



Cooperating Raleigh Colleges

Academic Officers (AO) and Operations Committee (OC) Joint Meeting Minutes

18 Seaboard Restaurant Meeting Room

Thursday, April 7, 2011, 5-7 p.m.

Convener: Dr. John Ambrose

In attendance: **NC State University:** Dr. John Ambrose, Dean, Undergraduate Academic Programs (AO); Dr. Betsy Brown, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs (OC). **Peace College:** Dr. Debbie Cottrell, Provost and Chief Academic Officer (AO). **Meredith College:** Dr. Liz Wolfinger, Vice President for Academic Planning and Programs (AO); Dr. Cindy Edwards, Director of Undergraduate Research and Service Learning (OC). **Saint Augustine's College:** Dr. Connie Allen, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (AO & OC). **Shaw University:** Dr. Marilyn Sutton-Haywood, Vice President for Academic Affairs (AO & OC). **CRC:** Ms. Jenny Spiker, Director.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from the Feb.12, 2010 meeting were approved.

Sharing Academic Calendars: At Dr. Cottrell's request, Ms. Spiker provided copies of all of the institutions' academic calendars for the 2011-12 year (and in some cases beyond those dates). The group expressed their appreciation for this and asked that the CRC office continue providing those each year. Several people (Dr. Allen of Saint Augustine's and Dr. Cottrell of Peace) noted that their calendars could still be revised before final adoption. (See attached copies of those calendars and a summary sheet provided in the packets.) The dates that were of most concern were spring break times as those varied among the campuses and that can cause problems for students enrolled through CRC cross-registration or in dual-degree programs.

ROTC Programs: Drs. Wolfinger and Edwards from Meredith said that Meredith is considering getting involved with ROTC or arranging collaborations with those that already have ROTC and had questions about the current ROTC programs at NC State and Saint Augustine's College. Saint Augustine's has Army ROTC, and NC State has Army, Air Force and Navy programs.

Update on CRC Academic Projects:

- **Website and E-newsletter.** Ms. Spiker reported that the CRC website was launched this fall, and she has been getting the word out about the site in various ways—talking about it at meetings and taking flyers about it to the campuses, and starting an e-newsletter and distributing that in part to drive traffic to the site. This is the first time CRC has had a website. She has especially tried to use it in support of cross-registration. She was able to present information about cross-registration and the website at faculty meetings at Saint Augustine's and Shaw, and Dr. Cottrell presented that information at a Peace faculty meeting.
- **Science museum collaboration.** Ms. Spiker drew their attention to the March 2 notes from the first meeting with Nature Research Center Director Meg Lowman and others at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. Representatives from the natural sciences at the four private colleges/universities met to explore ways to collaborate with the museum when it opens in 2012 its new building with science labs. The museum is very interested in involving faculty and students from the colleges. She is already in partnership with NC State and other research universities. See the notes with a list of the possibilities the group brainstormed at the meeting. Another meeting is set for May 10.

- **Exploration of working with NCSU postdoctoral fellows and graduate students in undergraduate colleges.** This group offered their ideas to help with the exploration being undertaken by a number of people from the CRC members to find ways to work with NCSU graduate students and/or post docs in undergraduate teaching at the undergraduate institutions.

Observations and suggestions:

- **Meredith's experience with Duke University's Preparing Future Faculty program.** Dr. Edwards talked about her experience in being a sponsor of several graduate students. She said Meredith sponsors get a \$500 stipend for mentoring a student and that can vary from a few sessions a semester to someone shadowing all semester and giving lectures on their research. Dr. Douglas James is the head of the Duke program.
- **Consider developing a robust way for CRC undergraduates to get laboratory experiences at NCSU.** Dr. Wolfinger said that one of the best things about the Duke program is that it has exposed Meredith students to ongoing lab projects, and she'd like to see CRC pursue that aspect of any collaboration. Dr. George Barthalmus at NCSU would be the person to contact about undergraduate research.
- **Consider ways to interface with NCSU's Coop and related programs.** Dr. Ambrose said the group may want to contact Dr. Arnold Bell about involving CRC students in the Coop program and another similar work experience called STEP. These are programs where students work 40 hours a week usually for two semesters and sometimes through the summer.
- **Consider creating a common agreement for when undergraduate institutions provide references for research institution grants.** Dr. Wolfinger said women's colleges and HBCUs are often asked to provide support statements for NSF and other granting agencies. It might be helpful if CRC colleges could look at ways to make sure those agreements result in benefits for the recommending colleges.
- **Fall academic workshop on First-Year Inquiry and other First-Year Experience programs.** Dr. Ambrose and Ms. Spiker reminded the group about the fall workshop this group sponsored for people interested in inquiry learning and first-year experience programs. Dr. Richard Slatta, NC State history professor who has been involved with First-Year Inquiry at NC State, gave a presentation about that program.
- **Library workshops.** Ms. Spiker announced that the Librarians Committee will hold its fourth summer professional development this July 14.

Dedicated topic for the meeting: the Role of CRC During Changing Times: The group began to address these basic questions:

- How can CRC position itself to help our member institutions respond to these times of rethinking, repositioning and recreating academic missions?
- How can CRC strengthen its traditional programs and/or create new ones for a changing environment?

(See next page.)

Observations and suggestions:

- **Dr. Cottrell said she thought these times mean it's even more critical than usual to have a strong cooperating organization.**
- **Dr. Ambrose said budget cuts are altering some of the plans this group has discussed.** For example, his offer last year to involve faculty from other CRC colleges in NCSU's First-Year Inquiry program will have to be rescinded for now because of his budget cuts.
- **Adviser training program sharing.** Dr. Ambrose announced that CRC faculty and staff are invited to take part in the adviser training programs that NCSU offers regularly. He asked the committee members to send him email addresses of those who should get on the list serv for announcements about the training sessions and asked Ms. Spiker to put links to those programs on the CRC website. He also asked that the CRC website list the faculty development seminars that CRC members can attend.
- **Can CRC help preserve some majors and programs that are threatened because of budget cuts and reorganizations?** Most colleges and universities are looking hard at under-enrolled courses and majors such as French, dance and theatre. Is it time to consider some partnership degrees for such programs? There are precedents in other consortia for joint or shared degrees or programs. Several people stressed how the ideal way for such programs to develop is to ask the faculty most involved to develop proposals. It was also suggested that CRC get the colleges and universities to develop a list of threatened majors.
- **A topic focus for the next meeting—Best ways to demonstrate the value of academic programs.** These times are calling for more effective ways to do feasibility and assessment for academic programs. Several suggestions were made about how to approach this sensitive topic and whom to involve in discussions, but everyone agreed this is a crucial topic for all CRC member institutions and we should work on a plan for the discussion and/or workshop in the 2011-2012 year.

Next Meeting:

Meredith College will be the host for the 2011-2012 academic year. Ms. Spiker and Dr. Wolfinger will meet to propose dates and an agenda.