

**University System of Georgia  
Academic Advisory Committee for the Arts and Sciences**

**MINUTES**

October 15, 2004  
Macon State College

ATTENDING: Surendra Pandey (Albany State), Ed Wheeler (Armstrong Atlantic), Curtis Bailey (Atlanta Metropolitan), Mary Mitchell Jones (Coastal Georgia), Bill Chappell (Columbus State), Ulf Kirchdorfer (Darton), Timothy Goodman (East Georgia), Penny Mills (Gainesville), Dorothy Zinsmeister (Georgia Board of Regents), Frank Butler (Georgia Board of Regents), Beth Rushing (Georgia College), Ron Swofford (Georgia Perimeter), William Wysochansky (Georgia Southwestern), David Blumenfeld (Georgia State), Larry Peterson (Kennesaw), Chuck Kutal (University of Georgia), Martha Wilson (Macon State), Carmine Palumbo (Middle Georgia), Bob Lyman (North Georgia), Carl McDonald (South Georgia), Linda Calendrillo (Valdosta), James Helms (Waycross), Dr. Ray Wallace, Clayton College and State University

**Presentation from University System of Georgia Officers:** Drs Butler and Zinsmeister led in conversation about the budget situation for the University System of Georgia, the retention study commissioned by the Board of Regents, and minor changes in the Regent's Testing Program.

**Quality in the Midst of Budget Cuts:** We spent a considerable amount of time discussing strategies to maintain quality in the face of budget cuts. Three issues were discussed in some detail.

**Part-time faculty.** We discussed a number of ideas for enhancing the quality of part-time instruction. Among the ideas for helping incorporate part-time faculty into the campus culture were: mentoring, classroom visits, departmental and/or college-wide training, handbooks for part-time faculty, inclusion in faculty email distribution lists and inclusion of part-time faculty in Arts and Science social events. We also discussed some concerns about the limitations on the number of hours a retired USG faculty member can teach. They cannot teach more than half-time, but campuses must consider what constitutes workload so they can determine what number of courses constitutes half-time.

**Technology.** While technology does not necessarily reduce the cost of instruction, it can be used to increase effectiveness of instruction. Representatives from campuses who are piloting the new WebCT-Vista program report serious problems with using Vista (one representative calls it "an absolute nightmare"). Even experienced WebCT users are reporting problems, both with the technology and with support. We asked that these concerns be reported back to System

Offices.

**Collaboration** We would like to encourage greater collaboration in delivering courses in programs that have low enrollments, along the lines of the French collaboration that several universities have been doing. Astronomy and physics were two of the disciplines mentioned. One of the barriers to such a collaboration is the registration/credit hour distribution problem. Dr. Butler reminded us that the MIF project, when it is completed, will help resolve this problem.

### **Noon Presentations:**

Penny Mills (Gainesville College) talked about two programs designed to enhance the quality of teaching. The Teaching Excellence program is organized by the Center for Teaching and Learning, and offered for first year faculty. Faculty members complete a series of twelve workshops (taught by existing faculty) on a variety of topics such as advising, testing, using technology, handling difficult classroom situations. The Teaching Grant program is funded by the Foundation, and allows for faculty to propose projects to enhance their teaching.

Kent Barefield (Georgia Tech) demonstrated an Audience Response System for lecture classes. These systems allow for interaction between students and faculty and offer immediate feedback. The systems are relatively inexpensive, and have been generally positively received by both students and faculty at Tech.

Larry Peterson (Kennesaw State) described a new program that provides information technology experiences for high school students and teachers. The 3-year program will involve 10 high schools, and will provide a pipeline for students to move through IT classes to the AP Computer Science exam and then to computer science programs at the university level.

### **Sector Conversations:**

Four-year group discussed: Contracts and compensations for department heads, post-tenure review, distribution of indirect costs, online collaborations for small majors.

Two-year group discussed: Maintaining quality during times of reduced resources and increasing enrollments (for most schools).

- Part-time instructors: Most institutions have been forced to turn increasingly to part-time faculty and are hampered by the restriction on part-time teaching loads of 5 courses during the academic year. Dorothy Zinsmeister, sitting with the group, thought that the system office could provide a policy indicating that part-time faculty can teach more than five courses.
- The use of retired faculty and full-time temporaries was also discussed as alternative solutions.
- There was a comparison of summer salaries, and the difficulties encountered when those salaries are reduced. One institution has resorted

to requiring faculty to sign a contract in spring agreeing to teach in summer regardless of pay.

- Another avenue the group explored was the use of overloads although some schools discourage or strictly limit their use.

**Nomination and election of officers.** The following slate of officers was elected for the 2005-2006. Since we have an incomplete slate for the current year, this same slate together with Wheeler and Rushing will serve as the executive committee should one be needed in the remainder of 2004-2005.

Past Chair: Ed Wheeler

Chair: Bob Lyman

Vice Chair: Linda Calendrillo

Research University Representative: E. Kent Barefield

State and Regional State University Representative: Robert Parham

Two-year College Representative: Penny Mills