

## Regents Advisory Council on Records and Admissions (RACRA)

### Fall Meeting Minutes

10/20/2016

Meeting opened at 10:01 by RACRA Chair Brian Dawsey. Brian introduced Rebecca Gmeiner from Clayton State as Vice Chair and Katie Ross from University of West Georgia as Secretary. Brian did a roll call of schools in attendance and allowed them to introduce themselves, as well as representatives from the Board of Regents. Brian reviewed the agenda, and there were a few corrections to the minutes of the Spring 2016 RACRA meeting: one in the vice-chair's name and spelling, one in Sarah Wenham being in attendance (she was not in attendance), one in the spelling of RACRA, and one noting that Amanda Marshall was actually the presenter on XE Degree Works. After corrections, minutes were accepted.

#### **HB 801**

Rich Loftus and Tracey Ireland introduced themselves and began presentation on House Bill 801. One USG update: concept of working together as institutions for standardized processing; this began with Financial Aid. 14 institutions have signed on with product called Campus Logic. Verification can now happen on mobile devices. Albany State is processing verifications this way.

Prior Prior Year – using the 2015 tax return for students who apply for 17/18 aid. Early FAFSA introduced. Backs up the window of time in which a student can submit a FAFSA to October 1. Number of institutions will be operating 3 aid years at one time. Ellucian is supposed to deliver software for processing of FAFSAs in the next two weeks so that verification can begin. UGA already had 2,400 (or 2,200) FAFSAs to process. Challenges included: HOPE processing, as well as tuition and fees, as well as early packaging, as well as deadlines; GSFC has delivered a pre-HOPE list because FAFSA is so early. Tuition and fees aren't typically decided on until April. \$106 increase to Pell.

Communication to students (both new and returning) to make sure they all know about the FA changes.

Quality Assurance – schools would not have to verify as many FAFSAs (10%). Program is going away, though it was remarkably successful. Many schools (9) will be verifying TRIPLE the amount of FAFSAs as before because QA is going away. Financial Aid office is now going to have to verify MORE because of prior prior year (399 code).

Need Based Aid – SREB and Lumina are going to work on bringing awareness to need-based aid. Some 30,000 students a year are dropped for need-based aid (based on 2014 numbers, does not include those who are reinstated). Looking at drop for non-payment process (multiple drops, reinstatement), looking at new strategies and bringing consistency across the system to the process.

Audience discussion about being caught in between “dropping too many people” and finances...what type of student is being held/dropped? (MOWR – students should be memoed...auditors didn't count memo as being paid; veterans/GI Bill). Discussion of education of the auditors and how the process should be consistent. Discussion of students “working the system” every semester or year.

Financial Aid audits are going to begin happening EVERY YEAR starting AY 17.

HB 801, effective Fall Term 2016. Focus on Section 2 of the Bill.

Section 1 – adds course that satisfies rigor requirements, became effective July 1, 2016.

Section 3 – changes how the HOPE Scholarship annual award amount is calculated. The bill changes this calculation to a percentage of the actual tuition paid by the student. Goes into effect 2020.

Section 2 – goes into effect Fall 2017. Grades of B, C, or D are given an additional 0.5 point weight. Courses required for or leading to employment (STEM) – list of courses will be determined. Governor's Task Force (legislators and members of GSFC) has been created to create the list, met 3 times, focusing on course list so far. Nearly 1500 courses in USG ONLY. Will be over 3000 courses across USG, TCSG, and private. Some courses are repeated. General Assembly may drop or change courses over time.

Discussion of having the course weight apply REGARDLESS of if student is assigned to that specific major. Weight will stay with student as long as they are in the University System. Only applies to coursework BEGINNING Fall 2017 and after. Only applies to students who attend Georgia schools.

Every institution has a STEM Coordinator. Focus on technology and implementation standpoint after the course list is developed. Discussion of creating a Z form to identify if the course is weighted.

Discussion of 3000 level courses, some courses could be taken at different points...it doesn't matter when the student takes the courses. They will get the weight if it's on the course list.

SACSCOC Special Review –

They will be reviewing Low Graduation Rates (less than 25%, less than half of the national average of the graduation rates of the sector that your school is in) and High Student Loan Default Rates (greater than 15%).

Enrollment Management RACEM – Kick off meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Limit 5 reps from each institution to attend. Discussion: drop for non-payment, test scores for Admissions criteria, Financial Aid changes, academics. Meeting will be a jumping off point to look at Enrollment Management holistically (get the academic side talking to the enrollment side). Dr. Joyce Jones is working on the agenda, and it will be sent out soon. Rich will ask if the meeting can be a WebEX.

