

Early College Steering Committee Minutes – 6-23-14 – 3 pm meeting - BOR 39 Woodland St.

Present: June Sanford (representing CT Dept. of Education), Lori Matyjas, Arthur Poole, Gail Stevens, Dennis Bogusky, Mike Breen, Bob Henderson, Mary Skelly (representing the CT Technical High Schools), Carmen Cid, Robin Golden, Katie Kelly, Gail Coppage, Judy Resnick, Gillian Thorne, Elliot Ginsberg (last one on the phone).

Absent: Ray Rossomando, Robert Trefry, Liz Cowles, Kate Carter; Steve Minkler, Sally Biggs, Dolores Garcia-Blocker, Ted Gardella, Dianne Roberge-Wentzel

1. Update on NEASC/NACEP Process

Mike Gargano and Robin Golden recently talked to Pat O'Brien of NEASC to determine how best to get the process going to make all community college dual enrollment programs (the vast majority of which are currently occurring under the Perkins funded College and Career Pathways – CCP – program) to be in compliance with the new NEASC policy. NEASC still wants all the colleges to be “selecting” the high school faculty by Fall 2014. Pat O'Brien understands that the only feasible way to do this is as an ad hoc approval process for this fall. The full development of the faculty oversight procedures (selection, supervision and evaluation) for each college must be completed and in full use for the Fall 2015 semester. Whoever is teaching college courses in high schools this Fall 2014 must be vetted and meet requirements of the college that grants the college credit. The teachers who don't meet the traditional requirements, and have already taught the same course in the past, may be provisionally approved as “veteran teachers.” At the training on July 14th and 15th NACEP will provide guidance on how to determine and support the probationary approval of these veteran teachers. These teachers will need to apply for recertification for the following year and will need to be visited by college staff over the course of the fall semester and/or attend professional development.

Mike Gargano told the Chief Academic Officers of the system that they had to be at the July 14-15 training.

Robin told all the CCP coordinators that they should collect the names of all the high school teachers who are teaching the dual enrollment courses in Fall 2014. Robin will help colleges figure out how to get an up to date resume and a transcript for all of these teachers. The unions will try to be helpful, if we cannot get this information directly from the high schools. There was some discussion about whether, for this approval process, the transcripts would need to be certified (which will take more time).

To the July 14-15, 2014 training, the colleges are to bring information about whatever formal or informal process that they have for assessing adjunct faculty at their colleges. The same process must be used to assess the high school teachers who teach the same course. At MCC, there are maybe 110 high school faculty who are teaching MCC dual enrollment courses from 16 high schools and that is the largest program in the state.

In terms of informing the districts about these changes, Robin will be calling Joe Cirasuolo, Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) to figure out the best way to alert the superintendents and principals of the high schools to this upcoming assessment process. The only courses for which college courses would not be granted are those that are scheduled to be taught by new faculty who do not meet the traditional criteria for adjunct faculty teaching the

same course. In order to be deemed a “provisionally approved veteran teacher”, the high school teacher must have already taught the course in the past. It is very important that for future years (not for Fall 2014) the college knows who are the teachers teaching the college-vetted course before the start of the summer, since the vetting has to be in place for fall 2014 coursework.

The college cannot provide college credit for any course that is no longer in the catalog of the college, the students will not be getting college credit for it for Fall 2014. There needs to be a mechanism for communicating the changes in the college catalog to the high schools.

2. Training Agenda for July 14th and 15th

The training is being held on July 14 and July 15, from 9 am to 3 pm at MCC – academic deans, the CCP coordinator per college and appropriate department heads should attend. The new dual enrollment procedures will create a great opportunity for strengthening relationships with the high schools. Robin Golden shared draft agenda for July 14-15 training at MCC. There will be electronic registration for these two days of training at MCC. Adam Lowe is working on the final version of the 2-days agenda. NACEP is running the registration not MCC. Robin expects at least 30 people coming and her budget is paying for the breakfast and lunches for these 2 days.

There will be Working Groups on the second day and the chief academic officers must be there both days so they can participate in one of the working groups that will focus on the plan that will be submitted in August to the NEASC Commission on Higher Education for approval at its September meeting. The plan that we are sending to Pat O'Brien at NEASC will have a cover letter that must be signed by each of the community college presidents. There will be one plan that everyone signs on to -- each college will need to report to the BOR as well as NEASC on what was done over the Fall semester to assess the teachers and put everything in place for Fall 2015.

