

Minutes of the Meeting of the Regents Academic Advisory Committee on History

February 17, 2024 at 9:00 AM in Kennesaw, GA and via TEAMS

Members in Attendance: Scott McDermott (Albany State), Ruth McClelland Nugent (Augusta University), Adam Tate (Clayton State University), Michael Morris (Coastal College of Georgia), Bryan Banks (Columbus State University), Sarah Mergel, Chair-Elect (Dalton State College), Danya Daniely (Fort Valley State University), Mark Vickery (Georgia Association of Historians), Nathan Orgill (Georgia Gwinnett College), Bronson Long, Immediate Past Chair (Georgia Highlands College), John Tone (Georgia Institute of Technology), Carol Herringer (Georgia Southern University), Glenn Robins (Georgia Southwestern State University), William Simson (Georgia State University-Perimeter Campus), Bryan McGovern (Kennesaw State University), Bob Burnham (Middle Georgia State University), Pedro Rivera (Savannah State University), Michael de Nie (University of West Georgia), Barney J. Rickman, Chair (Valdosta State University)

Meeting called to order at 9:05 AM.

I. The first item of business was to address the concern about the guidelines for the Field of Study (Old Area F). Chair Rickman and Chair-Elect Mergel reminded the members of the concerns raised at one institution about the language in the guidelines approved in February 2023. While the committee did not intend for students to choose from a slate of courses, some institutions had read “students choose” literally when the committee meant institutions choose the courses for the Field of Study. Dr. Brown helped to resolve the issue, but the council needed to decide whether to put forward the revision to the language. The members discussed the issue and agreed that, to prevent further confusion in the future, the minor change to the wording should move forward. The committee voted in favor of sending the revised language (see below) to the General Education Council in preparation for its May meeting.

A.	REQUIRED: History courses not counted in other areas of the Core Curriculum	3-18 hours
B.	<p>For the remaining 15 credit hours, students may select courses from the following disciplines including, but not limited to, the following: For the remaining credit hours, institutions will determine guided electives appropriate to the needs of their students including, but not limited to, the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthropology • Computer Science • Economics • Education • Foreign Languages • Geography • Introduction to Asia, Africa, Europe, or Latin America • Introduction to Local/Georgia History • Introduction to Philosophy • Introduction to Religion 	0-15 hours

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory Thematic Courses in History • Minorities in American History • Political Science • Psychology • Sociology • Statistics • U.S. History Survey • World or Western Civilization • Other courses deemed appropriate by individual institutions 	
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II. The second item of business was a discussion of the status of history programs at HBCUs in the USG. At present, no HBCU in the USG has an active history program. At its meeting in the fall, the council briefly discussed passing a resolution to support creating an online model for the HBCUs collectively to offer a program for students using a consortium model. Drs. Rivera and Long mentioned the eMajor criminal justice program might be one model. Dr. Tate also said some institutions have a consortium for foreign language majors that is fairly easily supported by the participating institutions. The members thought such a program might be viable if enough institutions participated. In relation to this topic, members also discussed current pressure on programs especially as the USG changes the benchmarks for number of potential graduates in an academic year. The members recognized the possibility that an online program, if open to all USG students, might pull students away from existing on ground programs further threatening the viability of those programs going forward. Dr. Herringer recommended creating an ad-hoc committee to flesh out the idea and come up with a working plan before presenting the resolution to the USG. Dr. Rivera (Savannah State) agreed to chair the committee. Other members include Drs. Long (GHC), Delaney (FVSU), and McDermott (Albany State). The committee voted in favor of creating an ad-hoc committee to study the issue.

III. The third item of business was to elect a chair elect for the upcoming year. Chair Rickman reminded members that he would serve as chair until the end of June at which time Chair Elect would become chair. The person selected as the new chair elect would be making a three-year commitment to serve as chair elect, chair, and past chair. Dr. Tate volunteered to serve. The committee unanimously elected him to the position.

IV. Chair Rickman then opened the floor to discuss other business. Dr. Orgill thought the committee should further discuss the effect of Core IMPACTS. The committee addressed the following points in relation to IMPACTS.

- Members addressed how some institutions have been feeling the pressure to combine the legislative requirements into one “citizenship” course; others have not.
- Members felt it was important to continue to keep pressure on their administrations and the USG to retain two separate courses. They want to protect the integrity of the two courses in their unique disciplines.
- Members discussed whether the RAACH should write a resolution capturing the hostility of legislators to combining the courses. The committee did send an email to the USG in fall 2023, which the USG distributed to provosts. Some members thought this RAACH email did help them navigate the conversation and dissuade administrations from pursuing that course of action.
- Members discussed the potential accreditation issues of having qualified faculty to teach the

course or rather how it would be classified within a discipline (i.e., there is no degree in “citizenship” that SACSCOC would recognize as a qualification).

- Members discussed the long-standing support in the legislature dating back to 1923. They also explored some of the political implications of the legislative requirements.
- Chair Rickman suggested an ad-hoc committee to draft a resolution. Dr. Long (GHC) agreed to serve as chair. Other members include Drs. Orgill (Gwinnett), Simpson (GSU/Perimeter), and McClelland-Nugent (Augusta).
- The committee voted in favor of creating an ad-hoc committee to write a resolution.

Lastly, the members thanked the out-going chair as well as a member leaving the committee for their service.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.