



Cooperating Raleigh Colleges

Chief Academic Officers Meeting Minutes

Shaw University, Estey Hall

Thursday, November 14, 2013, 1 p.m.

Convener/Committee Chair: Dr. Marilyn Sutton-Haywood

In attendance: **Shaw University:** Dr. Marilyn Sutton-Haywood, Vice President for Academic Affairs; **Saint Augustine's University:** Dr. Connie Allen, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; **NC State University:** Dr. Jose Picart, Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Services; **William Peace University:** Dr. Cindy Gnadinger, Vice President for Academic Affairs; **Meredith College:** Dr. Matthew Poslusny, Senior Vice President and Provost; **Wake Technical Community College:** Mr. Bryan Ryan, Senior Vice President for Curriculum Education; **CRC:** Ms. Jenny Spiker, CRC Director.

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Sutton-Haywood welcomed the committee to Shaw University on behalf of their president Dorothy Yancy with a special welcome to new members Bryan Ryan from Wake Tech, Matthew Poslusny from Meredith and Cindy Gnadinger from William Peace. Each member introduced him or herself and noted the length of time in their position: Dr. Sutton-Haywood—five years; Dr. Allen—four years, Dr. Picart—10 years at NCSU and second year in this position, Mr. Ryan—21 years at Wake Tech and seven years in his current position, Dr. Poslusny—four months at Meredith, Dr. Gnadinger—a week and a half at William Peace.

Background on newest institutional member Wake Technical Community College

In this first year of Wake Tech's membership in CRC, Brian Ryan gave the committee background on their academic programs. He brought some printed materials and then highlighted the following:

- Their key strategies as a commuter college are to expand as much as possible to serve the whole county, and their current seven campuses actually connect with the outer loop (540) around Raleigh. The largest campus is the main one on Fayetteville Road and the second largest is in North Raleigh. Their health programs are on the campus near Wake Medical Center, and their public safety programs are on the campus on South Saunders Street. The newest campus is being planned for RTP near the Lenovo building and will feature high tech programs.
- He pointed out the career focus brochure that lists their 180+ programs, including those for transfer students in the AA (Associate of Arts), AS (Associate of Sciences) and the newest Associate of Fine Arts. In addition, they have AAS (Associate of Applied Sciences) programs for technical degrees and certificates.
- They have articulation agreements with all the state four-year institutions and many of the independent colleges.
- Wake Tech is the largest community college in the state by budget. It has about 20,000 credit students per year and another 40-45,000 students who take short-term, non-credit courses.
- They have partnerships with local businesses e.g. NetApp (data storage) where they have a program geared to their needs.
- They currently have a \$50,000 Gates Foundation grant to create MOOCs (Massive Online Open Courses) that focus on students trying to be successful in early stages of college. For example, they have an introductory algebra review course that is free and open to all students. He said students in CRC schools may be interested in that course.
- The state community college system is currently gathering information on how community college students perform when they transfer. He had a form about that that he gave to the members to help with that project. He said Bill Schneider is the data gathering person for this project at the community college system office.

Special design majors

Dr. Allen reported on her follow-up to the discussion at this group's last meeting about creating Special Design Majors. This is an agreement that allows students to design their own major by combining courses at their home college and at least one other CRC institution. This committee and the CRC Board of Directors showed strong support for the concept. She contacted Saint Augustine's University's liaison at SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) to get advice about how this program would be considered in accreditation assessment. She said we should make the program a part of our CRC agreement and then notify SACS. She provided a copy of wording used by the Five Colleges consortium in Massachusetts. She said we would not need to provide a prospectus. What next? She said committee members need to talk to their SACS program officer. Then the committee needs to create the language to go into the CRC agreement and propose it to the CRC Board.

Questions and comments from the other committee members:

- This could be a positive strategy to help some students graduate on time.
- Who grants the degree? The home institution.
- The process would involve a committee at the home institution who would meet with the appropriate faculty at the other CRC institution. The students would coordinate it with their home campus adviser.
- Employers are saying they are interested in interdisciplinary backgrounds for many jobs.
- One key to its success would be to find faculty advocates.
- Dr. Allen and Ms. Spiker said they would email a copy of the proposal discussed at the last meeting.
- Ms. Spiker reminded the group that not all CRC projects have to involve every member.

Assignment for next meeting: Each committee member is to report on the level of interest at her/his institution.

