

MINUTES
University System of Georgia
Psychology Academic Advisory Committee Meeting
26 January 2006
Athens, Georgia
Hosted by Gainesville State College-Oconee Campus
Meeting held at Holiday Inn East, Athens, GA

Chair Elect: Dr. Nina Lamson, Gainesville State College-Oconee Campus
Chair: Dr. Deborah Richardson, Augusta State University
Past Chair: Dr. Karen Hambright*, Coastal Georgia Community College,
(*serving in the absence of actual Past Chair: Dr. Donna McCarty, Clayton State University)

Attendance: Dr. Nina Lamson, Gainesville State College-Oconee Campus; Dr. Deborah Richardson, Augusta State University; Dr. Karen Hambright, Coastal Georgia Community College; Dr. Keith Douglass, Armstrong Atlantic State University; Dr. Lugenia Dixon, Bainbridge College; Dr. Alberta Johnson, Georgia Highlands College; Dr. John Murray, Georgia Southern University; Dr. Pamela Terry, Gordon College; Dr. Barbara Brown, Georgia Perimeter College; Dr. Joan Jackson, University of Georgia; Dr. Greg Corso, Georgia Institute of Technology; Dr. Michael Hoff, Dalton State College; Dr. Sue Wilson, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Welcome: Dr. Penny Mills, Executive Dean, Gainesville State College-Oconee Campus
Dr. Mills welcomed us to Athens and invited us to visit the Oconee Campus in nearby Watkinsville, Georgia. She presented a brief history of Gainesville State College and described the growth in programs and enrollment over the past two and one half years since the Oconee Campus was established.

Call to Order: Dr. Nina Lamson called the meeting to order at 9:00am. The agenda and the Minutes from the 2005* meeting were distributed by Dr. Deborah Richardson (*committee did not meet in 2004 due to inclement weather on two occasions). It was noted that the committee's membership list was not accurate. A discussion of the procedure for updating the committee membership list on the University System's website followed. The committee agreed that we should query the University System Office liaison, Dr. Judy Monsaas about the Psychology Committee's List Serve and updating the Academic Advisory Committee on Psychology on the University System's web site when she arrived at the meeting.

Dr. Richardson reported that we had sent the Specific Learning Outcomes for Area F courses and the PSAC Bylaws requested by the System office, but that they had not yet been posted to the System's web site. Dr. Richardson distributed copies of the Committee's Bylaws that had been developed and approved in 2005. Dr. Richardson noted that at a previous meeting, the committee had discussed the Advance Placement

testing and agreed that USG institutions to credit for Advance Placement in PSYC 1101, Introduction to Psychology only.

Report from Dr. Judy Monsaas, the USG PAAC liaison: Dr. Monsaas reported having met with Dr. Dorothy Zinsmeister of the USG office and she suggested three topics for discussion and determination of committee recommendations:

1. AP score issue: Determine minimum score accepted for AP credit in PSYC 1101.

The PAA Committee decision on AP score for credit: The committee unanimously agreed that for AP credit in Introductory Psychology (only) a score 3 or above was acceptable score, given that a score of 3 is equivalent to a C in the course

2. RPG initiative: Retention, Progression, and Graduation and the financial impact on institutions. Under the issue of RPG, the NESSE and CESSE data for the USG were discussed in relation to student engagement objectives. Problems for 2 year institutions obvious, particularly if transfer to other USG institutions is considered “student was not retained”, and given the variation in missions, for example presence or absence of Learning Support classes in the various institutions. Institutions offering Learning Support do not want RPG tied to funding. The primary evaluative measure, retention and graduation of FTFF, First Time Full Time Freshman is not a valid index for 2 year institutions. Dr. Michael Hoff suggested that the committee recommend different standards for measurement of RPG at 4 year residential vs. 2 year non residential institutions (especially because of elimination of SAT scores for enrollment). Dr. Keith Douglass proposed that there is no measure of RPG that would account for the differences in the 35 institutions and their missions, and that the FTFF is not representative of the student body of a 2 year institution. Dr. Monsaas explained that the accountability for RPG is within sector, and this is where comparisons should be made. Dr. Barbara Brown stated that her biggest concern was this “kitchen sink” approach to selecting a sample cohort that will generalize beyond FTFF. She did not foresee usable data, but instead unintended consequences. Dr. Monsaas agreed to relay our concerns to the System Office. Dr. Richardson moved to add this issue to our agenda and develop a PAA Committee recommendation regarding RPG accountability.

