

**Minutes of the Academic  
Advisory Committee on Mathematical Subjects (ACMS)  
Meeting**

March 5-6, 2015

Mathematics Building Auditorium,  
Middle Georgia State College, Macon Campus  
100 College Station Drive, Macon, GA 31206

**Attendees**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Representative</b>
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College	Melanie Partlow
Albany State University	Seyed Roosta
Armstrong Atlantic State University	James Brawner
Atlanta Metropolitan College	Gyuheui Choi
Bainbridge College	
BOR University System Office Liaison	Ravhana Bhatt
Clayton State University	Anthony Giovannitti
College of Coastal Georgia	German Vargas
Columbus State University	
Dalton State College	
Darton College	Anthony P. Smith
East Georgia College	John Blackburn
Fort Valley State University	Dawit Aberra
Georgia College & State University	Robert A. Blumenthal
Georgia Gwinnett College	Alvina Atkinson
Georgia Highlands College	Brent Griffin
Georgia Institute of Technology	
Georgia Perimeter College	Robby Williams
Georgia Regents University	Neal Smith
Georgia Southern University	Sharon Taylor
Georgia Southwestern State University	
Georgia State University	Valerie Miller
Gordon State College	Nolan McMurray
Kennesaw State University	
Middle Georgia State College	Mary Wolfe
Savannah State University	Samuel Dolo
South Georgia State College	
Southern Polytechnic State University	
University of Georgia	
University of North Georgia	John Cruthirds
University of West Georgia	
Valdosta State University	Greg Harrell

The meeting convened at 1:15 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2015 at the Mathematics Building Auditorium at the Macon campus of Middle Georgia State College. Dr. German Vargas started the meeting with welcoming remarks. This was followed by introductions of the representatives present at the meeting.

Barbara Brown and Rachana Bhatt (both from the system office) gave a presentation and led a discussion on Charting the Course-MPI. Highlights of this presentation/discussion are below.

- USG institutions must provide Learning Support for students as corequisites to college level courses: MATH 1001, MATH 1101, or MATH 1111.
- The majority of students requiring remediation must be placed in corequisite courses.
- Getting students on the correct path remains to be a challenge.
- How do we get the message to advisors on which path is correct for students? The system office is meeting with other advisory committees, but has not received a clear message on which course is most appropriate. We should meet with other departments on campus to explain to them which course is most appropriate. A suggestion was made to go to our provost to get buy-in, and then approach the individual departments. This worked well for Middle Georgia College.
- MPI scores were presented and explained.
- A question was raised regarding the different scales used for EPI and MPI. Rachana responded that this difference is consistent with the current scales used for COMPASS scores.

Merryll Penson, Executive Director of Library Services, gave a presentation on Affordable Learning Georgia-Open Educational Resources. Highlights of this presentation/discussion are below.

- She presented some information about how students view the use of a textbook and things they do to avoid purchasing a textbook.
- Textbooks can affect student success. They spend an average of \$1200 a year on textbooks. 65% of students decide not to buy a textbook because it is too expensive.
- OER textbooks are currently now being used in the eCore program.
- Grants have been available to encourage USG faculty to develop OER resources and texts.
- ALG is also looking at making content purchasing.
- There was a question about how robust the resources are that are being developed. Merryll responded that the materials are peer reviewed and should be vetted accordingly.

*Both presentations were made available to ACMS via email on 03/13/2015.*

German Vargas led a discussion on ALG Math Initiatives throughout the USG. He started by sharing the College of Coastal Georgia experience with OER. CCG were using the Larson textbook for College Algebra, and the textbook cost around \$350. They reviewed some materials at OpenStax and completed a pilot on their statistics course. They are also preparing to use OER for college algebra and other courses (trigonometry and precalculus). The students at CCG would save about \$400,000 (this is if the students were to purchase the previously assigned textbooks).

There is also some activity regarding OER at Armstrong Atlantic State University (for Calculus I, II, and III), University of North Georgia (for learning support courses and Calculus I), Georgia College and State University (College Algebra), Albany State University (Precalculus), and Fort Valley State University (Calculus I).

There was also a brief conversation about system licenses for Maple, Mathematica, and other programs. There was a recommendation to include this as a question on the next textbook survey.

