

# NYS GIS Association Education Committee Meeting Minutes

24 February 2016 | 1:00 – 1:58 p.m. | Conference Call

**Attendees:** Eileen Allen, Ross Baldwin, Alex Chaucer, Ann Deakin, Susan Hoskins, Andy Mendola, Mike Jabot, Kendra Silleman, Pete Walseman

**Guests:** Jacqueline Housel (Sinclair Community College), Michael Solem (AAG)

1. Introductions: Jacqueline Housel (Sinclair Community College), Michael Solem (AAG)
2. Susan announced the meeting will be recorded.
3. Background on invited guests
  - Andy and Jackie met at GeoEd '15 in Louisville, Kentucky last June. Andy read about the proposed GIS & T AP course and recognized Jackie, one of the Writing Committee members, in the associated photo. This reconnection led to Andy's introduction to Michael Solem of the AAG who chairs the Writing Committee.
4. Michael provided background on the AP GIS & T course
  - In the early spring of 2015 a meeting of GENIP (Geography Education National Implementation Project) was held in Washington, D.C. GENIP is a consortium of geography associations, including the AAG, the AGS, the NCGE, and the NGS)
    - GENIP is the group that spearheaded the AP Human Geography course in the late 1990s
    - The meeting last spring was to explore the feasibility of a GI Science & Technology AP course
    - A Writing Committee was formed and an Advisory Board
    - The Writing Committee met in September 2015 in Washington, D.C.
    - 4 main content areas for the proposal were identified:
      1. Course description including knowledge, skills, abilities
        - a. Analysis of syllabi from around the country from UG institutions gathered. The UCGIS Body of Knowledge and the GTCM were used as part of the analysis process.
      2. Assessment section
      3. Teacher professional development: What is currently happening in terms of teacher professional development and what needs to happen?
      4. Appendix of schools and college/university departments that have signed on saying that a passing score counts toward college credit (colleges and universities) and that teachers and resources are available (schools)
    - About ½ of syllabi have been analyzed. Getting close to being able to write a course description.
    - It is hoped a draft will be available to the Advisory Board in early April.

- Once the revisions are made, the schools, colleges and universities can be contacted for endorsements.
- Jackie highlighted the positioning of the course within STEM.
- Michael pointed out that with AP Human Geography under the social sciences. This course would be a complementary offering under STEM.
- Susan stated that the infrastructure development is great. She sees what Mike Jabot, Jonathan Little & Pete Walseman are doing as fitting nicely.
- Pete shared his experience as a high school and community college teacher of GIS.
- Andy shared what Jon Little has been doing at MCC and the local schools. Three Rochester schools will be offering a GIS course next year. Some Syracuse teachers will be participating in the next group.
- Michael was encouraged by what Pete and Jon are doing. Thus far, they have found 20 states that have schools offering GIS courses. Most are aligned with Tech programs. The College Board has been pushing for more letters of support from 4 year universities. He would like to include what NYS is doing.
- Mike Jabot stated that a number of teachers are using GIS to teach science. For example, a freshman may be exposed to GIS in an Earth Science course, which provides a feeder for a course like AP GIS & T.
- Pete observed that based on his experience with the College Board, connections with 4 year universities will be important.
- Ann highlighted Mike Jabot's work with Catt-Little Valley, which is modeled after the JMU program.
- Michael stated that smaller AP courses have been approved by the Board. Computer Skills and Engineering, e.g. A letter of endorsement from state organizations may also be helpful.
- Pete will present the possibility of an endorsement from the NYS GIS Association to the other members of the Association's Board of Directions.
- Ross shared his connection with Maria Brown at Stony Brook. Ross and Maria are contributing to their "Spring into Science with STEM" conference at Brookhaven National Labs on April 1<sup>st</sup>. [www.suffolkstanys.org/sprconf.html](http://www.suffolkstanys.org/sprconf.html)
- Michael invited any attending the AAG Conference to the panel on the AP GIS & T course initiative on April 1<sup>st</sup> 8 a.m.
- Andy will share the NYS GIS Association Education Committee contact information with Michael and Jackie.
- Michael and Jackie left the call.
- Susan found it interesting initiative's connection with the GeoTech Center, given its focus on Community Colleges, but it's the endorsement of 4 year colleges that's being solicited.
- Mike observed that, historically, AP has been geared toward 4 year colleges rather than community colleges.

5. Andy encouraged all to sign up for the GIS-SIG conference. Steve Coast of Open StreetMap will be the Keynote Speaker. Students needed for lightning talks and posters. Four more paper proposals were received than slots available. The preliminary program almost ready.
6. Susan related that her 4-H chapter has submitted a project proposal for the National Youth Science Day experiment. This year the focus is on drones.
7. Andy will be the guest lecturer at SUNY Brockport for a course on water issues on Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. He is working with Working with Nadia Harvieux at Hobart & William Smith on an Environmental Science/GIS grant for K-12 teacher professional development.
8. Susan will set up Doodle poll for the March meeting.

*Minutes submitted for review by A.K. Deakin*