

Deans Meeting
November, 7, 2007
Macon State College

The Deans of Arts and Sciences as well as some Vice-Presidents for Academic Affairs for two-year institutions met on the afternoon preceding the next day's EPAAC meeting. During the discussions the following areas were discussed:

I. The BOR Strategic Plan

Strategy One was discussed at length. It was agreed that the group would very much welcome the opportunity to offer recommendations since the area of the Core is so crucial a matter. A variety of matters came up in this discussion, including (1) the lack of input sought from this and other groups early in the process; (2) questions about how CPRs would be affected by changes in this and other strategies; 3) changes in the impact of CPRs and how they are used.

It was noted by one dean that at his institution the VP for business affairs indicated that funding decisions from the state level were already being affected by the identifying of programs with small numbers (namely, that funding was reduced in the most recent budget because of this).

Concern expressed about the extremely short turnaround times for input on certain issues, some so short proper responses are not possible.

II. Comprehensive Program Reviews

The upcoming meeting of fifteen representatives to discuss CPRs and how the process might be changed for the better was noted. Dr. Ed Wheeler from Armstrong Atlantic, a member of that group, offered to take our concerns with him to that meeting the following week. A number of the concerns expressed included:

- The contradiction in pushing institutions to improve in the STEM areas, such as increasing numbers of majors and, especially, producing more teachers in the areas, while at the same time using CPRs to “punish” programs such as Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics for low numbers of graduates.

Included in this discussion was the failure of the CPRs to account for ways in which programs such as these radiated out into other programs of study, such as allied health, etc.

–The issue of whether CPRs should be looking at RPG or student learning outcomes was raised as a particularly important matter.

III. Dr. Zinsmeister offered an explanation of the NCAT program, an opportunity for campus course redesign grants.