

Student Advisory Council Retreat Minutes

August 4-6, 2011

Banning Mills

Whitesburg, GA

Attendance: All schools present except for Armstrong Atlantic, Georgia Highlands, Georgia Perimeter College – Alpharetta, Georgia Perimeter College – Clarkston.

The following schools left the retreat early on Saturday: Clayton State, Georgia State, Savannah, and Southern Polytechnic.

Thursday, August 4, 2011

Student gathered at 5 p.m. and did a team building activity to get to know each other. After dinner, Chancellor “Hank” Huckaby spoke to the students and answered their questions about what to expect during the upcoming year.

Evening sessions included a review of what it means to be a member of SAC, expectations for members, and general history of SAC. Students spent an hour brainstorming various issues on their individual campuses and listening to how other institutions are addressing those issues.

A final teambuilding activity wrapped up the evening.

Friday, August 5, 2011

Students participated in a ropes course training session in the morning.

After lunch, Daphne Blackman shared information on the Georgia Transfer Articulation Cooperative Services (GATracs).

At 3:45 p.m., staff members of the Board of Regents conducted a panel discussion on the areas of academic affairs (Dave Morgan), External Affairs (Steve Wrigley & Amanda Seals), and Fiscal Affairs (John Brown).

The final afternoon session was with Curt Carver, representing USG information technology services, and John Fuchko, Internal Auditor for the USG. Carver discussed the changes coming in the Learning Management System for USG and Fuchko discussed student fees and BOR policies regulating how student fees are decided upon and used.

After dinner, students held an “idea swap” where they shared promotional items with each other and programming ideas. A final teambuilding activity was conducted at the end of the evening.

Saturday, August 6, 2011

SAC Business Meeting:

Students brainstormed ideas for their top 3 goals for the upcoming year. The three goals are:

Goal 1. Investigate and propose ideas to the legislature on alternative revenue ideas and HOPE revisions.

Work group members include: Kevin Vantrees, Abraham Baldwin; Jessica Simpson, Fort Valley; Angel Dagnan, Dalton State; Willie Toy, Atlanta Metro; Clarence Washington, Albany State; Dillan Aycock, Middle Georgia College; Graham Davis, Valdosta; Chris Childress, Gordon College; James Dutton, Georgia State; Andrew Cooper, Georgia Perimeter College; Elle Creel, Georgia Tech.

Objectives:

- Compile a survey (5-10 questions) and put out to individual college campuses (by first week of class) to gather input from students.
- Willie Toy is the designated point person to get the group together online for meetings.
- First Thursday of every month the committee will meet through webinar to discuss ideas.
- Will research alternatives for revenues and talk to private sector partners to see what options are available for privatized assistance.

Goal 2. Compile a unified plan and suggestions to the BOR on institutional fees which are due to sunset in June 2012 and raise awareness on campuses regarding student fees.

Work group members include: Kara Barinaadaa, Augusta State University; Terry Williams, Bainbridge College; Antonio Orsborn, Columbus State University; Priyanshi Naik, Darton College; Bruna Rodrigues, East Georgia College; Dylan Brooks, Gainesville College; Johnathan Rajala, Gainesville College (Oconee); Tony Miller, Georgia Southwestern State University; Patrick Pickens, North Georgia College; Mary Ester Brasswell, South Georgia College.

Objectives:

- Have a complete itemized list of fees and where they go.
- Create a BOR policy coming out of SAC for all 35 universities on fee awareness and a checklist of what they should consider when allocating fees.
- Checklist for committees on prize allocations and other allocation rules.

Goal 3. Stay abreast of legislative bills affecting higher education and provide a unified position on legislative proposals.

Work group members include: Evan Karanovich, Georgia College; Seijin Tranberg, Georgia Gwinnett; Elle Creel, Georgia Tech; Andrew Cooper, Mark Davis, Johnny Le, Georgia Perimeter College; Alton Standifer, Georgia Southern University; Ronald Wilson, Kennesaw State; Summer Leverett, Macon State; Ashland Doomes, Georgia Health Sciences University; Nick Mizaur, University of Georgia; Frederick Curtis, University of West Georgia.

Objectives:

- Differences among campuses on how well they are able to lobby at the Capital, so the group will look at ways to leverage the staff students have access to for all schools.
- Group will keep on top of legislative issues and keep up-to-date on what is going on and send that out to the students to get feedback.
- Will break SAC members into regional groups: North, Atlanta, Central, South, Northeast, Southeast.
- Look at ideas for positive approaches to lobbying: engage in conversations, campus invitation for legislators, build relationships with members of the General Assembly and your institution's external affairs.

Announcements:

February 2012 SAC Meeting will be held February 2-3 at Georgia Perimeter College – Dunwoody. Look for registration material before the holidays with a due date for registration by mid-January 2012.

If a SGA president wants to attend a Board meeting, they must notify Tonya Lam at tonya.lam@usg.edu at least 30 days prior to the meeting in order to be placed on the agenda for an introduction.

Several of the resources available to students in the meeting will be posted on the SAC website. Refer to the Board of Regents website for copies of policy manuals, meeting minutes, and upcoming board meetings.