[Tracey.ireland@usg.edu](mailto:Tracey.ireland@usg.edu) [rich.loftus@usg.edu](mailto:rich.loftus@usg.edu) with questions or concerns.

### **Transient Updates**

Chris Ferland (slideshow not available) – Transient Task Force was created. In Handbook, transient status is only for one term (clarified in handbook). Student has to be in good academic standing, must have permission from home and receiving institution. Student cannot be denied Admissions at the receiving institution if they need learning support, but you can require other admissions requirements. If they take the learning support course as a co-requisite at receiving institution; the home institution

must accept it as learning support credit. The visiting institution has to confirm lawful presence and immunization. The student has to make payments and check on course equivalency. There was not consensus on making a standard form. It is not mandatory for schools to list classes. Slideshow will be sent out to RACRA listserv.

### **New SAT Updates (notes loosely taken on this section, since Sarah sent out powerpoint presentation)**

Sarah Wenham, Rachana Bhatt, and Amanda Marshall from the USG began presentation of New SAT Updates.

March 2016 was 1<sup>st</sup> administration of the new SAT. The scoring structure between the old and the new are significantly different. System office was looking at what the appropriate test scores were for SAT. Math SAT was easy because College Board provide concordance tables.

English was more difficult because there is no concordance between Critical Reading and Evidence Based Reading and Writing.

Analysis was conducted by Research and Policy Analysis staff in Spring 2016. Their goal was to develop research-based guidance for use of New SAT in Admissions Requirements, Freshman Index, and Learning Support Placement Indices.

Two proposed phases: I Summer 2016 to Spring 2017; II Spring 2017 and Beyond

Phase 1 has been implemented: Maintain Old SAT minimum scores/formulas using Old SAT. Convert New SAT scores to Old SAT scores using College Board Concordance.

Phase 2 – what are the challenges?

Option 1: (implemented) Use New Section Scores and develop minimum/formulas accordingly – but there is no concordance between New ERW and Old CR

Option 2: (not implemented yet) Use New Test Scores and develop threshold/formulas accordingly – But student/counselors/administrators used to section scores and Old Writing was never used – continue to ignore?

Considerations:

Hold students harmless

New SAT scores can't be tied to USG outcomes for another year

Establish Old W minimum to then concord with New Writing and Language minimum

Examine consequences for Admissions, FI, Learning Support Placement

Data that they looked at:

Students that entered USG between Fall 12 and Fall 14

Looked at Old W and CR scores

Looked at Grade received in Engl 1101/1102

Looked at Cumulative GPA

Analysis Part 1 – what is the success in English and GPA at the old CR minimum? – Average Pass Rate: English 1101 – 56%, 1102 – 60%, Average GPA 2.5 – Finding: A 430 W matches English 1101 (1102) pass rates and average GPA.

Analysis Part 2 – what does a 430 CR/430 W minimum look like? Potential option AND or OR requirement or combine CR and W

To answer this, constructed average English pass rates and average GPA for all combinations of CR and W scores

Presented Grid showing Analysis Part 2 – broken into quadrants

And requirement 430 CR and 430 Writing minimum would harm students we currently admit.

Or requirement 430 CR OR 430 Writing minimum would not harm students and would also include more students. Writing is better predictor of success, so those new students admitted would actually do quite good.

Combined requirement 860 Critical Reading and Writing which would harm students we currently admit.

Analysis Part 3 –

Example given of complicated process for Freshman Index calculation. There is no direct way to map freshman indexes.

Recommendations:

Amend Phases Phase 1 – Summer 2016 to Summer 2020 – use existing cutoffs/formulas, for admissions, FI, other placement indices. Convert New SAT scores to Old using College Board Concordance. Use M, CR. Optional to include W.

Fall 2020 and Beyond – System office will study relationship between New Scores and first year student success

Test Score Requirements:

Old SAT minimum score requirements will remain in effect through Summer 2020.

Research, Comprehensive, State – 430 CR/400 M

State Colleges – 330 CR/310 M

Students taking the new SAT must meet the equivalent of the above.

Research, Comprehensive, State – 24 Reading/22 Math\*

State Colleges – 19 Reading/ 18 Math\*

\*or equivalent new SAT Math section score

Discussion of how new scores are being communicated to students. Discussion of all 18 scores being entered into SOATEST. Discussion of new ACT scores.

Writing/Writing and Language and Presidential Exceptions

Institutions may, at their discretion, consider a student's old SAT W section score or new SAT W&L test score as evidence for potential success and make them a Presidential Exception.

