members – Lisa Howell and Michael Loss. Tony Giovannitti will be past-chair.
5. Macon State was selected as the site for the 2011 ACMS meeting. Some discussion was had over whether February is the best time for the meeting. Some felt the current time of early February is best, others felt that March, after spring break, would be better. There was also some discussion as to whether the meeting could be carried out in one day rather than two, although travel time was raised as a problem with a one-day format. The committee will be polled on its preferences.
6. A motion was made to update the ACMS Learning Support policy document, and send it to the Learning Support Advisory Committee of the USG, for their information. The motion passed.
7. A motion was made that “The Curriculum and Transfer Credit Subcommittee of the ACMS develop procedures for the ACMS to respond to the new core, specifically Area A-2 and Learning Outcomes for Area F mathematics degrees.” The motion passed.

8. A motion was made that “The Curriculum and Transfer Credit Subcommittee of the ACMS develop a process to provide review and comment on new programs, program development, and new courses when they are sent to the ACMS by the USG.” The motion passed.

9. It was decided that the ACMS shall evaluate and revise, as needed, the ACMS subcommittee structure and charges. This will be accomplished as follows:

a) The Executive Committee will gather information from the current subcommittee chairs.

b) Based on the information gathered, the Executive Committee will draft a new structure and charges to present to the full committee for approval.

10. In the time remaining the committee was informally polled as to whether their institutions are planning changes to their core, under the new core system. Responses included no, possibly moving an hour from Area E to Area A mathematics, and possibly adjusting Area D to reduce lab science. Brent Griffin indicated that, thus far, no proposals have been received by the Council on General Education, but he might have more information after their April meeting.

11. A motion to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously.