



Regents Advisory Committee on Learning Support (RAC-LS)

09/22/2023 | 10:00 am-11:00 am | Virtual Fall Meeting

Minutes

USG Regents Advisory Council-Learning Support Fall Meeting

September 22, 2023

Fall 2023 meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Sharon Duhart (Atlanta Metropolitan State College), RAC-LS Chair.

Note-taker today: Justin Jernigan (Georgia Gwinnett College)

I. Welcome

a. Introduction of New & USG Attendees

Dr. Barbara Brown and Jonathan Hull join us from the USG Office.

Introductions around the virtual room. Attending: Deneice Bausley; Barbara Brown; Becky Griffin; Bryan Davis; Christopher Cairney; Cara Winston Simmons; Carolyn Cohen; Courtney Hall; Curtis Bailey; Dawn Liverman; Deborah Kay Manson; Dede deLaughter; Jason Christian; Jennifer Gray; Jonathan Hull; Justin Jernigan; Natalie Knox; Lisa Pryor; Marnica Reid; Melody Shumaker; Nicholas Colvard; Marcia Poulos; Stephen Raynie; Sarah Rogers; Sharon Duhart; Shreyas Desai; Beth Spencer; Danita Townsend; Rosie Petties; Vince Postell

II. Previous Minutes for Approval

- a. Minutes (Draft) from the April/Spring RAC-LS meeting will be shared by email on the RAC-LS list for review, along with the current/Fall minutes.
- b. Once approved, the Spring and Fall minutes will be uploaded to the USG RAC website.

III. Suggested Topics for Discussion from LS-RAC Representatives

1. Given that many of our institutions are now SAT/ACT test-optional, and we cannot require Accuplacer, how is your institution conveying to students:

- a. That they have LS requirements?
- b. If they have ACT/SAT scores, to submit them? (Can't hurt; might help!)
- c. That Accuplacer is a viable option for exempting LS?
- d. Are your HS recruiters assisting in getting the word out and, if so, how?

Middle Georgia: Students are notified in a welcome message.

Georgia State: Students are notified in Slate.



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College of Coastal Georgia: Compass advising during summer orientation includes meetings with students to design their schedules.

Fort Valley State: Accuplacer is available at orientation; Admissions communicates the requirements.

UNG: Admissions alert the student when admitted and an advisor discusses options to include providing the SAT or Accuplacer when doing registration prior to orientation session.

Columbus State: Admissions alerts the student of the options. Advisors discuss exempt options.

Georgia Tech: Students get a letter from Admissions informing them of the requirement. Since LS group is small, individual advisors know if they have a student coming with LS placement.

East Ga State: Communication goes to students in advance. Students are reminded at orientation; testing space is available during that time on campus.

UGA: Small number of LS students in Athletics, other areas; dashboard provides placement.

Barbara Brown: A reminder that LS placement should not be a "gotcha," so it is important to give students an understanding of their options.

Ga Tech requires test scores and does not use HSGPA for LS placement. We do now have an Accuplacer option to attempt to place out of LS Math--brand new for us in Summer 2023. We pre-registered our LS Math students in MATH 1111/0999 which got people's attention (advisors, students) and this helped us with getting students to send in dual enrollment credit (if applicable) or to take the Accuplacer if they wanted to attempt to place into 1113.

At GSU, moving from 2.75 to 3.1 GPA requirement in Spring.

Dr. Brown: We are not requiring institutions to require testing for students who have not exempted otherwise; but we are ALLOWING it.

Gordon St: Math 1 is 11% of students; would be about 33% under new guidelines.

Members are encouraged to examine numbers on your campus and to think about resources.

UNG: A letter goes to LS students and we let them know about Accuplacer and the option to opt out. Consider EBRW scores in SAT; ER and Math in ACT.

A cut-off of 3.1 in Math means HOPE students may encounter a need to test. HOPE students with a LS Math requirement may have financial aid implications.

At Ga Tech, through the Val Sal program, for example, Tech is bringing in a handful of students with Hope but placing in LS math.

Albany State implemented the 3.1 and saw the biggest effect on STEM with this change.



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2. Upon implementing the new HS GPA to exempt LS, what are the anticipated changes in your LS numbers?

How are your English and Math departments preparing for them? Is your Financial Aid Department aware that there could be HOPE-eligible students with LS requirements and how are they communicating with students and parents about this?

RAC Chair's Question: *What do you hear from offices on campus regarding the changes?*

Savannah State: English and Math Lab provide a place for faculty teaching those LS courses to hold office hours and run tutorials in our learning commons tutorial center.

East Georgia: Experimenting with a hybrid model using some department developed modules in D2L for online work and using class times for small-group/one-on-one writing conferences. Starting discussions with Math faculty.

Coastal Ga is reviewing data on past ENGL LS courses.

UNG: With the need for more STEM-prep LS Math, the effect on teaching load for faculty is a concern. A need for more LS takes a faculty assignment away from a credit-bearing Math. We are communicating with departments through LS liaisons and in monthly meetings.

GGC: Student Success Committee facilitates communication about changes and implementation of LS.

Columbus State: Increase is found with the STEM co-req; however, not an overly large burden.

UGA representative asks: Are the online course offerings synchronous or asynchronous?

Columbus State: Math learning labs work well face-to-face and online.

Savannah State: Both are available, based on the needs of fully online students.

Atlanta Metropolitan: Asynchronous. East Georgia: Synchronous online.

3. What are we going to do without Dr. Brown?

Dr. Barbara Brown has announced her upcoming retirement.

The RAC-LS members unanimously agree that Dr. Brown will be greatly missed.

Remarks of appreciation are shared with Dr. Brown for her service, leadership, and support.

Dr. Brown thanks the RAC-LS team for the kind words and wishes and expresses her appreciation for having worked with the members.



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4. Any other items

UNG: A reminder that completion of Exit-level math satisfies LS.

Justin Jernigan notes from record-keeping perspective that minutes for the April 14, 2023 Spring meeting will be sent to the RAC Listserv and uploaded by Dr. Brown to the website once approved, along with these Fall Meeting minutes.

Jonathan Hull notes that USG is far ahead of other parts of the country in terms of focusing on the outcomes for corequisite, so that we are identifying how to improve those outcomes. We are working on truly important questions. This is a testament to you all of us who are working on corequisite.

Sharon Duhart, RAC Chair, expresses thanks and kudos to everyone on this call for your work.

IV. Campus Report Outs – have been shared during the discussion above.

V. Discussion & Requests

MGA: For transfer students, do we have new Transfer GPAs?

Accuplacer is the main option for transfer students with LS requirements.
Dr. Brown has seen students avoiding MATH and sometimes English.

UNG: We have seen some avoidance of LS older non-traditional students. Transfer applicants are not accepted until they take Accuplacer.

VI. Next Meeting

For Spring 2024 RAC-LS meeting, most prefer virtual meeting due to budget or other factors. Most likewise prefer Fridays, possibly in February or April.

Doodle poll: 2 dates in February and 2 in April 2024.

VII. Closing

Meeting adjourned at 10:57 AM.