Dual Enrollment

The current BOR DE requirement of 970 Total (CR = M) will remain in effect through Summer 202.

For new SAT test-takers:

The Reading test score must be converted to an old SAT Critical Reading section score.

The Math test score must be converted to an old SAT Math section score.

Then scores are added together resulting in the 970 minimum. Old SAT Total does not equal New SAT Total.

Freshman Index and EPI/MPI Calculator

Old SAT – scores entered directly into the SAT FI formula and EPI/MPI calculator

New SAT – scores first converted to Old SAT THEN entered into calculator

Superscoring Across the Old and New SAT

- College Board does not recommend that schools super score across the Old and New SAT. USG supports that position.

ADC Considerations

All new SAT scores must be loaded into Banner, including those not use in Admissions decisions

The codes provided in DED must be used.

Institutions opting to store converted scores in Banner may do so but must: store the original raw scores with accurate test code, date and score. Retain the accurate test date with the converted scores.

## Communicating Requirements

The College Board recommends providing score requirements in terms of both the old and the new SAT and avoiding directing students to the concordance tables.

USG is in the process of updating BOR policy and the ASAH (Academic and Student Affairs Handbook) and other materials.

## Freshman Index Calculation

SAT Freshman Index formula is unchanged and in effect through Summer 2020.

FI formula review will be completed in Summer 2018.

Student submitting old SAT scores...no change in calculation or requirements.

## ZORINDC or ZOAINDP

Students submitted new SAT scores – convert Reading test score (S13 to S01) and Math (S12 (might be S15) to S02)...use existing formula

Released with Banner Student Information version 8.8.2

SAT Score conversion –

SAT Concordance tables for Higher Ed

Test Score Equivalency Form (SOATEQU) – there is no delivered script to populate equivalencies.

Enter new SAT (S13) on Test Score Information Form (SOATEST). Save and refresh screen to see equivalent test/score (S01) added to SOATEST with equivalency indicator.

## Information and Discussion

Discussion reconvened after lunch at 1:04.

Amanda Marshall announced that S15 is correct for the Math portion of NEW SAT in SOATEST

**Information Items: (updates over the last year or so, more detailed notes available on powerpoints Sarah sent out)**

**Out of State Tuition Waivers – Active Duty** – changes were approved in March 2016 and include: policy now states that a student coming from high school to a USG institution would be considered continuously enrolled (a break of no more than a traditional academic semester); policy now includes dependent children of a military sponsor stationed in GA within the last five years and/or the child completed at least one year in a Georgia high school; now includes any student utilizing VA educational benefits transferred from a currently serving military member (further notes about OOS Tuition Waivers – RSM section in presentation Sarah sent out) Discussion on whether or not students who receive a

military waiver are eligible to receive HOPE. Active Duty and Reserve Duty waivers do not any longer require recertification.

**Presidential Waiver** – each institution has to set their own procedures and guidelines, and they have to be approved by the BOR.

### **OOS Tuition Waivers – Border Residents**

Border State Residents waivers was added. Border County and State residents waiver does not require annual recertification. For the Border State waiver, apply the same requirements that would be applied to a GA student requesting an in-state classification in GA but for the border state. You can accept driver's licenses from Border States for Border State Residents receiving waivers as long as you research when that Border State started requiring lawful presence and confirm the license was issued AFTER that date.

### **Satisfying RHSC Deficiencies**

Special Admissions:

EPI and MPI scores exempting LS placement satisfy a deficiency in the corresponding area.

Exiting LS satisfies a deficiency in the corresponding area.

### **International Baccalaureate Policy Change –**

Removed requirement that IB diploma must be earned for a student to receive IB credit.

Credit for IB no longer limited to 24 semester hours.

Changes were approved in the Oct 2016 BOR meeting.

### **Academic Calendar Policy Change –**

BOR Policy 3.4 – Calendar of Academic Activities

Change to allow more flexibility for alternative term lengths. Changes were approved in the October 2016 BOR meeting.

### **TCSG/USG General Ed Transfer –**

List of course guaranteed transfer between TCSH and USG institutions.

Accessed the list from Academic and Student Affairs Handbook. TCSG Articulation Advisory group was formed in 2016. Advisory group agreed to add ECON 2105 and ECON 2106; these can now transfer to USG (effective for students taking courses Fall 2016 forward)

### **SACSCOC Accreditation Requirement –**

SACS requires that you publish ALL admissions policies (including limited admissions) online. USG is working on communication to send out with guidelines.

