

Minutes of the Regents Advisory Committee on Political Science

January 30, 2003

The Committee met at the Mulberry Inn in Savannah, Georgia at 1:15 p.m. . Presiding was Professor Jack Waskey of Dalton State College. Twenty-five colleges were represented. There was also a representative from the Gwinnett Center. There was no Regents Representative present. (The colleges are listed in the appendix to these minutes.)

The minutes of the previous meeting (January 31, 2002) were read and approved.

Dr. Waskey explained the Committee's role in the University System as that of being both (a) an advisory body to the Regents, Chancellor, and staff and (b) a collegial and egalitarian forum for the discussion of common problems and opportunities regarding the discipline of political science in The University System of Georgia. This explanation was for the benefit of those representatives new to the Advisory Committee. As further explanation, several committee members commented on the Committee's advisory role in such matters as determining the content of Areas E and F in the core curriculum, deciding the methods of satisfying the statutory requirement regarding student knowledge of the Georgia Constitution, and aiding in the transition from a quarter to a semester system.

The remainder of the meeting concerned both motions passed, matters not acted on, and general discussion. Following is a summary of these three topics. The summary is not in chronological order.

Motions Passed

- (a) Appointment of Subcommittee: A subcommittee was appointed to study the workload of the political science faculty at the various institutions, including, but not limited to, such matters as formal assignments including class load, informal expectations of the particular institutions (e.g., service as Truman Scholarship Representatives, club advisers) and summer pay provisions. The Committee members are Professors Marietta (Darton College), Tate (Macon State College), and Galatas (Georgia Southwestern State University), with Professor Marietta as Chair.
- (b) Charge to Executive Committee: The Executive Committee was charged to study the inclusion of courses in Area E of the Core Curriculum with especial attention to POLS 2301 (Comparative Government) and similar courses, i.e., those often taught at the sophomore/junior level, including Study Abroad courses.

- (c) Recommendation to Regents: The Advisory Committee recommended to the Regents that the mileage rate be raised to equal the rate used by the I.R.S. in computing mileage for income tax purposes.

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Matters Not Acted On

The Advisory Committee received but took no action on the creating of a set of learning outcomes common to all institutions in the relevant core courses. In the Secretary's judgment of the relevant discussion on this point, this discussion indicated a postponement of this matter was due to the complexity of the issue. For similar reasons, action was postponed on a review of Area F. Both issues were called for by the Regents Charge of September 26, 2002.

General Discussion

The Committee also shared information and insights on a variety of relevant matters, including procedures for outside evaluation of programs, the positive presence of a representative from the Gwinnett Center, salaries for part-time teachers, "buy-back" provisions, the need for more tenure track positions, and the relationship of System salaries vis-à-vis secondary school teachers. However, no action was taken on these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin B. Tate, Macon State College

Appendix (as determined from sign-in sheet).

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Armstrong Atlantic State University
Bainbridge College
Clayton College and State University
Columbus State University
Dalton State College
Darton College
Floyd College
Gainesville College
Georgia College and State University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia Perimeter College
Georgia Southwestern State University
Georgia State University
Gordon College
Gwinnett University Center
Kennesaw State University
Macon State College
Middle Georgia College
North Georgia College and State University
Savannah State University
South Georgia College
Southern Polytechnic State University
State University of West Georgia
Valdosta State University
Waycross College