RACDE Meeting Minutes Spring 2019 (April 25-26, 2019)

Georgia Highlands College, Cartersville Campus

Attendees

Alla Yemelyanov (Georgia Southwestern State University)
Amy Austin (eCampus)
Brichaya Shah (Kennesaw State University)
Darryl Hancock (Fort Valley /state University)
George Wright (Georgia Tech)
Irene Kokkala (University of North Georgia)
Janet Gubbins (University of West Georgia)
Jeff Linek (Georgia Highlands College)
Jennifer Knott (Columbus State University)
Jon Sizemore (USG System Office)
Julian Allen (Georgia State University)
Justin Mays (Clayton State University)
Kokila Ravi (Atlanta Metropolitan State College)
Lisa McNeal (College of Coastal Georgia)
Michael Kirkland (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College)
Myk Garn (USG System Office)
Neil Rigole (Middle Georgia State University)
Stephen Balfour (University of Georgia)
Sarah Selby (South Georgia State College)
Terri Brown (East Georgia State College)

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Call to Order: Lisa McNeal, RACDE Chair, extended a warm welcome to the group and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Georgia Highlands president Dr. Don Green and Campus Dean Leslie Johnson greeted and welcomed the group. Meeting minutes from Fall 2018 were approved after adding the word "undergraduate" (tuition rate) to clarify Jon Sizemore's update regarding the System Office's consideration to introduce a new tuition rate for out of state online students, that will be somewhere between in-state and out of state tuition rate.

System Office Updates by Myk Garn, Assistant Vice Chancellor for New Learning Models, USG

Myk Garn provided updates on several Systemwide current as well as new initiatives including Momentum Year, High Impact Practices (HIPS), Fintech Academy, Precision Academics, Chancellor's Learning Scholars Program and many others. Discussion and information exchange followed.

Artificial Intelligence Use Cases at Clayton State by Justin Mays, Clayton State University: Justin Mays shared exciting information about the various capabilities of IBM Watson Assistant and how it works:

Watson Assistant: Clayton State Chatbot

- Establish intent when building the bots: what does the user want to achieve, what is the goal, and what action needs to be taken
- When building entities, define the entity, specific values for entity, and synonyms
- The dialog is the conversation flow. It tells the bot how to respond when it detects certain intents/entities.
- Use Cases –Pearson Revel Watson Tutor
- Watson Formative Assessment: Using natural language classifier and Watson Assistant
- To engage students with prompts prior to assessing their levels of understanding
- Provide targeted, learning specific feedback to students
- Incorporation of OER materials if used
- Cost and benefits: Model/deployment grows smarter with each subsequent deployment and interaction with users.
- Other AI providers – Amazon web services and Google AI and machine learning

GeorgiaVIEW Updates by Amanda King-Spezzo, Information Technology Services, USG

Amanda covered important ground pertaining to GaView Service Updates including continuous delivery implementations, Admin training, third party integrations, data reporting, and community activities. She outlined 2018 accomplishments pertaining to Releases/Main functionality, external authentication, infrastructure, patching, security, Near Real Time (NRT), Common Data Extract, Ad-Hoc Reporting, and Move to D2L Cloud in five environments. In addition, she shared:

- 2019 ITS Roadmap and D2L Roadmap
- Data reporting – Current and On Prem
- GaView Reporting Solution

Upcoming events:

- What's New: ePortfolio (March 28) Recording Available
- RACDE (April 25-26)
- Distance Learning Administration Conference (June 23-26)
- D2L Fusion (July 15-17) USG Mixer (July 14, 7-9pm)
- LMS Administrators Fall Retreat (September 17)
- InteractUSG (September 18-20)

eCore Updates by Janet Gubbins and Video Introduction by Amy Austin, Director of Online Faculty, eCampus

- An external review had just been completed for the USG Online Certification course
- Based on the review, the course was broken down into a series of four courses:
- Quick Course Guide

- Course One: Developing an Online Course
- Course Two: Improving Student Engagement and Cultivating an Online Learning Community
- Course Three: Advancing Online Course Quality
- The first two courses will be ready for release by May 15 and June 1, 2019. Courses two and three to follow in July and August 2019
- Looking into additional training courses (online training for administrators - Department Chairs and Deans).