Update on adjunct professor project

Ms. Spiker explained what has been happening with the project to explore ways to coordinate efforts with adjunct faculty within the CRC community. She referenced the copy in the packets of the report and recommendations from the survey that was conducted last spring with adjunct (part-time, non-tenure-track) faculty at the then five CRC member institutions. The survey showed strong interest in pursuing some kind of joint professional development. To respond to the survey results, a committee of members from all six campuses met this fall (see minutes from that Oct. 9th meeting). The group brought together people with different backgrounds, from a dean to a faculty member to people with positions directly overseeing adjunct programs. The committee is scheduled to meet again Nov. 22 and bring with them an overview of their own programs for adjuncts, including definitions, current professional development and other resources, any reward structures and which subject areas have the most potential for sharing. They also want to create an online way for the campuses to share information about needs and programs for adjuncts. That kind of activity has been happening informally, but the group wants to make it more purposeful and easily accessible.

Ms. Spiker pointed to an article in the packets about joint faculty appointments at a consortium in West Virginia. She said that it's possible that that kind of program could emerge from the continuing exploration with adjuncts because a good number of them already teach at several of our member institutions. Dr. Poslusny said that the negatives cited in the article about West Virginia may not apply here because he's familiar with those colleges and at least one of them (University of Charleston) is a very different kind of institution from ours here.

Update on Raleigh Fellows program of the Raleigh Promise

Dr. Picart, the leader of the RCCC (Raleigh Colleges and Community Collaborative), reported on this project which has involved all of the CRC institutions over the past three years. The grant funding from the Gates Foundation ended last June, so now the collaborative is moving into its next phase. The CRC continues to be a major partner meeting regularly with the Raleigh Fellows Team, although we no longer have personnel paid by a grant to implement the programs. He said that the RCCC is working on an agreement with the United Way of the Greater Triangle for them to be the fiscal agent. He talked about several recent grants to help finance parts of the program including an NSF grant for scholarships for NC State Fellows. RCCC also has a VISTA grant and has a person working on community outreach, including connecting members of the community to the colleges through the College Center at Chavis Community Center.

Mr. Ryan, who is now the associate director of the RCCC , stressed how the CRC colleges' involvement is a good example of emphasizing the importance of helping local college students succeed and connecting to the community.

Updates on other CRC committees and projects

Ms. Spiker reported on several other CRC committees and projects:

- **Librarians and Registrars Committees**—The emphasis for both of these committees (see attached minutes) this year is integrating Wake Tech into cross-registration and shared library usage. Both groups have held extra sessions toward that goal. They are both taking a low-key approach in this first year to be sure the systems integrate well and they feel good about it so far. The librarians are planning for their seventh annual summer workshop stressing the sharing of expertise within the CRC network.
- **Economic Impact Study**—The CRC Board has commissioned this study to be released later this year.
- **Security and Emergency Management**—The Student Affairs and Finance Committees decided to form a joint subcommittee to explore ways to connect and collaborate about campus security and emergency management.
- **Channel 18**—She gave examples of the kind of programming the different colleges are providing on this public access television station now housed with the City of Raleigh's RTN (Raleigh Television Network). She asked them to be looking for possible programs of any length—from promotional pieces to speakers to student-produced work. Dr. Sutton-Haywood talked about how this relationship has made it possible for Shaw's mass communications students to use the RTN studios.
- **New CRC Board members**—Starting last year the chairs of three major CRC committees (Chief Academic Officers, Student Affairs Officers and Finance Officers) serve as Board members. Dr. Sutton-Haywood will be at the Nov. 20 Board meeting and give a report from this group.

Overall comments on CRC purpose

Ms. Spiker reminded the group about the CRC emphasis on finding ways to connect to the community we share and to take advantage of ways to collaborate within that space—with each other and with key groups in the community. One of the strongest assets of the consortium is the networking and she gave some recent examples of that. She encouraged them to think of special topics or subgroups in their areas that might benefit from sharing and collaboration. Dr. Sutton-Haywood thanked Dr. Picart and NC State for inviting CRC faculty and staff to take part in their faculty development programs.

Future projects for this committee

- Pursue convening the following groups: educational technology specialists (online education and more), undergraduate research leaders, and study abroad/international study leaders
- Get the word out about special programs of interest to students or faculty such as Shaw's Intersessions between first and second semester (Dec. 2-20 and Jan. 3-24) and NC State's new Maymester (May 20 - June 10).
- Look at better coordination of academic calendars.

Next meeting

We'll look at February 2013 after everyone checks their calendars for this spring. They suggested Thursday afternoons—the first and third weeks of the month.

--Submitted by Jenny Spiker