Perkins funds, augmented with scarce community college operating funds, are currently the sole support for dual enrollment in CT but more money is needed to support this programming in CT.

Pat O'Brien of NEASC asked if all the colleges will be following this plan. will know who is signing up onto this process – the NACEP commission on higher education will know who is following the process to make the 2015-2016 deadline for compliance with new NEASC policy.

Several of the colleges have already taken steps. Three Rivers CC has already communicated with their high schools and faculty. Both MCC and Three Rivers CC will talk about what they have done so far at the mid-July training. Attending the training will save the colleges from doing a substantive change application to NEASC. The NEASC policy does not impact college courses taught at the high schools by college faculty. High school AP course teachers are evaluated by the College Board and do not fall into this NEASC reporting process because the courses do not grant credit at a specific institution.

3. Review of Application Process for Early College funding for First Seven Colleges

The seven colleges which will be getting early college funding from the BOR for FY15 are: NCC, GCC, ACC, TRCC, NVCC, MCC, and QVCC. A draft application process has been put together and that was discussed at this meeting. Once Dr. Gray approves the specific version of this process, it will be sent to the colleges. A copy will be posted on the Early College Steering Committee website. This money has no constraints as long as it relates to the purpose stated in the application for that college. The money can be used for

staff salary, food, books, registration fees, etc. These are one-time development funds, the colleges will need to continue to fund any annual expenses. The Committee will have to discuss further how these colleges will be able to fund their programs once the BOR money is no longer available (e.g. a sustainability plan). It would be helpful to have the colleges indicate if they are already getting some support for some aspect of their planned programming from other sources to help develop a sustainability plan. The plan submissions will be reviewed within two weeks of receipt. Money will be available after approval. The plans must have assessment measures so that data can be collected and shared with the legislature in the upcoming discussion. The plans must be due at the latest by August 15, 2014.

4. Status of P-TECH outreach

The second two PTECH model programs most likely to happen are the QVCC with EAMA at Windham HS, with Electric Boat being the coordinator of the manufacturing industry, and the NVCC at Danbury HS with a yet to be determined corporate partner. So far, PTECH cannot be done with a technical high school because of AFT union issues and revision of the technical high school curriculum being required. Although TRCC is looking to also do a second PTECH program with EAMA, we are only at the beginning of discussions and a high school has not been identified.

5. Report on CETC Meeting and Presentation by Travelers

At the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission (CETC) and at the legislative Planning Commission on Higher Education there are discussions relevant to the Steering Committee's work. The legislature has mandated that CETC create a plan and funding proposal for promoting early college, middle college and contextualized learning. Robin has been in touch with the individuals who are most likely going to coordinate the development of that plan so she can represent the Steering Committee. The legislature also has mandated coordination between the CT Technical High School System and the BOR. These discussions are both about pathways from the high schools to the colleges and about sharing facilities.

CETC had a meeting of their youth employment subcommittee on June 12, 2014 at the Connecticut Economic Resource Center. Robin presented about the work of the Steering Committee and the P-TECH model. Two people from Travelers presented high school and college programs. They were both interested in the P-TECH model because it was low cost in terms of cash outlay for the industry partners.

6. ZOOM Fellow and Possible Other Staffing

The BOR will have a ZOOM Foundation fellow. The ZOOM foundation was developed by a hedgefund manager in Fairfield county. Jasmine Fryer will be working with Robin Golden on Early College program issues starting July 28th. Jasmine was a TFA Corps member, she has an MS in Public Policy from the Univ. of Chicago. The Governor's office thought that this person's interests would fit the Early College program work at the BOR, with Robin Golden.

With the ZOOM fellow, Robin felt that she could now use the funding earmarked for staff support to hire an administrative support person for a year. MCC, through Bob Henderson, may have a co-op student from the MCC business office technology program that would be perfect for such a position.

7. Other Business

Gail Copping presented on two grant proposals that are in the works (one to the National Governor's Association and a TAA grant application.) Both are due in early July 2014. One of the grants is about creating a policy academy at the state level so that there is an overarching plan for the state in how education and workforce fit together. The same goals as put forth at the Planning Commission for Higher Education are in line with these National Governor's Association grant goals. The TAA grant with MCC as the lead agency, along with the rest of the community colleges will be focused on Manufacturing.

Gail also reported that the Kresge Foundation grant for the BOR-based Student Success Center is proceeding with screening candidates for a director of this center.