Technology, OER, and ALG Experiences: Faculty Voices from Georgia Highlands:

The group engaged in animated discussion on topics pertaining to course revisions resulting from the introduction of Open Education Resources, thanks to grant funding from Affordable Learning Georgia. Teaching for eCore, faculty training, and academic resources were other topics that emerged in the discussion, led by stellar Georgia Highlands faculty members

Dr. Tom Harnden, Professor of Biology
Dr. Steve Blankenship, Professor of History
Dr. Camille Pace, Assistant Professor of Mathematics

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Friday, April 26, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Lisa McNeal, RACDE Chair 2018/2019

Timing of Requests for E-rate Differentials and Marketing by Stephen Balfour, University of Georgia

Stephen Balfour asked about the online tuition approval timeline as it is currently fixed for January and that would set him behind by 16 months. UGA is ready to market the program but does not have the marketing materials to include rates, etc. If approval is obtained in May, there will be very little time to advertise the new program. VSU has had problems fixing the rate for military. Jon indicated that the System office is still reacting to the audit and that the Board has to approve all increases in tuition rates; Board policy used to allow leeway previously. The Board will gather more input about tuition strategies for DE over the next year and try hard to move the agenda forward and determine tuition rates, specifically for out of state students; a proposal was developed for the undergrad tuition differential for out of state students which went all the way to the Chancellor but is now put on hold; Perhaps at the next meeting, we can get the vice chancellor or the executive vice chancellor to speak to us about the future of these tuition rates for graduate and undergraduates.

Precision Analytics: Presentation by Myk Garn, Assistant Vice Chancellor for New Learning Models, USG

Myk Garn discussed the Convergence, Ecosystems, and the Search for Singularity. Topics covered included:

- Digital Value Reinforcement Cycle which suggests a more sophisticated model that encourages mapping education using a total learning architecture, utilizing different

components of competencies, standards, credential engines, content management, learning records, etc.
- Academic Value Chain that provides instruction that happens between learning objectives and outcomes. LMS companies are now occupying this space and are trying to prepare institutions to report assessments.
- Open Syllabus Project – a searchable, usable resource
- Data Analytics: Knewton offers some adaptive learning opportunities and strategies in a few courses
- Georgia State University leads in precision analytics – specifically in social network analysis relating to student interactions in peer to peer learning
- Content analysis, multiple learning pathways, probabilistic soft logic (Amazon model – suggestion engines), Micro courses, Nano credentials
- Analytics on Ambient data – how much time students spend on homework
- Georgia Tech has created Sensors and Electronics Educational Database (SEED)
- The Precision Academics Workgroup will host the Chancellor's Summit on Precision Academics, a day focused on informing and improving instruction through the use of student learning data, at Georgia State University on June 14, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

SARA Updates and Training Session by Jon Sizemore, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Distance Education, USG and Pat Neri, Program Manager - Georgia SARA Coordinator, Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (GNPEC)

A well-attended webinar followed with System wide SARA coordinators and other stakeholders in attendance, including panelists Kirk Shook (Executive Director, GNPEC and Laura Vieth, Deputy Director, GNPEC. The webinar covered:

- General updates on GA-SARA
- NC- SARA Landscape
- Consumer Information Requirements
- Professional Licensure
- 2019 Data Collection pertaining to enrollments by State and Out of State Learning Placement (OOSLP)

A robust discussion followed with members seeking clarification regarding institution- specific programs and requirements.

New Business/Open Discussion/ Nominations for Chair Elect/Dismiss

The group decided that RACDE Fall Meeting will be held at Interact Conference in Savannah, scheduled for Sept 18-20 as many group members will be in attendance anyway and also key topics pertaining to distance education will be covered as part of the conference. The exact date, time, and registration details will be decided after conferring with the INTERACT Conference organizers.

There will be a GaView D2L Admin Retreat scheduled one day before the conference, September 17, 2019.

Nominations for Chair Elect, an Executive Member, and an At-Large Representative were sought and we are lucky to have the following office bearers to serve RACDE in the following key positions:

Brichaya Shah Chair Elect
Stephen Balfour at Large Member
Jennifer Knott – Executive Member

The meeting adjourned at Noon.

Respectfully submitted by

Kokila Ravi

(September 16, 2019)