



Academic Council

February 10, 2015

1:00-3:00pm

Department of Higher Education

1560 Broadway -Suite 1600 - Denver, CO 80202

Call-in Number: 1-877-820-7831; Access code: 215368#

To join the webinar: <http://connect.enetcolorado.org/r6rviwp1tfy/>

1. Greetings and Introductions

In attendance: Kathleen Bollard (CU System), David Moon for Mary Coussons-Read (UCCS), Steve Werman for Carol Futhy (CMU), Elizabeth Parmelee for Vicki Golich (MSU-Denver), Diane Hegeman (CCCS), Jerry Migler (CCCS), Kathy Pickering for Rick Miranda (CSU-FC), Barbara Morris (FLC), William Niemi (WSCU), Jeff Smith for Donna Norwood (Aims), Frank Novotny (ASU), Brad Tyndall (CMC), Robbyn Wacker (UNC), Ian Macgillivray & Carl Einhaus & Maia Blom (CDHE).

2. Approval of Last Meeting's Notes [see handout: 2015-1-13- NOTES-AC.docx]

Approved. Minutes are posted at

<http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Groups/AcademicCouncil/schedule.html>

3. Legislative Update – *Kachina Weaver, CDHE*

4. SARA Update – *Heather DeLange, CDHE*

SARA application link: <http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/SARA/SARA-Institutional-Application%20pdf%20pdf.pdf>

- UCCS was just approved
- Applications coming soon from UCB, UCD, FLC, CSU and CMC

5. GE Council Retreat Outcomes

a) [see handout: 2015-01-12 - GE Council Retreat- condensed NOTES - Draft.docx]

- AC members agreed it would be good to get a summary of the GE Council discussion and decisions made. Ian suggested this be a standing AC agenda item.
- Point made that GEC members, besides working with faculty, should network with other director level folks on their campus, like academic advisors, student affairs and assessment directors, if they do not already do so.

6. Prior Learning Assessment, DRAFT discussion item for February 13 CCHE meeting

a) [see handout: *DRAFT-Discussion of Proposed Statewide Prior Learning Assessment Policy.docx*]

b) General discussion/questions.



- Doesn't say how credit will/should be applied. For instance, will a 3 on AP require credit for the same thing at every institution? See if FL and OH have data on how credit was applied.
 - Pg. 7, not accurate: "would be required to take basic, foundational level coursework in a subject they already know in order to get credit at these institutions." Wouldn't have to repeat course, would take a higher level course. CU schools- students would get the World Language requirement met. Have not in the past gotten credit but now are at CU schools. True at all schools?
 - "Us vs. them" tone is problematic. Not everyone sees this problem.
 - There's not enough longitudinal data from other states to show that minimum cut scores of 3 on AP will work. Colorado IHEs don't have data on this if they don't accept a 3 on some exams.
 - Bringing a vendor invested in PLA to support our case (guest speaker).
 - CCCS not advocating for what minimum cut scores SHOULD be but consistency would be beneficial for students.
 - Focusing on AP, not PLA in our discussions.
 - gtPathways courses not transferring because receiving institution has higher cut score.
 - Idea of Appendix D Florida good to pursue with disciplinary faculty. 3 column maybe meet gen ed requirements (i.e., GT-CO1).
 - Concern about ACE military credit, for example, may not apply to any course or program at the institution and messaging this to students.
 - Concerns over Goals 9 & 11 and costs associated, especially if the student doesn't then attend the institution. Maybe the important part is Goal 11 that institutions be able to cover their administrative costs? New students want to know, though, what PLA they'll get before coming to the IHE.
 - Would like to revise Goal 1 and remove minimum common cut score language. Leave it to faculty to decide and how/where credit will be applied. Goal 1 really needs to be teased out with more detail.
- c) Does the process we outlined (statewide faculty PLA work sessions) and timeline seem reasonable?
- No, not for all goals. Yes, for some.
- d) What do you think Academic and GE Council's roles could/should be?
- GE Council acted as "traffic cops" for STAAs. Faculty really need to weigh in on it. GEC can help make those connections between state and faculty.
- e) Would you be willing to facilitate a discipline group at one of the PLA work sessions?
- Yes.
- f) What do you think you will need to help your faculty understand the task and to implement it?
- DHE staff to institutions, like Town Hall meetings regionally.
 - Institutions could start these conversations on their own. DHE could help frame discussion, put parameters around it. Make sure AP doesn't detract from the larger discussion. Create a packet to distribute, with guiding questions, research, other states' policies...
 - Need to pull together disciplinary faculty, especially using online platforms. Can narrow topic/goals/recommendations to a manageable amount at one time.
 - Portfolio may be most difficult. AP and IB will take a long time too.

- Need to include Registrars in the discussions too.
 - Need IR and statisticians, for instance from ACE, to explain how they came up with cut scores.
- g) Do you want Ian and Rhonda to convey anything to the Commission on behalf of Academic Council?
- CU System would like to see the handout with these bullets, preferably by Thursday night.
 - There's not resistance to the idea. More resistance to timeline and concern about the process (how it's going to be done). We all agree we need to solve the transfer problem. STAAs show that faculty and GE Council and the department can accomplish this, given a reasonable timeline. There's hope.