

Georgia Film Consortium Academic Advisory Council Called Meeting

Via Microsoft Teams

March 17, 2021

3:00 pm

Dr. Kevin Demmitt, Chair, gave a welcome to the members of the Academic Advisory Council and the members of the USG Regents Advisory Council on Effectiveness and Accreditation (RACEA) and explained the purpose of the called meeting. The MOU for the cooperative academic arrangement under which the partner institutions have been delivering film and television academic programming must be revised to clarify the respective roles of the Georgia Film Consortium (GFC) and the Georgia Film Academy (GFA).

Mr. Jeffrey Stepakoff explained that the new MOU would specifically formalize and clarify the following roles and relationships:

- The GFC is a self-governing academic consortium of accredited institutions that grant college credit in film and television course work and programs.
- The GFA is a professional organization and unit of the USG that provides resources and services to GFC. Like the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, the GFA, for the state of Georgia, will advise trade groups, represent the industry to media, help government set policy – *and* work with colleges and universities to support a wide variety of learning and career advancement initiatives, including professional internships.

Mr. Jon Sizemore provided context for why a new MOU is needed now. Recent rule changes at the Department of Education and in SACSOC policies on substantive change notification have prompted a review of MOUs for cooperative academic arrangements for possible partnerships with non-title IV entities. The new MOU is intended to clarify that the GFC is composed of SACSCOC member institutions only. The GFA supports the work of the GFC, but is not a party to the cooperative academic arrangement.

Dr. Demmitt opened the meeting to questions and further conversation, leading to the following clarification:

- Academic oversight for GFC programming is with the institutions, individually and as a consortium. GFA, a unit of the USG system office, provides logistics and administrative coordination.
- Assessment is done collectively at the course level and shared with the Partner Institutions to inform their program assessments.
- Institutional oversight of academic credentialing is necessary.
- Depending on each institution's program structure, SACSCOC approval of an off-campus instructional site may be required.
- The MOU will include course listings, but not descriptions which are provided in other documentation.
- This GFC MOU is a living document which allows that additional courses may be added to the agreement.

Mr. Jeffrey Stepakoff indicated that USG will be providing guidance about how all of this will be represented on webpages, etc.

Dr. Kevin Demmitt noted that the current draft of the MOU is under review by TCSG, USG and the Regents Advisory Committee on Effectiveness and Accreditation and is being distributed to the AAC for review and comment. He requested that all comments & suggestions be sent to Wendy Guttin for aggregation by March 24, with a goal of circulating a final document for institutional signing by April 1. The Advisory Council will have its regular spring meeting in April and May.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.