

Early College Steering Committee Minutes of 6/2/14 meeting

Present: Robin Golden, Carmen Cid, Liz Cowles, Arthur Poole, Steve Minkler, Judy Resnick, Robert Trefry, Mike Breen, Ray Rossomando, Lori Matyjas, Arthur Poole, Katie Kelly, Robert Henderson, Gail Coppage, Gail Stevens, Dan Sullivan (for Kate Carter), Gillian Thorne, Sally Biggs, Elliot Ginsberg, Ted Gardella (last two on the phone).

Absent: Dolores Garcia-Blocker, Kate Carter, Dianna Roberge-Wentzell.

We discussed a process for helping colleges to meet the new NEASC guidelines for dual enrollment programs without having to submit an application for substantive change by this fall. Robin has discussed the proposal with Dr. Gray and Dr. Gargano who have agreed in concept. The proposal is to encourage community colleges to pursue NACEP accreditation with support from the BOR. The BOR would then pursue a waiver from NEASC such that any college that signs onto a letter committing to meeting certain standards by September 2015 would not need to submit an application for substantive change. The CT State Dept of Education is working on revamping their whole CCP program for 2015 so they are also on board with NACEP accreditation guidelines. So far MCC and Middlesex Community College have started the process with their K-12 partners to move their dual enrollment programs towards the NEASC standards. Robin distributed a chart that he produced to share with his K-12 partners that identifies the major changes that would need to take place to bring the existing CCP/Dual Enrollment programs up to NEASC standards. We all felt that this document was very useful to help other colleges think through the required changes.

There was a discussion among some of the K-12 representatives that it might be difficult to a) find faculty who have the credentials required to be selected to teach the dual enrollment programs and b) to find teachers among those who are qualified to want to do the extra work that might be required given the new standards (i.e., attending PD, revamping their courses). Middlesex CC is going to offer its high school teachers in CCP to be associate adjuncts at Middlesex CC. Gillian Thorne says that they have no trouble finding teachers who are both qualified and willing. In fact, this year they have the largest number of new teachers (185) coming to their ECE training. They have a total of 1000 teachers currently participating in the program.

Robin Golden will be talking to all CSCU Presidents at their June 16th retreat of the various activities undertaken by the Early College Steering Committee. [UPDATE: After discussing this further with Dr. Gargano, it was decided that Robin should first present this proposed process to the Chief Academic Officers, so Robin sent a letter and Steve's chart to all of the Chief Academic Officers and will be speaking to them at their meeting on June 11th. She will ask the Chief Academic Officers to assist with information their presidents.]

Robin Golden and the Early College Steering Committee have obtained permission from Dr. Gray to use the \$200,000,000 from Early College FY15 money to pay for the NACEP accreditation process and other expenses related to meeting NEASC standards. Out of the total of \$1 million given to the BOR by the State for FY15, \$700,000 has been approved for particular uses. Robin distributed a breakdown of those uses (see attached).

Districts should not just use ACCUPLACER software to assess high school students' college readiness for dual enrollment courses. We might invite Alan Bernstein from the College Board to present what they can provide to help in assessing high school students college readiness. AP Potential report using PSAT scores allows high schools to assess the potential of high school students. The SDOE pays for all 10th and 11th graders in Alliance districts to take the PSATs, so the data is available to be used. Non-Alliance districts would have to pay for their own low income students to take PSATs if they wanted to be able to get this information for all students.

MCC is committed to getting their program up to standards by the fall of 2014 so that they can apply for and receive NACEP accreditation this year. To begin with, they are going to develop an application process to see where their current high school teachers are in terms of qualifications to teach the college courses. MCC now has 2400 students in high school taking MCC-vetted dual enrollment college courses and are following the NACEP process for accreditation.

July 14 and July 15 are the dates for the second training on the NACEP accreditation process. – Colleges must have a top academic leadership person at this training. We will be sharing Steve Minkler chart in advance of the training.

Robin will be getting a support staff person to help with all the tasks spelled out in the Early College budget document - the 6 colleges identified as having model early college programs will be getting grants up to \$50,000. Robin will be putting together a short application process that uses the Attributes List as a basis for assessment. A subgroup of the Early College Steering Committee will put together a more detailed budget for the use of the \$200,000 for NACEP accreditation and moving toward NEASC standards. The Early College Budget Subgroup now includes: Robin Golden, Bob Henderson, Gail Stevens, Lori Matyjas, Katie Kelly, Elliot Ginsberg and Arthur Poole – they will work to figure out how to spend the 200,000 in the budget.

Robin will be calling Pat O'Brien of NEASC to discuss how to proceed regarding bringing all colleges up to NEASC accreditation standards for dual enrollment/concurrent enrollment program issues. [UPDATE: Robin spoke briefly with Pat O'Brien and has arranged for a longer call with her and Dr. Gargano. Pat indicated that a waiver of the kind discussed above, might be possible if participating colleges were to make the minimum commitment to ensuring that they "select" all faculty by fall 2014. This could involve "grandfathering" of some existing faculty – although Pat says that NEASC would never use that word. Dan Sullivan, principal of South Windsor HS encourages a meeting with Cam Staples and Ted Sergi (who are now working for NEASC) to get the latest information on CCP issues at NEASC . Robin conferred with the folks from NACEP and decided to work through Pat O'Brien, although contacting Cam Staples at some point might make sense.

We have heard a lot of what colleges need to do but we need more information on what the high schools need to do to qualify for NACEP accreditation and balancing AP course options with CCP or CEC course options -- at South Windsor HA they will be offering AP physics and MCC-

course physics at the high school and two versions of English to meet ECE and MCC credit - at Trinity Magnet HS there are students taking UCONN ECE courses as well as Capital CC courses and Trinity courses, all at the same time. Consider doing a conference sponsored by the Early College Steering Committee for Fall 2014 – focus “Dual Enrollment - All the Options”.

[UPDATE: Despite the phrase “early college” being in the grant description, it was determined that this grant would not be given to programs that focus on high schools students. The BOR will not be pursuing it.] The BOR’s Cross-Sector consultant grant writers are collaborating with Robin Golden on a 3 million dollar grant over 4 years to pay for staff support etc - see attachment that Robin handed out - the applicant has to be a college. This would be a statewide effort with most of the community colleges involved. This is due 6/30/14- the First in the World grant competition is looking for the type of initiative we already have going in our Early College programs and the process this BOR system and Early College Steering Committee are already following.