

BAAC Minutes, 9 AM Macon State, April 1, 2013

Present: Jenny Harper (Bainbridge College), Dorothy Zinsmeister (BOR Liaison), Teresa Betkowski (BOR Liaison), Barbara Musolf (Clayton State University), Julie Ballenger (Columbus State University), James Adams (Dalton State College), Lyndasu Crowe (Darton State College), Jimmy Wedincamp (East Georgia State College), George Mbata (Fort Valley State University), Judy Awong-Taylor (Georgia Gwinnett College), Donna Daugherty (Georgia Highlands College), Sheryl Shanholtzer (Georgia Perimeter College), Stephen Vives (Georgia Southern University), Theresa R. Stanley (Gordon State College), Jerald Hendrix (Kennesaw State University), David Davis (Middle Georgia State College), H. Singh (Savannah State University), Matt Weand (Southern Polytechnic State University), Mark Farmer (The University of Georgia), Henry Zot (University of West Georgia), Bob Gannon (Valdosta State University)

1. Opening and introduction.
2. Minutes of 2012 meeting were approved.
3. There was a discussion of introductory Biology course sequences and transfer credit for introductory biology from any of the technical college system of Georgia (TCSG) to be used in area "D" transferability. It was the general consensus that any other courses transferred between a TCSG and a USG are best handled on a case by case basis; institution by institution. There is currently a list of 27 TCSG courses that transfer automatically.

Associate of Science degrees are possible with approval first coming from the TCSG and then BOR. This is perceived as a workforce related initiative and is intended to meet market needs. Any USG institution that offers a degree or certificate that is similar to one of the proposed Associate degrees has the option to weigh in.

The question was raised as to whether a USG Institution is required to accept a TCSG Associate degree and all of its courses, or is this to be decided on a case by case basis between any two institutions? There is a large and growing number of institution to institution negotiations.

4. The question was discussed as to whether a general course in Anatomy & Physiology would be sufficient to satisfy the – Area D requirement. It was the general opinion of those present that the scope of A&P not broad enough to satisfy this general education requirement. Specifically, the fact that a typical A&P does not necessarily include any of biological evolution and that an Area D course should do so. Jerald offered to develop a gen-bio sequence spreadsheet to be filled in by USG partners.
5. Judy Awong-Taylor (PULSE Fellow) led a discussion of implementation of "Vision and change- A call to Action" <http://visionandchange.org/files/2011/03/VC-Brochure-V6-3.pdf>

A recap of this discussion covered these topics:

Core Concepts in Life Sciences curriculum

- a. Evolution throughout the curriculum
- b. Structure and function
- c. Pathways and transformations of energy and matter
- d. Information flow exchange and storage
- e. System core concept

Competencies – Process of Science

- a. Integration of Quantitative data
- b. Modeling and simulation
- c. Interdisciplinary approach of science
- d. Communication
- e. Science of Society

Judy also solicited feedback on interest among the BAAC to hold a regional workshop on how to implement Vision and change across the curriculum at USG institutions.

There was a request that there be some form of an accreditation for those biology programs that are meeting the goals set forth by the Vision and Change Program.

6. There was a discussion of staffing for laboratory courses across the USG. Mark Farmer discussed preliminary results of a survey of BAAC members regarding the level of staff support each institution has for biology instructional labs. The results were distributed in the form of a spreadsheet (attached) which showed considerable variability across institutions. Some felt that this information was useful in helping them make the case regarding the need for additional staff support for the teaching of biology labs.
7. There was a discussion of teaching credit for directing undergraduate research. It was recognized that within the USG faculty do not receive any sort of teaching release for directing undergraduate research projects although in many cases they do receive some sort of formal acknowledgement of this type of informal instruction.
8. There was a brief discussion about among those programs that are using on-line text books (e.g. <https://openstaxcollege.org/>) Some programs are using these although most programs continue to rely on conventional biology textbooks.
9. Election of BAAC officers for 2014

Chair	Mark Farmer (University of Georgia)
Chair-elect	Theresa Stanley (Gordon State College)
Past-Chair	Jerald Hendrix (Kennesaw State University)

Executive Committee

2 year / State College

Regional University

Comprehensive State University

James Adams (Dalton State College)

George Mbata (Fort Valley State University)

Henry Zot (University of West Georgia)

10. Meeting Adjourned