

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE REGENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON  
SOCIOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY, AND SOCIAL WORK: ANNUAL MEETINGS OF  
THE GEORGIA SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, OCTOBER 23, 2008

Guest Presenter: Board of Regents Representative: Frank Howell

Members in Attendance: Kevin Demmitt, Clayton State University  
James Floyd, Macon State College  
Laurel Holland, University of West Georgia  
Robert Lightfoot, Waycross College  
Judy Lucas, Middle Georgia College  
Michelle McCormick, Gordon College  
Ned Rinalducci, Armstrong Atlantic State  
University  
Marilyn Spearman, Albany State University  
Sandra Stone, Southern Polytechnic State  
University

Chair-Elect Ned Rinalducci conducted the meeting on behalf of Chair Leonard Mundy (North Georgia Collage) who was unable to attend. Michelle McCormick volunteered to act as temporary Recorder. Rinalducci called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. He then asked each attendee to introduce him/herself. He then introduced and turned the meeting over to Frank Howell of the Board of Regents (BOR) to discuss the System strategic plan, the budget outlook for this year, Executive Vice Chancellor Herbst' vision for the academic committees, and the current situation regarding the UGA/BOR New Core curriculum.

Regarding the Strategic Plan, Howell said the BOR's Strategic Plan was available on the BOR website and encouraged all to review it, saying schools should fit their missions to it, and departments should consider it in their planning. He talked about the idea of sociology as a business, saying that sociologists should work out what their discipline has to offer to students as preparation for the workplace and market the discipline accordingly. He recommended looking at the demography of higher education to ascertain targets for enrollment recruitment and special needs, matching their school's "academic output" (viable majors) to economic needs. According to Howell, we should market and sell what we do. The Plan should be used in a serious way, as in answering the question, "How does my program fit the Strategic Plan?" For instance, he suggested that schools not in the research university tier could help alleviate the problem of excessive applications to these schools by figuring out and marketing their strengths to get prospective students to apply to them instead of the research universities. Thus, these kinds of considerations should reflect in proposals for new programs. Regarding new programs, he recommended that the advisory committee act as a review panel by reviewing each other's proposals, working together to optimize each other's success in developing new programs. One way this would help is that it would encourage each institution to make its proposed programs unique, enhancing their likelihood of being approved by the BOR.

Regarding the budget, Howell said the budget cuts could be as high as 16 percent, with funding based on what the institution is doing relative to the Strategic Plan. Regarding the role of the advisory committees, Howell said that Vice Chancellor Herbst saw a more influential role for these committees, one in which their recommendations on such issues as the new core curriculum would be reflected in BOR decisions. Regarding the current situation with the new core curriculum, he said that the BOR was responding to the complaints heard from System faculty regarding the low level of faculty input in the original plan for developing the new curriculum, and the plan was revised accordingly. The inclusion of input from the advisory committees is part of the revised plan.

Much discussion of Howell's information ensued among the advisory committee members both during and after the presentation, but there were no items (motions, recommendations, etc) brought to a vote. Acting Chair Rinalducci then asked for new business but there was none. As the last order of business, the election of the next Chair-Elect was conducted. Corie Hammers of Atlanta Armstrong University was elected, with the proviso that Rinalducci would step down as his school's representative to the committee and allow her appointment as his replacement as soon as he finished his stint as Chair. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Michelle McCormick, Acting Recorder, October 27, 2008