



Cooperating Raleigh Colleges

Chief Academic Officers Meeting Minutes Saint Augustine's University, Benson Conference Room Wednesday, October 24, 2012, 3 p.m.

Convener: Dr. B. Connie Allen

In attendance: **Saint Augustine's University:** Dr. Connie Allen, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; **Shaw University:** Dr. Marilyn Sutton-Haywood, Vice President for Academic Affairs; **NC State University:** Dr. Jose Picart, Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Services; **William Peace University:** Dr. Ann Denlinger, Vice President for Academic Affairs; **CRC:** Ms. Jenny Spiker, CRC Director.

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Allen welcomed the committee to what is now Saint Augustine's University and welcomed the two new members to the group, Drs. Denlinger and Picart. Each person provided a little bit about his or her background and responsibilities. Dr. Sutton-Haywood has been in her Shaw position for four years and Dr. Allen is in her third year at Saint Augustine's. Dr. Denlinger, an alumna of Peace College, served 16 years as a public school superintendent and as a leader of the Wake Education Partnership before retiring and then returning to Peace. Dr. Picart joined NC State University in several capacities nine years ago after serving 28 years in the military, including at West Point.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from the Nov. 2, 2011 meeting were approved.

Proposal for Shared Professional Development for Adjunct and Part-time, Non-tenure Track Faculty Members

Ms. Spiker explained that a task force of academic professionals from the CRC membership has been exploring creating a CRC shared program for this cohort of faculty at the member institutions. The first step is to find out the amount and type of interest among current faculty in that group. She presented copies of a draft of an online survey to assess interest in the program.

The committee agreed it is a good idea to pursue this project. They had the following ideas for the task force moving forward:

- We need to be sure whatever we do furthers the missions of the institutions and CRC.
- The quality of the programs needs to be strong.
- It's best if it's not required but that it include incentives for participation.
- We should consider broadening the participant base by allowing full-time and tenure-track faculty to take part as well.
- If some sessions are all online, that may mean the presenters need to go through online training.
- It needs to have the endorsement/approval of the CRC academic officers.
- The survey should include possible topics and a place for those surveyed to suggest topics. One topic suggestion was learning to incorporate new technologies in the classroom.
- Several committee members prefer to have the survey sent to them and then they will send it to the appropriate people on their campus.

Ms. Spiker will take these comments and suggestions to the task force and survey creator/consultant Barbi Honeycutt.

Raleigh Fellows project of the Raleigh College and Community Collaboration (RCCC)—Dr. Jose Picart

Dr. Picart put on his hat as the Executive Director of the RCCC —The Raleigh Promise—to update the committee about how the project is progressing and to ask for their feedback.

He summarized the program that the group learned about a year ago: It's a \$1.3 million, 3-year grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation that brings together a wide variety of community partners for success through the pipeline from high school to higher education to employment in this community. CRC is a major partner in the collaboration working closely with The Raleigh Fellows programs in the CRC institutions and Wake Technical Community College. The project has three major parts: Future Scholars (4 high schools), Raleigh College Centers (one established at Chavis Heights) and The Fellows with a Liaison and intern financed through the grant for each of the six colleges and universities.

Dr. Picart stressed how important it is to find ways to sustain this project past the grant's ending date of June 30, 2013. He asked the committee members to assess the situation at their own institution to see how their college could continue at least some of the funding for the Liaison on each campus. The Liaisons have been meeting weekly for more than a year creating pilot projects that stress retention and college success with a strong emphasis on career preparation. They stress connecting with programs already in existence on the campuses and in the community to make sure the students from Raleigh take advantage of all that is available.

He and Ms. Spiker also pointed out that the emphasis so far has been on Raleigh residents, but that could be broadened after the Gates grant. It is important, however, to see that this project puts a large emphasis on connecting students to this community. Community partners include the Wake County Public Schools, the City of Raleigh, Wake County, the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, the Capital Area Workforce Development Board (CAWFD), the United Way, and a variety of nonprofits and churches. They asked that the chief academic officers help us understand how important it is to continue to put an emphasis on that cohort of students.

Dr. Picart explained that the Gates grant funding runs out in June 2013 and it's unlikely to be continued. The RCCC Steering Committee has had a team of fundraisers working on new support and so far has raised nearly \$2 million for a variety of projects. About \$100,000 from the CAWFD will be used to help the Fellows program by providing 30 paid internships with Raleigh area businesses. Most of the fundraising emphasis has been on businesses and grants aimed at high school students. Other funding is being explored.

Ms. Spiker stressed that the CRC Board approved the consortium's major involvement because it fits one of CRC's key strategic guiding principles—to build on the strengths and opportunities derived from sharing the same community. She has met with the Liaisons weekly and said she is very impressed with the intensity of collaboration and interest the students have shown in being able to work with students from other campuses.

The CAO committee members expressed support, especially for the retention aspects of the project, and said they would explore options for the continuation of the project on their own campuses.

Special Design Majors

Dr. Allen presented background materials for consideration of a Special Design Majors program that would benefit from CRC collaboration by tapping into courses from CRC partner institutions. She and previous William Peace University Provost Debbie Cottrell began exploring this program last year. The purpose of the Special Design Major is to make available to students who satisfy the prerequisites for the program the opportunity to design, with faculty approval, a flexible interdisciplinary curriculum. Admission to the Special Design Major is limited to students whose individualized programs can be organized around a special topic or a cross-disciplinary inquiry that is original and involves work in more than one department.

Attached is a draft of guidelines for Special Design Majors and here are key points:

- It would create a kind of buffet for students to create a major they couldn't get in the typical fashion.
- We would need to look at current policies at the member institutions that would affect this.
- One of the values is that it would stress that the whole community of colleges is available to students.

- Would it require a financial commitment? Most thought it wouldn't.
- Who would be the adviser or supervisor? A committee would need to be set up for each participating student.
- The home campus would award the degree.
- This would be good for students who have a hard time settling down to a major.
- It could be an innovative approach if done well.
- We could start it as a pilot with one or a few cases to test it.

The committee members said they will take the proposal back to their campuses and look at it carefully and get feedback from others. At the next CRC CAO meeting we'll hear the reports from those explorations.

SACS COC credit hour definition

Dr. Allen introduced the topic of the new SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) accrediting agency policy on defining credit hours. See the handout in the packet. The group exchanged information on how they define credit hours. One of the implications is that schools are now creating their academic calendars three years out. The group agreed to share their calendars with each other and to look at the SACS definition and their own interpretation and share what they learn at the next CRC CAO meeting. They'll send their current calendars and definitions by email right away.

Update on other CRC Issues and Projects

Ms. Spiker reported that the public access education channel that CRC programs and administrators will start having its technical home with the Raleigh Television Network and not at NC State starting next semester. She encouraged the group to work with people on their campuses to encourage more content to replace the courses that NC State's Distance Education has been putting on the channel for many years. Those courses are now all online and so will not be broadcast starting next semester.

Next meeting

We'll look at February 2013 after everyone checks their calendars for this spring.

--Submitted by Jenny Spiker