3. Plus/Minus Grading System (revisited). No one with strong feelings pro or con, just concerns about the complication of conversion for Financial Aid, particularly Hope Scholarship. In Fall 2007 UGA and Georgia State will “pilot test” this system of grading. Members of the committee protested that the pilot will not be a pilot but a (trial and error) change in policy that forms the basis of assessment and as such, there will be no comparison procedure in place. Dr. Monsaas suggested that +/- grading would be most useful at the Graduate level. Other problems discussed: converting a 4pt scale into a 10pt scale and implications for the Hope Scholarships.

Other Discussion with Dr. Monsaas:

-Our new Chancellor begins 6 February and suspense builds as to his focus and mission.

- There was heated discussion of the EPAAC’s planned elimination of PSYC 2103 Introduction to Human Development, and inadvertently PSYC 1101 Introduction to

Psychology from the USG Teacher Education Area F curriculum in Fall 2007, as an outcome of PRISM. Several members of the PAAC suggested that Dr. Kettlewell (PRISM grant PI) thinks these courses are “fluff” and that their content can be assimilated into that of three education courses approved for the Teacher Education Curriculum. The PAA Committee feels that the added focus on natural science and math will be at the expense of other equally important courses. We found the idea of a student graduating from a USG institution with a degree in Early Childhood Education and never having a course in Introductory Psychology or Introduction to Human Development unacceptable. The Committee agreed it was too late to make a recommendation, but that we would ask our respective Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs move to table the curriculum change at their next meeting (in several days). We could create a resolution to be in later discussions.

- PAA Committee asked “What’s the difference in a BA. and a B.S. in Psychology?” Few institutions have both. Dr. Monsaas will try to find a definition to make the distinction clear and consistent within the System.

- PAA Committee asked which 2000 level courses in Area F will transfer throughout the USG? Dr. Monsaas answered that Area F Psychology electives courses are limited to: Introduction to Human Development and Introduction to Abnormal or Applied Psychology. Note we were not able to log on to the USG Website during the meeting. However, the Area F guidelines posted on the web site read verbatim as follows:

Area F Guidelines: Psychology

Area F in Psychology consists of 18 hours in lower-division (100- and 200- level) courses related to the program study and/or prerequisite to higher level courses required in the major:

REQUIRED: Introductory Psychology 3 hours

Up to six (6) hours selected from the following areas:

- Additional hours in Introductory Psychology
- Personality or personal relations or adjustment
- Survey of classes of abnormal behavior
- Applications of psychology to the workplace
- Development of behavior:

- Behavior in a social context

- Research methodology in the behavioral sciences

- Careers and professional issues in psychology 0-6 hours

Guided Electives (Non-psychology courses) are to be determined by institution. Courses in the following areas are encouraged: foreign language, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, statistics. 9-15 hours

The issues remaining for the afternoon session include the following:

1. Should there be modification of Area F to allow 2 year institutions to offer additional courses?
2. Learning Outcomes not on Website?
3. RPG recommendation
4. AP Credit recommendation
5. Area F revisited

Lunch: The committee meeting adjourned around noon for a buffet lunch in the Holiday Inn and the meeting resumed around 1:00pm.

Following lunch, discussion of the issues above took place (in Dr. Monsaas' absence). A motion was made, seconded and carried that we recommend the BOR modify Area F to allow up to 9 hours of 2000-level courses in addition to Introductory Psychology. However, since the meeting, Area F policy was found not to differ from our proposed recommendations. However, the transferability of these 2000 psychology courses in Area F should be revisited next year.

The committee agreed to make the following recommendations:

- 1) AP test scores: The Committee voted to recommend that all USG institutions accept scores of at least 3 (the equivalent of a C in an Introduction to Psychology course) on the Introduction to Psychology AP credit exam.
- 2) Retention Measures for two year institutions: The committee discussed the validity of the measures in place for Retention, Progress and Graduation in regard to the different missions and student populations of the various sectors in the USG. There was concern that the First time, Full time students are not a representative sample of the two year institutions' student bodies, and that the "loss" or transfer of these and other students to other institutions should not be indicative of failure to retain them at a two year institution.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the meeting adjourn at 3:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Hambright