

Minutes for March 31, 2018 Meeting
of the USG Philosophy and Religion Advisory Committee

I) Members attending:

Mark Banas (religion, Georgia State University / Perimeter College)
David Bell (religion, Georgia State University)
Ed Cox (philosophy, Georgia State University)
Karin Fry (philosophy and religion, Georgia Southern University)
Michael Hoffman (philosophy, Georgia Institute of Technology)
Rosemary Kellison (religion, University of West Georgia)
Sanjay Lal (philosophy, Clayton State University)
Larry Peck (philosophy, Georgia State University / Perimeter College), committee chair
Michael Pizarek (USG Liaison)
Tom Pynn (religion, Kennesaw State University)
Greg Smith (philosophy, Georgia Highlands College)
Tan Tran (USG Liaison)
David Wisdo (philosophy, Columbus State University)

II) Approval of the Minutes of the November 18, 2017 meeting.

The minutes were approved.

III) Revisions to the eCore Philosophy Course (Christine James, Valdosta State University)

Prof. James is in the process of revising the eCore Introduction to Philosophy course that has been the subject of this committee's attention for the last year. She led the committee members in discussing prerequisites, interactive PDF's, older students taking the course, and discussion boards. Prof James explained that assessment at eCore is more extensive than in the rest of the USG, since eCore faculty must do assessment after each unit of eCore teaching. She also said that faculty members teaching in eCore must also be teaching at least one other "normal" USG course.

Prof. James also said that Jack Waskey, a member of this committee representing, Dalton State University is retiring but will continue to teach in eCore.

IV) Value of a Philosophy Degree Document (Larry Peck)

The committee had worked on revising the "Value of a Philosophy Graduate" document at the fall, 2017 meeting. Professor Peck informed the committee that the document had been sent to the committee's USG liason, Dr. Felita Williams, and had been published on the committee's Web page.

V) Value of a Religious Studies Degree Document. (Mark Banas; Karin Fry, Rosemary Kellison, and Tom Pynn)

The religion members of the committee are part way through writing this document. While discussing it, a question arose about whether the document should only be about the career chances of students who study, or major in, religion or also about how religion courses benefit the students intellectually, as they take the courses. Tan Tran and Michael Pizarek offered to pose this question to Dr. Felita Williams, the USG point person for all of the advisory committees. Pizarek also offered to gather some of these documents from the sites of the other USG advisory committees and send them to us.

Karin Fry will write the next draft of the document.

VI) Upcoming Job Fair at Georgia Southern (Karin Fry, Georgia Southern)

Prof Fry explained that Georgia Southern had had subject area fairs in the past and that one was anticipated for the philosophy and religion areas for the 2018-2019 academic year. People from the community who are relevant to the career chances of philosophy and religion majors will be invited.

VII) The Georgia Southern / Armstrong State Consolidation. (Karin Fry, Georgia Southern University)

Prof. Fry explained that at the newly-consolidated Georgia Southern University there will now be a philosophy and religion department that is not part of the English Department. She reported that the philosophy and religion faculty there are generally supportive of this change. She will chair the new department.

As a result of the consolidation, the philosophy major will be extended to the Armstrong Campus of the new GSU. That campus does not have full-time religion faculty yet, but there will be some religion courses there this summer. She reported that the students at the campus are pleased by the new course opportunities.