

Minutes

RACRA – FALL MEETING

October 24, 2013, Middle Georgia State College, Math Auditorium

Meeting called to order at 10:11 am by chair Donna Webb (ABAC). She welcomed the group and started the introduction phase for new and/or first time RACRA attendees.

Officers: Donna Haley and Justin Barlow both from the University of West Georgia were unanimously approved to serve as secretary and co-chair respectively.

Our chair went on to discuss the rules for engagement – beating the dead horse. Once the horse is knocked over, we move on and, she also presented session medicines to help soothe the soul (Halloween candy) and introduced the group to the infamous “dammit doll”

After thunderous laughter, the chair began the agenda.

First up was Dr. Joyce Jones, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Dr. Jones gave a round of applause to the group for surviving the hectic aspects of fall semester. She continued with the following announcements:

1. Enrollment across the system is down about 1%. Official Enrollment figures will be released and discussed next week during the Vice Presidents’ meeting.
2. Kudos to Savannah State – ran out of student housing so it has been a good year!
3. Summer Bridge Programs are coming along – implementation is USG system wide
4. New Hires/Searches
 - a. David Snow, Military Certification Officer – will assist those military friendly schools and any others that can use his expertise.
 - b. Search continues for an International Education person. The system hopes to have someone on board by January.
5. Introduced Doug Hyche, Customer Relationship Manager and Deidre Crawford, Associate Director, Applications Support
6. Mentioned the USG continuing efforts to remove student barriers to success. The Task Force is dedicated to this initiative.
7. Special recognition and applause for Sarah Wenham for the outstanding work at Summit. Sarah hosted numerous sessions on tuition classification.
8. Encouraged all to read the CCG plans. The plans are on the USG site and some are very well prepared.

One member inquired about the ADC preliminary numbers and when would the actual release of numbers occur and why no press release concerning the preliminary numbers issued. Dr. Jones replied that the press release didn’t happen due to a miscommunication at the board. The actual numbers should be available next week.

Dr. Chris Ferland, Senior Research Associate, added that the preliminary numbers available in all the reports right now will not affect institutions as the board will use census numbers to calculate FTE, budget figures and other enrollment related projections.

Dr. Barbara Brown, Associate Vice Chancellor for Transitional and General Education was introduced as the next speaker. Dr. Brown covered the items below:

1. College Completion (3 Parts) – initiatives from presentation to Academic Affairs and Vice Presidents.
 - a. Transforming Remediation
 - i. Change picture for remedial students – co-requisite strategy, develop a year-long math pathways for students with signs of gaps in preparation
 - ii. Develop multiple measures to place students in gateway math and English courses and provide appropriate support
 - iii. Create combined reading/writing coursed using co-requisite approach
 - b. 15 to Finish – fewer graduate not taking 15 hours. The push is for students to enroll in 15 hours to reduce cost to degree, sometimes drastically. University of North Georgia has created a brochure – “Learn More, Save More”. Dr. Brown has numbers for all institutions if you would like your numbers, please request them from Dr. Brown.
 - i. Dr. Brown clarified that financial aid uses 12 hours to qualify students as full time. The 15 hour push is so that the student will graduate on time.
 - ii. What can we do?
 1. Use block scheduling for freshman
 2. Implement financial incentives advertise disincentives for 15 credit hours at your institution
 3. Set 15 as “new norm”
 4. Be sure students complete math and English in first year
 - c. Reverse Transfer – awarding Associate Degree to students who completed hours at another institution. The focus is on the associate degree. More information will be out in within the year.
 - i. Members mentioned core curriculum barrier
 - ii. Dr. Brown asked for feedback on the initiative
2. Houston Davis has endorsed terminating the use of COMPASS as an exit exam. More guidance forthcoming as transfers from TCSG still pose an issue. Some institutions have been given permission to terminate – more terminate math than English.
 - a. Members requested a list of those institutions which have stopped the exit exam. Dr. Brown will work on getting a list together and out to the members.
 - b. Institutions unsure about the testing status should decide in favor of the student.

Sarah Wenham presented information concerning:

1. Out of state Tuition Waivers – explained changes to the Recently Separated Military Waiver. Students already living in the state or come to the state after being separated are okay.
 - a. Superior Out of State Waiver – Can be divided 50% to one and 50% to another. UGA and ABAC were already doing this. Members must work with their Bursar to develop detail code and can contact either UGA or ABAC for help with this setup.

