

**Minutes of the Fall Meeting of the
Academic Advisory Committee on Computing Disciplines
Augusta State University
November 7, 2008**

Representatives in Attendance:

Abul Sheikh, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Ashraf Saad, Armstrong Atlantic State University
Mike Dowell, Augusta State University
Wayne Summers, Columbus State University
Charles Fowler, Gainesville State College
Gita Phelps, Georgia College & State University
Pinghua Wang, Georgia Highlands College
Priscilla Dodds, Georgia Perimeter College
Boris Peltsverger, Georgia Southwestern State University
Mitch Clifton (Chair), University of West Georgia

Guests:

Kam Fui Lau, Armstrong Atlantic State University
Julia Benson-Slaughter, Georgia Perimeter College

Special Guest:

Kris Biesinger, System Office Liaison

Opening Session:

The Academic Advisory Committee on Computing Disciplines met for its annual meeting on Friday, November 7, 2008 in University Hall 356 at Augusta State University in Augusta, Georgia.

At 9:30 am, Dee Medley, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science of Augusta State University, welcomed the committee to ASU. Mitch Clifton thanked Dee Medley for all of her help in arranging for the committee to meet at ASU. Mitch also welcomed the committee and went over the meeting agenda. The committee representatives introduced themselves.

The committee then welcomed Kris Biesinger, the System Office liaison for the AACCD, who made a presentation to the committee. Kris began by asking committee members to reflect on the value and role of annual meetings of the Advisory Committee and to make suggestions to her concerning these meetings. She then reviewed the potential BOR Budget Reduction Plans for fiscal years 2009 and 2010, and the possible steps to be taken if budgets must be reduced by 6%, 8%, or 10%.

Next, Kris Biesinger discussed the initiative to consider and revise the core curriculum by the USG Core Curriculum Evaluation Committee, chaired by George Rainbolt from Georgia State

University. Kris encouraged AACCD members to read and comment on the work of the Core Evaluation Committee by using its web site (<http://core.usg.edu>).

Kris Biesinger then reviewed the University System of Georgia Strategic Plan web site (<http://www.usg.edu/strategicplan>). One goal of the Strategic Plan is to allow for the enrollment of 100,000 more students in the system by 2020. Part of this increase in enrollment will be handled by increasing the number of students taking distance learning courses. Kris also reviewed the Georgia ONmyLINE program, designed to increase the percentage of students enrolled in online courses (<http://www.georgiaonmyline.org>). Kris noted that the Georgia ONmyLINE web site is open to all institutions to advertise their online programs. This review prompted a number of comments from committee members.

Priscilla Dodds noted that faculty and departments need support to encourage the offering of online courses. Kam Fui Lau said that it is important for the University System to distinguish the high quality of its online programs from online programs of low quality offered by out of state organizations that have little content and rigor to complete online courses or degrees. Mike Dowell expressed concern on how cheating can be detected in the taking of online courses. Wayne Summers commented that his faculty at Columbus State University feel overwhelmed with the additional work associated with the offering of online courses.

Next, Kris Biesinger talked about academic franchises. Academic franchises are a USG initiative designed to attend to an area of high need which online learning can address, and to keep tuition dollars for that area. Academic franchises were first used in January, 2008 at Georgia Southern and Valdosta State and targeted originally for online teacher education programs. This semester the number of students in franchise programs has grown to 405. Kris said that to get an academic franchise, an institution should complete the normal program proposal form and request or specify an academic franchise on the form. During this discussion, Boris Peltsverger expressed concern about choosing the proper rate for tuition for online courses.

Kris Biesinger distributed a handout containing a list of URLs primarily for a number of web conferences concerned with distance learning that she thought some committee members might find of interest. Committee members asked that this handout also be distributed by email (please see the document sent with these minutes).

Finally, Kris Biesinger discussed the USG Share program, a University System initiative to provide an online learning object repository of high quality, reusable instructional resources. Kris gave a demo of running a video object from the USG Share web site (<http://usgshare.org>). Committee members can contact Marie Lassiter (marie.lassiter@usg.edu) for more information about USG Share.

At 10:55 am, the committee convened for a break.

Business Meeting:

Mitch Clifton (Chair) called the business meeting to order at 11:25 am. He thanked Kris Biesinger for her interesting and insightful presentation.

