

MINUTES
Biology Academic Advisory Committee Meeting
Middle Georgia College
Friday April 20, 2007

Chairman Bill Wall Presiding,

Introduction and Welcome by John Pasto

-Main Function of the BAAC is to promote stability in Biological Science throughout the State of Georgia and influence decision making as it relates to Biological Science.

-Past topics have included the core curriculum and Human Anatomy and Physiology, Evolution, professional standards, and bylaws.

Executive Committee

Sheryl Shanholtzer 2 year college representative
Michelle Furlong 4 year college representative
Robert Gannon research university representative

Chairman-Elect

Jimmy Wedincamp

AGENDA ITEM 1

Assessment

A discussion was had regarding the various methods of assessment used in institutions around the state. The ETS field test was used by 8 of the colleges represented at the meeting and the ACAT test was used by 2 of the colleges represented at the meeting

A decision was made to use the basic structure of the ETS to begin developing a preliminary set of topics that should be included on a biology knowledge assessment tool. The following topics should be pertinent to all levels of biological instruction from 2 year colleges through the research university level.

Suggested Structure:

Cell Biology

- Cell Division
- Energetics
- Structure and Function
- Biochemistry

Analytical Skills

- Scientific Process
- Data Analysis
- Scientific Literature
- Science Writing
- Data Presentation
- History

Lab Skills
Population Biology/Evolution/Ecology
Biodiversity
Population Genetics
Phylogeny
Human Impact
Evolution
Ecology
Environmental Issues

Organismal Biology
Animal
Plant
Microorganisms
Diversity
Organ Systems
Structure and Function
Biodiversity

Molecular Biology/Genetics
Genetics
Biochemistry
Heredity

Aside: A comment was introduced that cautioned the committee to consider the 0 based budget policy when developing our assessment tool.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Evolution

One problem encountered is the willingness of teachers to teach evolution.

Suggested methods to influence the teaching of evolution at k-12 schools included:

Workshops

The new teacher education courses

Educating superintendents?

Take advantage of political support for the teaching of evolution (Jimmy Carter)

AGENDA ITEM 3

Work Load

Georgia College 1 credit/contact hr for all formats

Albany State University 3-4 hr credit course may have 4 hrs lab/some 3 hr labs
credit; 2-3 hrs lecture depends upon course

Gainesville State College All labs are 1 hr credit (2 hr contact) 3 lect-3 lab count
faculty load as contact (2 max)

Clayton State College	14 contact hr load/semester. 28/year. Each lab counts for either 2 or 3 contact hours
Gordon College	1 hr credit whether 2 or 3 hr lab. 20-24 real contact hrs/semester. 16 credit hrs/semester
Ga Southern University	contact hrs not credit hrs
Valdosta State University	count contact hrs
Southern Poly St. Univ.	1.5 hrs credit/3 lab contact hrs
Columbus State Univ.	1 load hr/contact hr
Augusta State Univ.	1 credit for 1 contact. No release for research
Macon State College	1 credit/1 contact
Atlanta Metro College	1 credit for lab course instead of 2-3 hrs contact
ABAC	1 credit for lab course instead of 2-3 hrs contact
Georgia Highlands	1.5 hrs credit/2-3 lab contact hrs
Georgia Perimeter	1 credit/contact
Savannah State Univ.	1 hr credit/ 2 contact in lab/ no credit for student research
Middle Georgia College	4 hrs credit for 6 hrs contact
Kennesaw State Univ.	contact hrs count as credit hrs. 3 hr lab=1.5 credit hrs, 2 hr lab=1.25 credit hrs. Ron is trying to get down to 12 contact hrs
East Georgia College	4 hrs credit for 6 hrs contact

**JOINT MEETING OF THE CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS, BIOLOGY ACADEMIC
ADVISORY COMMITTEES**
Afternoon session

Discussion was centered on the new Area F teacher education courses. There was a general disagreement/misunderstanding over what should be the content of the courses. No real resolution was determined other than early childhood education majors will now have more science requirements than in the past.

Dorothy Zinsmeister indicated that the academic committees should reexamine their requirements for AP courses. It was determined that policy may have already been developed pertaining to this topic. Dr. Zinsmeister stated that she would look at previous reports to determine if the committees had submitted policies on accepting AP courses. Dr. Zinsmeister also indicated that the Georgia legislature passed a bill requiring institutions to accept up to 24 IB credits. It will now have to go to the Governor for approval.