

Minutes University Council



Thursday, September 6, 2007
3 p.m., W1012 Science Bldg.

In preparation for the Faculty Meeting, Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Present:

Samuel Sullivan, Vice President for Academic Affairs, presiding.

Peggy Ruth Geren, Education; **Jeff Heck**, Faculty Secretary; **Helen Hendee**, Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations; **Donna Hobbs**, Arts and Sciences; Miguel Trujillo (**for Chad Iden**, Vice President of the Student Government Association); **Edgar Johnson**, Chair, Academic Policies Committee; **Joyce Jones**, Vice President for Student Services; **Isaac McAdams**, President of the Student Government Association; **William Nelson**, Director of the Library; **Robert Parham**, Dean of Arts and Sciences; **Cathy Tugmon**, Arts and Sciences; **Sandra Reinke**.

Vice-President Sullivan called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. The vice-president provided an introduction to the committee and led introductions of its members.

Agenda Items:

Dr. Sullivan requested a motion that the agenda be approved. Dr. William Nelson so moved; seconded by Dr. Edgar Johnson.

Vote: all in favor.

I. Approval of the Minutes from March 29, 2007, available at:

http://www.aug.edu/faculty_secretary/ucmin_03_29_2007_draft.pdf

Vote: The minutes were approved unanimously.

II. Academic Policies Committee – Dr. Edgar Johnson

1. Items for faculty vote

a. Dr. Johnson presented two items for consideration. The first was a recommendation to allow MBA students to take MATH 2210, Elementary Statistics, to fulfill their statistics requirement. (**See Attachment A**)

Discussion –

Documentation supporting the request was not available at the university council meeting, so Ms. Helen Hendee moved that the recommendation be placed on the faculty meeting agenda, subject to the documentation being made available for the faculty meeting agenda. Dr. Cathy Tugmon seconded the motion. Mr. Isaac McAdams asked if the course was as rigorous as other available alternatives. Dr. Tugmon asked if all the business faculty had voted in support of the measure. Dr. Johnson replied that they had. Dr. Tugmon felt that the business faculty would have noted any differences in the rigor of the courses.

Vote: all in favor for placement on the faculty meeting agenda

b. Dr. Johnson also introduced a recommendation from the Academic Policies Committee to join the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges consortium. (**See Attachment B**)

Discussion –

The move would allow deans to consider prior academic experience of military personnel for credit at Augusta State University. Dr. Sandra Reinke, who brought the measure to the APC, mentioned that joining the consortium will remove barriers for access for military personnel. The change will allow them to come to this institution rather than go to lower quality institutions. Department chairs will be able to look at the individual experiences of military members and decide whether to give them credit, give them credit toward free electives, or not give them credit. Dr. Reinke felt the measure is important to further improve and extend our relationship with Ft. Gordon.

Dr. Johnson said that he had spoken with Dr. Robert Flannigan, in English and Foreign Languages, and that some provision was already being made for credit in that department for foreign language courses. The point of this measure is to allow these credits to happen rather than mandate them. Decisions concerning credit will all be done in conjunction with the ACE handbook, which provides guidelines for awarding credit.

Dr. Reinke spoke with Columbus State about Ft. Benning, where they are doing something similar, and found that joining the consortium had little impact on that institution.

Dr. Robert Parham and Dr. William Nelson supported the measure, mentioning that we are the only peer institution not involved in the consortium.

Vote: all ayes to place the item on the faculty meeting agenda

III. Other Business

Prior to this meeting, Dr. Sullivan discussed the recent Board of Regents' changes concerning background checks and reporting of criminal charges with Dr. Carol Rychly, incoming chair of the Faculty Policies Committee. Based on his presentation of that discussion, he asked for a motion from the council.

Motion – to add an item to the faculty meeting agenda, inviting Mr. Walt Alexanderson to facilitate discussion of the recent Board of Regents' changes to background check and criminal charge reporting policies. Dr. Nelson so moved; Ms. Hendee seconded.

Vote– all ayes. The item is added to the faculty meeting agenda.

Attachments

Attachment A.

Item requiring faculty vote

1. **CHANGE:** MBA Foundation Courses pdf C0731

Attachment B.
Item requiring faculty vote

Improving Access for Military Personnel

The Problem: Military personnel move frequently. As a consequence, it can be quite difficult for them to meet residency requirements. And each move to a new location results in problems with transferring coursework. The bottom line is that military personnel face unique obstacles completing their education. One solution to this problem is the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges, or SOC.

What is SOC? SOC is a consortium of colleges and universities that voluntarily agree to take concrete steps to help military personnel complete their degrees.

What are the benefits of SOC membership?

1. If ASU joins SOC, we will remove a major barrier to access for military personnel, especially Army personnel. The U.S. Army has started a new system for payment of educational benefits called “Go Army Ed.” This is an automated system that pays for enrollment costs up front *provided the institution is a SOC member*. If the institution is NOT a member of SOC, the soldier must pay his or her educational costs up front and apply for reimbursement AFTER the semester is over. It can take anywhere from 60 to 90 days for a soldier to be reimbursed for these costs. This constitutes a significant barrier to enrolling at ASU. Joining SOC will remove that barrier.
2. Army Regulation 621-5 specifically prohibits institutions that are not SOC members from advertising, recruiting, or providing courses on an Army installation. Joining SOC removes those restrictions. At a minimum, this would open up the door for ASU to at least advertise its presence to personnel at Fort Gordon.

What do we have to do to join SOC? ASU already meets the six conditions for joining SOC. In addition, we must agree to the [SOC principles](#). These are outlined in four criterion dealing with transfer of credit, academic residency requirements, and crediting learning from military training and other sources. Currently, ASU meets all of these with one exception. ASU has not been using the [ACE Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services](#) to evaluate learning acquired in military schools. The ACE Guide provides *recommendations* for doing this. Individual department chairs would make the final decisions on the award of credit for such work. This is the only change ASU would need to make.

Who else belongs to SOC? Every USG school located near a military installation is a SOC member with one exception: ASU. A complete list of higher education institutions in Georgia that are SOC members is attached.

University System of Georgia Schools and SOC Members

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Albany State University
Armstrong Atlantic State University
Clayton State University
Coastal Georgia Community College
Columbus State University
Darton College
East Georgia College
Gainesville State College
Georgia College & State University
Georgia Perimeter College
Georgia Southern University
Georgia Southwestern State University
Middle Georgia College
North Georgia College & State University
Savannah State University
South Georgia College
University of West Georgia
Valdosta State University
Waycross College

- 20 out of 35 campuses are SOC members
- All system schools located near a major military installation are SOC members except ASU