



## GE Council

**July 9, 2012, 1:00-4:00pm**  
Department of Higher Education  
1560 Broadway – Suite 1600  
Denver, CO

### AGENDA

1. Greetings and Introductions
2. Adoption of last meeting's notes – June 11, 2012 [See handout: *June 11 minutes*]
3. Information Items
  - a. Follow up from Faculty-to-Faculty Alignment Meetings for Mathematics and English/Rhetoric/Communication.
  - b. August 13, 2012 meeting cancelled. July 10 Academic Council meeting cancelled.
  - c. Statewide Elementary Education Agreement and “other 19” document tweaked [See handouts: *new front page for ELED agreement* and *Qualifying Courses That Satisfy Other 19...*].
  - d. Follow-up on gtPathways waivers from CCHE. Academic Council members are preparing lists of degrees following this outline:
    - i. Institution
    - ii. School or College
    - iii. List of degree programs
    - iv. Additional info (optional), e.g., accreditor, number of credits, narrative
4. Discussion/Action Items
  - a. Common understanding of gtPathways requirements in regard to each institution's general education requirements. C.R.S. 23-1-125(1)(e), “Students, upon completion of core general education courses, regardless of the delivery method, should have those courses satisfy the core course requirements of all Colorado public institutions of higher education;”
    - i. The issue: Gen Ed core requirements and “participation in gtPathways” at some institutions (UCCS and CSM so far) have raised questions about what gtPathways statute means. Also, the gtPathways Scenarios that Maia sent out for comment generated much discussion and fine details that need to get worked out. DHE proposes that GE Council work out all these issues in detail to the

extent possible and record them in a revision of CCHE's gtPathways/transfer policy or a set of procedures to accompany the policy.

ii. UCCS discussion on June 11 brought up the following points:

- One IHE's understanding: gtPathways is a guaranteed transfer program not a mandatory Gen Ed curriculum. Consequently, students have a choice for Gen Ed: gtPathways (which is possible to complete at any institution) or the institution's own Gen Ed curriculum that is approved by faculty, which may or may not be the same as the gtPathways courses/credits listed below.
- Another IHE's understanding: gtPathways is a mandatory Gen Ed curriculum and it replaced their own Gen Ed curriculum.
- The original intent of gtPathways legislation: to facilitate transfer (assuming a student followed the set of rules).
- gtPathways is a means for students to follow a curriculum that is guaranteed to transfer. The "guaranteed transfer" idea is mandated by legislation.
- There are some language issues with gtPathways, i.e., what does "core" mean? Does it always mean "general education?"
- Is it necessary to "force" the gtPathways curriculum (as it's listed below) on all IHEs just for those few students who might transfer? There are no systemic problems with transfer between institutions in the state. Even though institutions may have different Gen Ed cores, it's similar to the case of out-of-state students transferring to Colorado—each institution can figure out which of the out-of-state student's courses fit into its Gen Ed core and those classes from out of state obviously are not gtPathways approved.
- Do we all agree that the gtPathways curriculum must be available at each IHE? If not, what might be the consequences?
- It is critical that the state policy aligns with statute – policy indicates how statute is interpreted.
- This issue will be discussed again at the next GEC meeting.

- a) Follow up question from UCCS discussion on June 11: UCCS's gen ed core does not require a history course. So, "If a UCCS student completes UCCS's gen ed core without taking a history course, will a receiving institution require that student to complete a history course?" Why or why not? (\*Note that bottom of pg. 2, second paragraph up, of Jett's comments (handout below) states, "...it was generally agreed that all students needed at least one history course, no matter what other social sciences or arts and humanities courses they completed as part of their general education programs." But then see the sentence that opens the next paragraph.)
- b) Should we/how do we look at which institutions have configured their lower division general education core to the gtPathways matrix? For

those who have not, how do we attempt to account for the various scenarios that come up when students transfer?