- b. Military Waiver – Students can continue on waiver if service member is no longer in Georgia at the time of entrance.
 - c. The system will soon be reviewing the Economic Advantage Waiver to make it more accessible to the student population.
 - d. Preparations to update the FAQ and manual are in progress.
2. Admissions Applications – Math Support II has been extended for 1 year (CPC). 2014 will be last class approved to receive this extension.
 3. All State Colleges were asked to initial the minimum test score sheet located at the stage.
 4. GFSC exploring options to update GA 411 and will be sending out a request for survey to institutions for feedback on the site. Sarah opened the floor for feedback <likes/wish list>
 - a. Live chat feature (add)
 - b. Better technical support
 - c. Improve fee payment submission
 - d. Save for later option
 - e. Reduction in App size or dynamic(interactive) Elucian Recruiter – “intelliworks” mentioned as possible solution
 - f. Improve service level in general
 - i. Cannot register if international
 - ii. Slow/No response in timely manner
 - iii. Admission Offices have no control
 - g. Flexibility – control, fee waivers, residency
 5. Explore interest in common application if 411 app went away – another vendor? College Net? GFSC putting together some focus groups and some institutions may be tapped for response. Sarah encouraged all to respond to the email and give feedback.

The meeting continued with topics submitted by individual institutions:

ABAC – Amy Willis

- Social Security Penalty Fee – some were experiencing the same issue of being fined for not having documentation or proof that documentation had been requested. Mentioned if questions related to SSN could be added to the 411 application.
- Waivers and Surveys – how are they coded – most had list
- BOR Overlay Requirements – need list of classes from all institutions since some institutions require more than one course to satisfy the overlay requirement(s). Dr. Brown will take concerns forward to Education Council. Requested that the group email her with issues so she could make the chair of the committee aware of concerns.
- Regents GPA on transcript – discussion revealed that the gpa is needed for HOPE calculations.

Columbus State – John McElveen

- CGC Metrics – Are transfers within the system no longer a negative when institutional retention and completion rates are calculated? Question answered privately by Chris Ferland. The answer will also be covered in the funding summary given later by Chris.

The meeting dismissed for lunch at 12:08 pm

Meeting reconvened at 1:10 pm

Fort Valley State – Johnny Nimes

- Seeking Best Practices (gathering information)
 - Transient Students – Financial Aid?
 - ABAC & Albany State provided feedback
 - List of Non- Accredited High Schools
 - West Evaluation Process, College Board and ACT were give as solutions
 - Name of expert for International student process to serve as mentor
 - One institution volunteered privately
 - Purging old apps for admission
 - Few purge old apps from Banner and/or Xtender

Georgia Southern – Donna Webb for Wayne Smith (absent)

- USG Transcript concern that the quality points moves to the next line
 - Dr. Jones asked Deidre Crawford to look into the status of a print solution to alleviate the issue. Deidre mentioned that one was in development and should be released soon.

University of West Georgia – Justin Barlow

- Justin solicited BOR support of an addition to Apply to College Effort – Online College Fair for USG Schools through College Week Live. He stated that participation would give the student another option to attend this fair. He displayed a step process on how it works, discussed roles and responsibilities and offered to email the listserv with details to solicit interest and possibly implementing a focus group. Justin will also confirm costs.
 - Most thought vendor will not commit to freebies, percentage of return not worth cost-time investment, mentioned reviving “Pro-Choice (Choosing Options in Careers and Education)

A brief period of open discussion included:

1. A request for the BOR to review policy on out-of-state tuition. The rate for an out of state student has increased over 200% while the ratio paid by the state for in-state has been reduced to less than half. Walter requested a platform to present this discussion.
2. Approval of contracts, how others are handling
3. Transfer Credit – How are institutions keying information from consolidated schools
4. Mini Core – Accepting courses outside of mini core from out-of-state institutions
5. Walter made motion for a return to the once a year “overnight” session. Many applauded in agreement.

The open discussion concluded with Dr. Jones and Brown saying they would address these concerns during the vice presidents meeting next week.

BOR Updates – Chris Ferland

- First generation information – collected on application mapped to attribute table/screen
- Funding commission – categories = Adult Learner Progression, transfer out (NSC) and remedial success.
- Ed Prep – 25 new data elements will be added to the ADC for school who have an education certification program (CIPC = 13). Encouraged all to attend one of the scheduled WIMBA sessions.
- Distance Ed- New Codes on the way – new way of categorizing instructional methods
- Waivers – Ouch! More mapping forthcoming
- ADC Timeline Escalation Path – presented overview of extraction escalation path for schools not meeting ADC extraction deadlines.

Sarah Wenham polled the members on how to handle out of state /private high school students that complete the Physical Science requirement in the 8th grade.

- Majority responded that it needs to appear on the high school transcript to be marked completed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm