

Regents Academic Advisory Committee on Biological Sciences
Spring Meeting Minutes
15 April 2021

Present: Indiren Pillay (GCSU), Stephanie Harvey (GSWSU), Linda Hyde (Gordon State), Kimberly Hunt (South GA State), Therese Poole (GSU-ATL), Candice Chatman (Atlanta Metropolitan), Rich Griner (Augusta U), Steve Vives (GA Southern), Bill Ensign (KSU), Jeanelle Morgan (UNG), John Cadle (East Georgia State), Paul Melvin (Clayton State U), Scott Mateer (GA Southern), Richard Foreman (Albany State), Sheryl Shanholtzer (GSU-Perimeter), Stephanie Harvey (GSW), Bob Gannon (VSU), Dawn Sherry (MGSU), Marina Smitherman (Dalton State), Scott Mateer (GA Southern), Greg Payne (UWG), Jennifer Hurst-Kennedy (GGC), Bill Ensign (KSU)

- RAC recommendations for the Credit by Exam
 - **AP Exam**
 - A recommendation for awarding credit by exam was proposed (R. Griner moved; K. Hunt; Unanimous)
 - The committee discussed the cons of awarding credit for the AP Biology exam to majors, which included poor preparation for upper level courses.
 - **Recommendation:** The committee recommends that 8 credit hours of non-majors Biology I and II be considered for AP scores of 3 or more. AP courses do not prepare students adequately for upper level biology courses at the college level, and therefore the committee does not recommend that AP credit satisfy majors Biology I and II.
 - **CLEP Exam**
 - Due to the variability among the schools, the committee was not able to come to a decision for the awarding of credit by the CLEP exam.
 - There were several suggestions proposed, which included not awarding credit for the lab and giving credit for a single course and not the sequence.
- The committee will re-evaluate current practices, and work with home institutions to revisit score requirements and awarding of credit for both

lecture and lab.

- **Recommendation:** The committee does not have a recommendation. We noted significant diversity in CLEP credits and the committee is recommending that members first reevaluate their individual institutions' CLEP credits with particular respect to lab credit. It appears that some schools give lab credit for the CLEP when in fact the test does not assess a lab component.

- **Common Course Numbers**

- The committee agreed that the use of common course numbers was not recommended due to the variability in course content and structure, and does not wish to pursue.
- **Recommendation:** From the data gathered, the committee does not recommend developing standard course numbers for the non-majors' courses, because many of them were not equivalent in content or learning objectives. Furthermore, a number of institutions use course numbers only one time, and there would be significant difficulty in finding a common set of numbers. Institutions found that the current course equivalency articulations they have with each other in USG are effective and efficient.

- **Post-Pandemic Principles of Biology I and II**

- A recommendation for not offering Principles of Biology I and II online was proposed (J. Cadle moved; K. Hunt; Unanimous)
- **Resolution on laboratory experiences in Principles I and II (biology sequence for majors)**

“Whereas science majors need to learn to work with real laboratory or field equipment, reagents, and situations;

Whereas competent and safe use of equipment can be best ensured by supervised practice under the guidance of a professor or teaching assistant;

Whereas the collaboration and analysis that occurs among students in real-time exchanges are essential to the laboratory experience; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the standard for Principles of Biology I and II (biology

sequence for majors) is to be in-person laboratories in an educational or professional laboratory setting. Barring temporary measure taken during a public health or other emergency, all University System of Georgia students in these courses shall have regular guided in-person laboratory and/or field experiences.”

- **Election of 2021-2022 Chair-elect**

- Bob Gannon (Valdosta State University), representing the Comprehensive Universities Sector, volunteered to serve as chair elect. Confirmed by affirmation.

Submitted by C. Chatman