

RACAL Meeting Minutes

Spring
March 24, 2020
Skype Conference Call

Members Present:

Tuesday, March 24, 2020 (Regular Meeting)

[Note: There may have been two or three additional members present as some called in via phone and their numbers were not identified. KC]

Carol Adams (Chair/UNG); Kevin Cantwell (Recorder/Middle Georgia State University); Mike Augustine (Georgia College State University); Stephen Balfour (UGA); Ric Calhoun (Gordon State C); Jason Davis (Clayton State University); Mark Eister (Georgia State University); Rosalind Barnes Fowler (USG); Danny Gourley Fischer (University West Georgia); Edward Hood (Savannah State U); Elizabeth Hutchins (Dalton State College); Sarah Kuck (Albany State University/eCampus); Susan Lovell (Columbus State U); Christine Ludowise (Georgia Southern University); Leo "Chris" Melody (Valdosta State U); Stefane Raulerson (Chair-elect/University of West Georgia); Kokila Ravi (Atlanta Metropolitan State College); Arlena Stanley (South Georgia State C); Darrin Theriault (Kennesaw State University); Tom Miles (Georgia College & State University); Dana Nichols (Georgia Highlands); Lamar Ledford (Georgia College & State University); Georgia Beasley (East Georgia College); Lisa Shaw (Columbus State University).

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Carol Adams called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Carol welcomed the group and thanked those who helped set up the Skype meeting in lieu of the previously scheduled face to face meeting that was canceled due to the COVID-19 restrictions. She thanked Roz Barnes Fowler for her work as the group's Liaison with the USG and for keeping the larger group informed of and connected with adult learning and military affairs initiatives.

Carol introduced herself to the group and asked all others on the line to identify and to introduce themselves.

Kevin Cantwell (Recorder) presented the minutes from the September 9 and 10, 2019, meeting at University of West Georgia Conference Center. Elizabeth Hutchins made a motion to approve; a second was made by Ric Calhoun to approve with any minor corrections; by a unanimous vote the motion carried.

Old Business

Roz Barnes Fowler updated the groups on the Adult Learning Consortium (ALC) MOU, indicating that 17 institutions have signed the document. She reviewed the 10 Principles from the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL). Conversation ensued regarding the number of reps per institution who might serve on the ALC and how ALC might initiate its first business by using Skype or Microsoft Teams. Questions were raised about the duties of the yet to be formed ALC, and Roz Barnes Fowler indicated that the ALC would discuss how best practices could be piloted and then presented to the RACAL.

New Business

Guided by Danny Gourley Fischer, the group discussed the value of defining “adult learner” for data and policy purposes, as the AL definitions in practice are variable and the term does not show up in USG policy manuals. The term “non-traditional” seems to be the term of choice for USG documents.

Danny Gourley Fischer presented two motions:

1. RACAL should adopt the definition of an adult learner as “a student who matriculates at age 25 or older in pursuit of their first post-secondary degree” and amend its bylaws to include the definition.
2. RACAL should recommend that USG update its Policy Manual to include a definition of adult learner congruent to that adopted by the RACAL.

For Motion 1, no second offered, hence no vote occurred.

For Motion 2, Carol Adams seconded the motion.

On the second motion, a general discussion ensued regarding the value of defining “adult learner.” It was noted that one of the express purposes of the USG Strategic Plan is to increase the number of adult learners; hence the importance of understanding what the term means as a data point. Steve Balfour of UGA worried that a too narrow definition might take his institution out of the discussion. Side point of “professional master’s degrees” as overlapping with adult learners, noted by Steve Balfour, Kevin Cantwell, and Carol Adams. Danny Gourley Fischer discussed varying degrees of “adult learners,” introducing such terms as “post traditional” and “neo-traditional.” With concerns about defining “adult learner” and presenting it to the USG without additional discussion and research, the group decided to ask that each institution submit a definition and that a list be collated before the next meeting.

Motion 2 did not carry.

Next steps. Identify smaller group to collate institutional definitions re AL.

Chair-elect Stefane Raulerson presented questions about the **Fall 2020 Meeting** and **Spring 2021 RACAL Meeting and Symposium**. The group decided not to hold Symposium in fall of 2020 during same days as the fall meeting.

Valdosta State University volunteered to host fall 2020 meeting. The group proposed and accepted the dates of Monday, October 19, 2020, and Tuesday, October 20, 2020, for its Fall 2020 Meeting.

For the Spring 2021 Meeting and Symposium, **Middle Georgia State University** will host both the meeting and symposium.

The weeks of **April 12-16 and April 19-23** were discussed but not yet determined.

Chair-elect Stefane Raulerson and Chair Carol Adams presented a discussion of RACAL officers for AY21 and offered the following slate:

Vice Chair and President Elect – Ric Calhoun
Recorder – Arlena Stanley
Board Member at Large – Steve Balfour

As there were no other nominations or volunteers, a motion was made by Elizabeth Hutchins to accept the ballot as presented; Kevin Cantwell seconded the motion. Motion carried by acclamation.

There being no other business, this portion of the meeting was adjourned in preparation to join another meeting to hear at 11:15 a presentation by Vice Chancellor Tristan Denley of the USG on revisions to the general education curriculum.

[Dr. Denley presentation ended at 12:20 p.m.]

By acclamation, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Cantwell, Recorder