

Minutes for Learning Support Directors Meeting
University System of Georgia
October 29, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 10 A.M. by Dr. Terry Irvin, Chair, USG Learning Support Advisory Committee.

- I. 2004 Learning Support Conference-Tim Floyd provided an update concerning preparations for the 2004 Learning Support Conference. Dr. Floyd urged Directors/Chairs to encourage faculty/staff to attend the conference and to submit proposals for presentations soon.
- II. Coordination of rules for transfers of Learning Support students from DTAE Institutions to USG institutions
- III. Report on the recommendations for changes in the number of math attempts-Dr. Kathleen Burke provided an update concerning the proposal submitted to the USG Chancellor's Office/BOR for changing the number of math attempts from four (4) to five (5). The proposal is still under consideration.

Changes in the high school math curriculum for Georgia-Dr. Burke enlightened the group regarding ideas for changing the high school math curriculum. Some institutions would like to offer three levels of LS mathematics, i.e., MATH 0096, 0097, and 0099 because students in MATH 0097 are on so many different levels. A basic elementary review could be given in MATH 0096. Therefore, less time would be spent on reviewing the elementary level mathematics and more time could be spent on higher level math skills in 0097 and 0099.

Another idea was to offer four hour classes with a lab or offering more practice tests.

Regents' Test Pilot-Students from selected institutions will be offered the opportunity to participate in a pilot group for taking the Regents' Tests on line on a volunteer basis. The usual time limits will continue to be enforced. Also, there will be a three year phase in period. It was suggested that students get more practice with online tests administered via computers.

Vantage, the vendor, uses Microsoft spell check and grammar check software. Some consideration must be given to the fact that typed essays are graded stricter than hand written essays.

The BOR will put more emphasis on the number of students passing the Regents' Tests in a timely manner. Overall, less emphasis on individual institutions, and first-time and repeater pass rates, since some institutions allow all students to take the tests and some institutions are very restrictive concerning what students are allowed to take

the tests. Also, we should encourage more students to take the practice test on BOR website. Georgia Military will be taking the Regents' Test at USG institutions.

- IV. Report on ACT's Response to LS Directors' Petition for practice items- Dr. Irvin shared the response letter to the LS Directors Petition. While ACT indicated that the actual COMPASS test may be used for practice, the use of COMPASS for practice in Georgia is not appropriate since students would see the same items on the actual and practice tests.

GPC has 52 practice tests items for the COMPASS math test on their website, gpc.edu/~gpcls Individuals can practice math and receive a test score.

atlm 4/26/04 7:13 PM

Deleted: ..

For informational purposes, we would like to have practice tests available for students and parents. Dr. Irvin will continue to work with ACT to try to get practice tests.

- V. Program Review for LS Programs-Our data should not include students in career programs. We should only look at students in transfer programs concerning performance in credit courses. We must look at the number/percent of students' placement and exiting rates for traditional and non traditional students. Dr. Irvin asked for conference proposal ideas to be submitted by type of institution (2 year, 4 year).
- VI. Discussion followed concerning the HOPE Grant and how GPA's are computed, LS grades and hours attempted, and the GPA required for HOPE.