### **Unique Dual Enrollment Course Numbers**

These numbers were created to: give alignment when there is not sufficient similarity between the college course and an actual high school course AND to provide another high school credit option when a student has already received credit for the matched/aligned high school course. This should have made the course approval process a little easier. DOE states that college course can count for the 4<sup>th</sup> required course

### **Dual Enrollment Fs for Ws**

Department of Education sent out some kind of information that if a student withdraws from their college course they will get an F for that course for high school. Apparently, the high schools have been doing this all along, but the communication that went out to DE students has caused some confusion. DOE is working on clarification, and Sarah will send out that clarification to RACRA listserv.

Conversation –

Previous DE 30+ Hours Completed:

Admitting former Dual Enrollment students with 30+ transferable hours – policy gives flexibility to either use freshman or transfer requirements. Should students be coded as a freshman or transfer?

Discussion of why should students be penalized if they meet transfer requirements. Sarah took informal survey of how many people treat DE with 30+ hours as freshman and how many treat them as transfer. No consensus reached. RHSC coding discussion will take place in Spring.

### DE/MOWR – Programming/Coding

How do you determine if the college programming/coding courses assigned a unique DE number can satisfy the Foreign Language area of the RHSC or count as the 4<sup>th</sup> science? - Give it a year you'll see it, we'll talk about it again.

RHSC Status Coding – In light of the changes approved in August 2014 and September 2016, we need to ensure that policy is correct.

RHSC – coding for ZOAGARP needs to be consistent and redefined. Discussion of what level of detail is needed to show whether or not a student has satisfied RHSC requirements. Consensus reached that only two types of codes needed one for satisfied through test and one for satisfied through college course. No concerns for rebuilding codes and descriptions.

RHSC Proposal –

RHSC Challenges –

Georgia public high school students

Foreign Language

4<sup>th</sup> Science

Mathematics

Out-of-State students –

Mainly applies to science and foreign language courses

“We have to preserve the integrity of the RHSC.”

Goal: to preserve the integrity of RHSC while giving institutions the flexibility to work with students with deficiencies.

Proposed Solution: Create an RHSC Exception admission category (would not count against limited admits or presidential exceptions). Has not been approved yet.

What would this look like?

Students may have a mx of 4 RHSC unit deficiencies (with only 1 deficiency in math, English, science, and social studies and no more than 2 in FL

Evidence of special potential to succeed not required

Students would need to meet all other regular admission requirements.

There would be RHSC Exception cap but separate from the Limited Admission Cap.

Cap requested by the institutions and approved by USO academic affairs.

New Admit type code would be established. IF APPROVED. No one is opposed to this moving forward. Update will be provided during the next meeting.

GED Alternatives –

Request to revise BOR policy/ASAH to allow HiSET and TASC. With changes to the GED in 2014, many states have switched to TASC and/or HiSET or added those to GED option. Question – do we want to rewrite policy?

Possible new wording? State-issued high school equivalency certificate; state-issued diploma; HiSET, TASC, or GED score report... discussion that wording needing to say “state-issued;” discussion of need for new code for scores in SOATEST and the need for direction from USG on how to enter and what code to use

Denial Referrals Project –

Does your institution refer applicants not meeting your admission requirements to other USG institutions? Mixed bag of responses, some institutions have a process where they informally state that students can attend a 2-year institutions and some send directly to named institutions.

GA Futures Updates – see Sarah’s presentation – Discussion of high school transcripts not downloading correctly. Keep Sarah and USG in the loop when problems are encountered. Will a new vendor be used? Discussions to happen...focus on what the issues with the XAP app are. Potential agenda items for XAP User Conference

Question: is prior approval required for TCSG? Maybe because of multiple levels of Math testing?

#### Questions and Discussion regarding FLSA

Round table discussion will happen at GACRAO

Some schools are “busting their budget” to pay time and a half to recruiters; comp time can be utilized over the Summer/December. No direction was given from the system office. Email and texting is considered work. Some schools are being more strategic and lessening visits. Travel time?

Admission of ITT Tech Students and acceptance of their transfer credits – discussion of what institutions are doing about ITT Tech credit (all documents are on College Source); some institutions are still accepting their credit and treating them the same

“Unofficial Withdrawal” processing (R2T4 at EOT) and submission to the Clearinghouse – students who stop attending class are supposed to be put in Clearinghouse based on last work completed and marked as “not attending” in Clearinghouse. Rich Loftus and Tracey Ireland will get clarification of what requirements are.

Coding of ZOAGARP and SOATEST using the new Accuplacer – question of whether or not institutions are using Accuplacer codes or not.

Question of how we are handling programs for minors and whether or not there are overnight programs and if the people interacting with those students have background checks.

Meeting closed at 2:59pm.