- iii. Ian forwarded the above ideas expressed to Jett Conner for his recollection. Jett provided helpful history and insight. Please read and be ready to discuss. [See handout: *Jett Conner Response to gtPathways Questions*]
  - a) Of special interest, #3: "...a second stated statutory purpose also pertained to course quality and comparability." What does "comparability" mean? \*See Jett's comments on "comparability criteria test," top of pg. 3, first paragraph.
  - b) Also, #8, as it pertains to the CSM discussion. "...and helped students know that any approved course in the program was fairly comparable in quality and requirements with any other, as identified by the matrix number)."
  - c) Also, pg. 3, paragraph starting with "One concern:" Jett states, "I still seemed to notice that not all IHEs in Colorado use the course numbering matrix system developed for the gtPathways program on transcripts. This really ought to be universal in CO. It would make it so much easier to evaluate courses, and the database implications are obvious for tracking and research." Do we do this? If not, what would it take?
  - d) Also, pg. 4, end of the first paragraph, "That means the four-year IHE has to decide whether to substitute say Eng 112 taken at a community college for their upper-division writing in the major requirement. If they don't, the student who arrives with a completed AA/AS degree may still have to take more general education..." If this describes your campus, how does this get handled?
- iv. Colorado School of Mines and gtPathways
  - a) Guaranteeing transfer vs. review of coursework and a challenge exam to ensure adequate preparation and properly advise student as to the prudence of transferring coursework. Todd and Ian will facilitate this discussion.
  - b) What does GE Council advise in this situation? A student took LIHU 100 Nature and Human Values from Mines that CCD accepted as ENG 121. The student is completing an AA at CCD. The student wants to transfer to UCD. Is UCD obligated to honor the class as ENG 121, now that it is part of the student's AA from CCD? Or, the larger question that keeps coming up: Does the AA/AS degree from a Colorado public community college require the receiving baccalaureate institution to

award all lower division general education credit as a 'package' even though transfer, non-gtPathways courses are included in the AA/AS degree? (see what statute says below and note that it's in regards to articulation agreements)

**23-1-108.** Duties and powers of the commission with regard to systemwide planning

(7) (b) (I) A student who completes an associate of arts or associate of science degree that is the subject of a statewide degree transfer agreement and who transfers from the state institution of higher education that awarded the degree to a four-year state institution of higher education shall, if admitted, be enrolled with junior status. Successful completion of an associate of arts or associate of science degree does not guarantee the degree holder admission to a four-year state institution of higher education.

(II) A state institution of higher education that admits as a junior a student who holds an associate of arts degree or associate of science degree that is the subject of a statewide degree transfer agreement may not require the student to complete any additional credit hours of lower-division general education courses; except that the institution may require the student to complete additional lower-division general education courses if necessary for preparation in the degree program in which the student enrolls so long as the additional courses are consistent with published degree program requirements for native students and do not extend the time to degree completion beyond that required for native students in the same degree program.

b. Degrees with emphasis or concentration participating in agreements

- i. Scott, Jeff, Nish, Alan & Kevin...anything to report or discuss?

c. ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS

i. **Phase 4: Procurement of Signatures – NONE**

ii. **Phase 3: Final Review**

- a) **Criminal Justice** – still need to hear from MSU – they need more time to review & discuss on campus.  
b) Need to figure out what to do with the paragraph following the prescribed curriculum chart indicating that the 9 hours of electives may not apply to the major and this seems inconsistent with the conversations we've had about the Philosophy agreement and others. It may also contradict the statement in the narrative portion that all elements of the prescribed curriculum will apply to the major but courses taken outside of the prescribed curriculum may not.

iii. **Phase 2: ICIR – NONE**

iv. **Phase 1: Curriculum Worksheet Creation & Verification**

- a) **Agriculture** – update?
- b) **Art History** – Put on hold until DWE subcommittee has come up with a protocol.
- c) **Biology/Physics** – to be reconvened at spring 2013 Fac-to-Fac.
- d) **Chemistry** – Summer sessions to be facilitated by John Lanning and Martha Jackson-Carter.
- e) **Communication** – draft CWS sent to discipline group for verification. Deadline – April 27, 2012. Draft CWS re-sent 4/30/12 to those IHEs who have not yet responded. Still waiting to hear from ASU, CMC. Draft CWS re-sent 6/13/12 to ASU and CMC.
- f) **English** – Richard Nishikawa was to review all email discussions to this point; Nish was also to talk to John Lanning re UCD’s new issue. Nish and John were to report back to GEC.
- g) **Geography** – draft CWS, V.3 sent to discipline group for verification on 5/29/12. Deadline: June 8, 2012. Draft CWS, V.3 re-sent 6/13/12 to CCA, FRCC, and UCD. Still need to hear from FRCC.
- h) **Geology** – draft CWS sent to discipline group on 5/4/12; deadline 5/21/12. Re-sent on 5/29/12; still need to hear from CCA, PPCC. Draft CWS re-sent to CCA & PPCC on 6/14/12; still waiting to hear.
- i) **Philosophy** – GEC decided to put Philosophy on hold until Alan Lamborn could talk to Dr. Archie.
- j) **Studio Art** – draft CWS, V.2 sent 5/29/12; deadline June 1, 2012. Re-sent 6/5/12; deadline 6/8/2012. Need to hear from Aims, CCD, FRCC, OJC, PPCC, CMU, CSU-FC, CSU-P, UNC. Draft CWS, V.2 re-sent 6/14/12. Still need to hear from OJC, CMU, CSU-FC.

5. Other Business?