The ACMS has been approached to see if anyone is interested in serving on a team to develop a 4<sup>th</sup> year computer science course that will satisfy the 4<sup>th</sup> year high school math requirement. This course was not approved through the ACMS, so students taking this course would have a CPC deficiency in math.

German proceeded to the next item on the agenda. He lead a discussion on whether or not to make MATH 1113 Precalculus a common course. Although we all use the same course number, we all do not cover the same content. Perhaps we should consider using the course as a buffer to make sure all students are prepared for Calculus. We might also consider just making sure institutions are using the appropriate course for what they teach. In other words, if they are only teaching trigonometric concepts, then they should call the course MATH 1112 and not MATH 1113. This discussion was then differed to the Curriculum and Transfer of Credit Subcommittee.

Subcommittee meetings were held from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened on Friday, March 6, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. with the approval of the 2014 ACMS meeting minutes, and the following subcommittee reports:

- Assessment of the Major
  - The subcommittee members discussed polling the ACMS members to find out how the major is assessed at each institution.
- Distance Learning
  - The subcommittee read a resolution that was on the USG website regarding the expansion of eCore courses on all the campuses. They also remembered that the math courses developed for eCore had not been

formally reviewed by the ACMS. And although the courses were created by USG faculty, some of the courses were created as early as 2001, and may not reflect the most recent updates to certain courses. Perhaps we should contact the folks at eCore and invite them to our meetings so that they will be aware of changes and updates to the math courses.

- Curriculum and Transfer of Credit
  - The subcommittee presented a draft list of topics for MATH 1113. The subcommittee recommended that the individual institutions decide whether the course will be 3 credit hours or 4 credit hours. The ACMS discussed the topics and revised the list. The list will be brought back for a vote under new business.
- Faculty Development/Math Awareness
  - The subcommittee had the idea of focusing on math awareness related to the K-12 courses that we are often asked to consider. Sharon Taylor was asked to chair that subcommittee and to serve as a liaison to the advisory committee.
- Course and Textbook Information
  - The subcommittee discussed the eCore situation. The textbook survey was updated last year (2014), so this year the subcommittee is considering doing a calculus inventory to identify which topic is covered in which calculus (I, II, or III) course. They would also like to find out which technologies are being used on the different campuses.
- Computer Science Liaison
  - The subcommittee unanimously recommended that this subcommittee be discontinued. It was pointed out that the subcommittee was changed at the meeting last year to be the Interdisciplinary Liaison Subcommittee. It was suggested that this committee take the leadership look at helping other disciplines decide which pathway best suits their program.
- Placement/ LS
  - The subcommittee suggested that we should start assessing the courses that we have developed and make sure that the courses that we teach are being accepted. Atlanta Metropolitan College has all 3 courses (MATH 1001, 1101, and 1111). However, MATH 1001 and 1101 do not maintain a high enrollment. MATH 1111 is still the default course at that institution. It would be nice to have a guarantee or something in writing from receiving schools stating that they will accept MATH 1001 or MATH 1101 in their particular baccalaureate program. They also discussed that as we move toward using MPI, it might be good to know what we are using in the interim to place students into the corequisite or gateway courses. Please remember that our only focus should not be on placing the majority of our students in Learning Support in the corequisite courses. Our main focus should be making sure that our students are successful.

## New Business

- The proposed changes to the MATH 1113 Precalculus outline were unanimously approved. It was pointed out that the updates and changes to the courses should be updated on the USG website.
- The proposed K-12 Curriculum Advisory Subcommittee to replace the Faculty Development/ Math Awareness Subcommittee was unanimously approved. It was suggested that these changes be made in the bylaws on the USG website.
- Please consider reviewing the OER at OpenStax. You may find that these resources will be a great way to save your students money.
- It was unanimously decided that the ACMS would select a representative to serve on a team to develop the K-12 4<sup>th</sup> year mathematics course in computer science. We can also send in names of interested faculty from our institutions.
- Alvina Atkinson is the chair elect and has agreed to host the 2016 meeting at Georgia Gwinnett College in Lawrenceville. Malcom Adams will serve as the R1 member of the Executive Committee. Sharon Taylor will continue to serve on the committee. James Brawner will serve as the Chair Elect. German Vargas will serve as the Past Chair. Robby Williams will step down from the Executive Committee. These recommendations were unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.