

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Regents Academic Advisory Committee on
Geological Sciences and Geography (ACGSG)**

At

Kennesaw State University

April 23, 2010

Present:

Jim Engstrom Georgia Perimeter College
Pamela Gore, Georgia Perimeter College
Tracy Hall, Georgia Highlands College
Nancy Hoalst-Pullen, Kennesaw State University
Frank Howell, Georgia Board of Regents [BoR]
Doyle Loughren, Dalton State College
Ntungwa Maasha Coastal Georgia Community College
Jamie D. Mitchem, Gainesville State College
Katayoun Mobasher, Gainesville State College
Dallas D. Rhodes, Georgia Southern University

1. Call to Order and Welcome

- Regents Academic Advisory Committee on Geological Sciences and Geography met at Kennesaw State University. Meeting began at 11:35am. Nancy Hoalst Pullen (Chair) presided. Brief apologies provided by Chair for inability to hold concurrent online Wimba room (KSU experienced a power outage at the onset of meeting). Overview of Committee Agenda.

2. Board of Regent

Frank Howell discussed various aspects regarding the Board of Regents.

- Spending issues: Debt/spending ratio; allocation from State
- Imaging issues: University professors and the stereotypes of “not working”; need to work with PR/Public Service to improve overall image
- Grants and Contracts: need more earmarked at State/legislative level, “need to build a capacity to compete”; need for new faculty to become more grants/contracts savvy; need training program to go to Washington D.C.
- Cross-Institutional activities: beneficial and looked favorably by the BoR; build consortium among universities
- Core Curriculum: moving forward
- Mergers: of junior colleges and technical colleges not likely in future
- Future perceived emphasis: geospatial technologies, less with geology/geological sciences and geography; with any new programs – do homework first to get end result that is good for Georgia and USG system;
- Costs of geospatial technologies: Dallas asked if there was any change for ERDAS/ESRI consortium and its costs. Response was that costs might go down but depends on Board \$, cost per seat and # of seats. Still issues with costs per unit cost. Frank asked if any departments do not use geospatial technologies (e.g. GIS software). Some replied yes. Frank

noted that if it is perceived by BoR that more used among colleges and universities, the better for costs etc.

- Gainesville brought up question with contract issues. Discussion on how you can't be paid more than 100% of salary and how summer pay is allocated.

3. Discussion of Departments

- All members in attendance discussed where their programs/departments stand in terms of student enrollment, space allocation and other resources, program emphasis, teaching loads etc. General findings including the following:
 - i. 9 members noted that enrollment has increased for Geological sciences/Geography/GIS courses
 - ii. 1 member noted that enrollment have maintained levels similar to previous year(s)
 - iii. 3 members noted that they are running out of space and/or resources for classes on campus
 - iv. 3 members noted that general education and introductory courses is a large portion of the resource allocation (teaching loads, student enrollment, classes resources etc.)
 - v. 3 members noted heavy teaching loads/overloads
 - vi. 2 members noted budget cuts (either department or university)
 - vii. 3 members noted that their college/university was growing or expanding
 - viii. 3 members noted that their college/university emphasizes on K-12 school teachers for coursework or summer workshops programs
 - ix. 1 member noted that their college/university has a new bachelor's program (Coastal)
 - x. 1 member noted that their college is thinking of a new program of study, perhaps with GIS/Homeland Security emphasis (GPC)
 - xi. 2 members note that their college/university has a new emphasis on research
 - xii. 2 members noted a recent increase in number of faculty within the program/department
 - xiii. 1 member noted a need for more faculty
 - xiv. 3 members noted they were loan geographers/geological scientists and/or without a formal program
 - xv. 2 members noted recent restructuring of the University at the admin or dept. levels (Gainesville)
- Frank noted to 2 year institutions the need for transferability to 4 year university like GSA, KSU, GATech, UGA etc.

4. GIS Clearinghouse

- Need for updating of GIS Clearinghouse – currently no funding, no organization, and limited maintenance except ITOS, unknown if GA Tech is going to continue support. Updates provided from paying customers that in turn have priority; Discussion and agreement on need to update, particularly concerning issues with out-of-date resources as part of curriculum. Discussion on pooling resources and criticality of curriculum. Limited discussion on current status of GISCC; Discussion on cost-benefit

analysis and need for white paper from committee to find solutions. Subcommittee concerning white paper to be headed by Nancy Hoalst Pullen; tentative completion date set for fall 2010.

5. Approval of the GEOG 1112 and GEOG 1113 Courses for Gen Ed at KSU

- Introduction of the two courses. Brief discussion among members regarding course material taught. Discussion on how this fits into Area D of the current general education, and if this will continue with the updated USG core curriculum. Vote taken; unanimous approval of the proposal by all present (with the inclusion of 5 proxy votes). Nancy Hoalst Pullen (proposal author) excused herself from the voting process due to conflict of interest.

6. Miscellaneous

- Gainesville needs an adjunct to teach Spatial Analysis (GIS 4000 level course) on campus this summer. Course prereq is Intro to GIS. Teaching dates from June7-July30. Contact Chris Semerjian (csemerjian@gsc.edu) if interested.

7. Location and Site for Next meeting

- Location and site were not chosen for next meeting. However, requests to hold the next year on a Saturday or earlier in the semester were noted. No discussion on location.

8. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned officially at 1:30pm.