Mitch Clifton began by explaining the reasons for holding a fall meeting of the AACCD, rather than having the usual spring meeting. At the spring, 2007 meeting of the AACCD at Georgia Tech, it had been decided to hold the next meeting at Macon State College in spring, 2008, with the subsequent meeting to be held at the University of West Georgia in spring, 2009. However, the meeting at Macon State in early spring was canceled shortly before the meeting date, because it was feared the turnout would be low, with the intent to reschedule the meeting later in the spring. About ten committee members did not receive the cancellation notice and arrived at Macon State to find the meeting had been canceled. The spring meeting was not rescheduled, however. Over the summer of 2008, members of the executive committee discussed the matter through email and decided to have a meeting at ASU in the fall of 2008, to overlap the CCSC/SE conference being held at ASU on Nov. 7 - 8. This decision was made to get a meeting of the AACCD held in 2008, with the anticipation that some AACCD members were planning on attending the CCSC meeting, and with the CCSC events acting as the faculty development part of the AACCD meeting.

Next, Mitch Clifton said that there had been no charges to the committee from the BOR as yet this year and asked if there was any old or new business to consider. A number of representatives and guests had recommendations or questions for the committee to consider.

Ashraf Saad recommended that the committee should pay careful attention to the role of CS I and CS II in a number of areas: in the new core curriculum, in transfer of credit issues between University System institutions, in transfer of credit between technical schools and University institutions, and in diversity issues such as the enrollment and success of women in CS I/II. Priscilla Dodds also emphasized the importance of considering the role of women and social issues in CS I/II. Kam Fui Lau suggested the committee reconsider the role of CSI/II in the core.

Gita Phelps asked whether any University institutions taught computer literacy courses online. Wayne Summers and Mitch Clifton said that computer literacy courses are offered online at Columbus State University and at the University of West Georgia.

Wayne Summers asked if it would be possible for CS course syllabi for different institutions in the University System to be made available in a repository on the AACCD web site for use as a resource to committee members. Mitch Clifton said he would investigate the use of the AACCD web site or the use of WebCT to establish such a repository.

Kam Fui Lau asked if it would be possible for guests to receive email from the AACCD listserv. Kam explained that he is the IT representative from Armstrong Atlantic State University and Ashraf Saad is the CS representative from Armstrong, and since each institution has only one official representative on the AACCD, and that representative is usually from the CS department if there is one at the institution, Kam has to rely on indirect communications for notices about AACCD events. Mitch Clifton said he would see if guests could be added to the AACCD listserv.

Kam Fui Lau also mentioned that IT departments are growing in importance and he would like to see IT departments have an official representative on the AACCD sometime in the future. Priscilla Dodds talked about IT programs in the University System, saying there are big differences between IT degrees offered by different institutions in the system.

In addition, Kam Fui Lau expressed a desire that AACCD members communicate with each other more often between annual meetings. Wayne Summers asked Kris Biesinger whether it would be possible to set up a WebCT course that could be used to help members communicate. Mitch Clifton said he would investigate the use of WebCT for such communication between AACCD members and between subcommittee members.

The committee members then discussed plans for the next AACCD meeting. The consensus of the members present was to not have a meeting in the spring of 2009, and to then return to the normal pattern with a meeting in the spring of 2010. The members agreed to conduct any business until then online or through email.

Next, the committee members considered elections for the AACCD chair for the 2009-2010 year, and to replace a member of the executive committee who would be rotating off at the end of spring, 2009. Because of the low turnout at the meeting, it was the consensus of the members present to put off these elections and to vote later through email. Mitch Clifton said that he would conduct these elections by the full membership in the future through email.

At the end of the meeting it was decided to form three subcommittees to consider a number of issues discussed at the meeting. The subcommittees, their chairs, and their roles are:

- Computing in the Core Subcommittee - Ashraf Saad, Armstrong Atlantic State University (Ashraf.Saad@armstrong.edu) - To consider the role of CS I and CS II in the core.
- Online Programs Subcommittee - Boris Peltser, Georgia Southwestern State University (plz@canes.gsw.edu) - To discuss the offering of online programs in the computing disciplines.
- Diversity Subcommittee - Priscilla Dodds, Georgia Perimeter College (pdodds@gpc.edu) - To consider issues relating to women and minorities in the computing disciplines.

Finally, Mitch Clifton announced that the minutes of the spring, 2007 AACCD meeting at Georgia Tech had been lost. Mitch asked members who have any notes or records of the spring, 2007 meeting to please send copies to him.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Minutes submitted by Mitch Clifton
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