

**BOR Philosophy/Religion Advisory Committee**  
**Minutes of the November 16, 2013 Meeting**

Introductions. The following attended:

Culver, Cathy (philosophy, College of Coastal Georgia)  
Davion, Vicky (philosophy, University of Georgia)  
Eaton, Bill (philosophy, Georgia Southern University)  
Jackson, Ron (philosophy, Clayton State University)  
Lane, Bob (philosophy, University of West Georgia)  
Lemons, Derrick (religion, University of Georgia)  
Peck, Larry (philosophy, Georgia Perimeter College) – committee chair.  
Rainbolt, George (philosophy, Georgia State University)  
Rouse, Susan (philosophy, Kennesaw State University)  
Winchester, Jim (philosophy, Georgia College and State University)  
Wrisley, George (philosophy, University of North Georgia)  
Zinsmeister, Dorothy (Board of Regents)

Minutes from the March 30, 2013 meeting. These were approved as distributed.

Philosophy Area F. Dorothy Zinsmeister, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the Board of Regents, reviewed the BOR Area F rules. There was general agreement that the Philosophy Area F is in good shape. The BOR web site does not have the updated Area F (recommended by the Phil AAC in March 2009). Action items:

- a. George Rainbolt will send the updated rules to Dr. Zinsmeister.
- b. Dr. Zinsmeister will post common course numbers to the web site.

[Note: both a) and b) have been completed since the November meeting, as can be seen at:  
[http://www.usg.edu/academic\\_planning/committees/view/philosophy\\_religion.](http://www.usg.edu/academic_planning/committees/view/philosophy_religion.)]

New committee make-up (of religion faculty, as well as philosophy faculty).

**A majority of members favored the notion that the institutions with religion programs, as well as philosophy ones, should have two members on the committee (one from each program) and also two votes. Some members also proposed that there be (or that the committee feel free to form) a philosophy subcommittee and a religion subcommittee to deal with issues that are restricted to one subject area or another. (No members opposed this idea.) These changes will be incorporated into the new Bylaws, the approval of which will be voted on at the Spring, 2014 meeting of the committee.**

A majority of members who spoke on the issue thought the committee should continue to meet at the biannual Georgia Philosophical Society meetings, at least for now. The reason cited was that this practice increases the participation at the BOR meeting. However, if the agenda for the BOR meeting is a long one, the BOR committee should arrange with the GPS for a sufficiently long meeting time.

The new religion members on the committee were encouraged to express their interests and concerns to the whole committee.

New Liberal Studies major in philosophy at Armstrong Atlantic State University. Our committee member Jack Simmons reports: “The proposal for Liberal Studies in Philosophy passed. We made the degree available to students in Fall 2013. We already have over a dozen majors and will probably graduate 5 this year (these students were already philosophy minors). The program is also very popular as part of a double major.” He adds that this will be a liberal studies major, not a philosophy major, and thus will not have a philosophy Area F.

**Common course numbers for philosophy courses. Almost all institutions are compliant. Of the ones that are not, the committee representatives of two of them are now working hard on the problem. Larry Peck will be contacting the others.**

**Area F rules for philosophy programs. Just one institution is not compliant, and its representative on the committee is working actively on this.**

Possible new Philosophy of Religion course at Georgia Perimeter College. Larry Peck posed questions about the transferability of a proposed new course, Philosophy of Religion, at Georgia Perimeter College, where he works. A number of committee members responded, and he will send the responses to the appropriate people at GPC.

Problems in transferability of philosophy courses. Larry Peck said that some of the full-time philosophy faculty at GPC had told him that when their students have transferred to 4-year USG institutions, the institutions had contacted them asking to see their syllabi for the GPC courses, instead of allowing those courses to transfer automatically. He asked whether any of the committee members could shed light on that. A number of committee members responded, and Larry will send the responses to the appropriate people at GPC.

The September 20, 2013 meeting of chairs of BOR advisory committees at Middle Georgia State College. As Larry Peck reported, this meeting was led by Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Planning Felita Williams. There were several speakers and topics. Everyone was appreciative of the work that the advisory committees like ours do, but Bob Boehmer, chair of the General Education Council, did say that better communication is needed between the GEC

and the advisory committees (RAC's). Specifically, if an institution is proposing a new course, and that course is supported by the relevant RAC, the RAC should be able to say whether the course fulfills the learning outcomes, and the mission, of that institution.