

# Meeting Minutes: Committee on English

## Minutes

Academic Advisory Committee on English

January 24-25, 2008

Jolley Lodge, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, Georgia

**Representatives from USG Institutions in Attendance:** Bobbie Robinson, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College; Charles Heglar, Albany State University; David Wheeler, Armstrong Atlantic State University; Beverly Head, Atlanta Metropolitan College; Lillie Johnson, Augusta State University; Susan Hunter, Clayton State University; Barbara Hunt, Columbus State University; Mary Nielson, Dalton State College; Ulf Kirchdorfer, Darton College; Carmine Palumbo, East Georgia College; Patricia Worrall, Gainesville State College; Elaine Whitaker, Georgia College & State University; Jennifer Wunder, Georgia Gwinnett College; Lanelle Daniel, Georgia Highlands College; Carol Senf, Georgia Institute of Technology; Ted Wadley, Georgia Perimeter College; Curtis Ricker, Georgia Southern University; Margaret Ellington, Georgia Southwestern State University; Marti Singer, Georgia State University; Richard Baskin, Gordon College; Robert Barrier, Chair, Kennesaw State University; Debra Matthews, Macon State College; Crystal O'Leary, Middle Georgia College; Tanya Bennett, North Georgia College & State University; April Gentry, Savannah State University; Michael Fisher, South Georgia College; Mark Nunes, Southern Polytechnic State University; Jane Hill, University of West Georgia; Mark Smith, Valdosta State University; Sara Selby, Waycross College; Lisa Mallory, Atlanta Metropolitan College; Jason Mosser, Georgia Gwinnett College; Renva Watterson, Georgia Highlands College; Rebecca Burnett, Georgia Institute of Technology; Steve Raynie, Gordon College, and Greg Fraser, University of West Georgia.

**University System Office [Liaisons]:** Dorothy Zinsmeister, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Leslie Caldwell, Director of the Regents' Testing Program .0006 .6(f)tal Of iWeR CoBt9(





9:15 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Subcommittee Reports:

Each chair of a subcommittee reported when called upon by Dr. Barrier (see attached for details).

The Regents Testing Subcommittee reported first, and the report generated an extensive discussion of the changes relating to the Regents' Test:

Dr. Caldwell addressed the concern of students being automatically put into remedial courses. He stated that "students that score 50 or below on the reading portion of the test will probably go directly into remediation. Students who score that low have a 15% chance of passing the Regents' Test."

Members of the committee expressed concern regarding the reading portion of the test: remediation for a score that low; extreme accommodations, and additional time were some of the issues raised.

Barbara Hunt commented that Columbus State is using a new reading software, a computerized reading program that is very expensive. ACE members who are interested in the software should contact [irvin\\_terry@columbusstate.edu](mailto:irvin_terry@columbusstate.edu).

Bobbie Robinson questioned whether there is a any correlation between students who exit learning support reading and a high or low score on the test.

Curtis Ricker also expressed concern about students making good grades and not passing the test. "What is it about the test?"

Other issues raised include people who are t

Caldwell suggested that “the reason for the test is the same as it was in 1972 and offered a brief history of the test.”

The Freshman English Subcommittee reported next.

Ulf Kirchdorfer and others questioned whether the Regents’ Test should be administered during the first semester, and a discussion followed with several members agreeing that the test is being given too early. The possibility of an advanced composition course as part of the core or a writing across the curriculum course was also discussed.

The Sophomore committee reported next, and a discussion of the potential impact of the changes to the core curriculum at the University of Georgia began, especially as they relate to the Area C literature elective and transferability.

10:00-10:15 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m. Dr. Ron Balthazar and Dr. Robert Cummings provided updates on the Electronic Markup Management Application, the <emma> project. Dr. Balthazar provided a brief history of <emma>.

The online portfolio encourages process writing, and the assessment is tied to the *St. Martin’s Handbook*, integrates instructor feedback, and allows for peer review. Other rubrics and handbooks may also be used with <emma>.

Balthazar and Cummings announced an opportunity for schools to participate in the program by “volunteering for at least four sections of composition, creating a consortium of interested institutions.” If interested, institutions should contact [cummings\\_robert1@colstate.edu](mailto:cummings_robert1@colstate.edu)

Turnitin.com may be used as usual with <emma>;the portfolio is owned by the institution, and institutions may download <emma> to try it. After the <emma> presentation and questions and answers, there was a brief break.

11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. General Business, Elections, and Wrap-Up

The group discussed the possibility of having two meetings, one in October and another in January or April, rather than just one. The discussion will was tabled.

Leslie Caldwell and Bob Barrier agreed to establish a listserv for the committee.

A discussion of tenure and salary compression followed. Individual presidents are now responsible for tenure. There was agreement that we have to do a better job of showing what we do. The lack of tenure at Georgia Gwinnett College was also discussed.

Mark Smith mentioned a salary survey that was done at Valdosta State University based on discipline, rank, baseline salary, and phasing over three years.

The Executive Committee nominated Dr. Curtis Ricker for chair-elect and recorder.

Bobbie Robinson moved to close the nominations, and Ulf Kirchdorfer seconded it. The motion was unanimous.

Dr. Barrier turned the meeting over to Debra Matthews, who will serve as the new chair.

Dr. Matthews thanked Dr. Barrier for serving as chair and told the group that she looks forward

**Subcommittee Reports:****Report from Freshman English Subcommittee:**

Attendance: LaNelle Daniel (Georgia Highlands), Lillie Johnson (Augusta State), Crystal O'Leary (Middle Georgia College), Mary Nielsen (Dalton State), Steve Raynie (Gordon), April Gentry (Savannah State)

The Subcommittee on Freshman English met for about 45 minutes and submits three areas of

**Report from Sophomore Subcommittee: Mark Smith, Chair**

Sophomore Subcommittee Members Present: Mark Smith (Valdosta State), Debra Matthews (Macon State), and Renva Watterson (Georgia Highlands)

The subcommittee discussed the core curriculum changes, especially the changes in the University of Georgia core curriculum. Mark Smith expressed concern about the English literature requirement in Area C not being a part of the new curriculum at UGA and concerns about transferability.

The group also discussed academic advising and the need for advising to be ongoing.

**Major Programs Committee: Ted Wadley, Chair**

Major Programs Committee Members Present: Tanya Bennett (North Georgia College & State University); Charles Heglar (Albany State University); Jane Hill (University of West Georgia); Susan Hunter (Clayton State University), Mark Nunes (Southern Polytechnic State University), Carol Senf (Georgia Tech), Ted Wadley (Georgia Perimeter College), and Elaine Whitaker (Georgia College & State University)

The committee discussed the strategic plan and the core curriculum.

The committee also discussed Area F. Georgia College and State University includes a Shakespeare course in Area F.

**Testing Subcommittee: Patricia Worrall, Chair**

Regents Testing ACE Subcommittee Members Present: Bob Barrier (Kennesaw State University), Leslie Caldwell (Board of Regents), Margaret Ellington (Georgia Southwestern State University), Greg Fraser (University of West Georgia), Beverly Head (Atlanta Metropolitan College), Ulf Kirchdorfer (Darton College), Lisa Mallory (Atlanta Metropolitan College), Carmine Palumbo (East Georgia College), Curtis Ricker (Georgia Southern University), Bobbie Robinson (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College), Marti Singer (Georgia State University), Jennifer Wunder (Georgia Gwinnett College),



- Leslie Caldwell addressed concerns about the prospect of schools being mandated to place students in remedial courses if they fail the Regents exam in their first term at college. He suggested that he does not know of plans to mandate such remediation.

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