Members Present: Joseph Berenguel (ACC), Sarah Selke, Co-Chair, (TRCC), Heidi Lockwood, Co-Chair (SCSU), Anita Lee (ECSU), Jennifer “Jen” Wittke (TxCC), Mark Lynch (GCC), Matthew Dunne (HCC), Becky DeVito (CCC), Gail Anne Arroyo (MCC), Maura O’Connor (MCC), Paul Morganti (COSC), Krista Heybruck-Santiago (WCSU), Amy Royal (NVCC), Frank Stellabotte Secretary (MxCC), Sharon Cox (CCSU), Kaitlyn Hoffman (SCSU)

TAP Manager: Steve Marcelynas
Members Absent: Brian Lynch (QVCC)

Meeting Called to Order at: 9:34

Approval of February 2022 minutes as amended. Members discussed adding text regarding the voting process, specifically whether SLOs should be voted on as a whole packet or individually. Each SLO set rejected needs its own rationale to accompany it, to count as a no vote for that set.
Result of Vote: Unanimous with 2 abstentions

TAP Manager’s Report (S. Marcelynas)
Below threshold changes were discussed, these changes don’t have a significant impact the curriculum of a degree and don’t require the need to create a new degree. The Biology discipline workgroup voted to add a statistics course and the Computer Science group wanted to add a graphic design course. A member discussed issues regarding whether graphic design should be 3 contact hours versus 6 contact hours.
Safe Courses Task Force update: FIRC has good representation on the task force, but there are no updates.
A virtual CSCU transfer fair will be held on March 29th and March 30th. FIRC members should contact staff on their campuses to get the word out. The transfer fair will use Microsoft Teams live event as a platform.
Crosswalking discussion: There are some concerns about the crosswalk document regarding OC and CLIL courses. For instance, if a student has already satisfied the CLIL requirement, will the student have to take CCS 101? Members discussed that when students apply courses from degrees begun at their respective colleges they will be transferring to a new school. A member asked about Section B courses. Members discussed whether students who transfer into the Connecticut State Community College (CSCC) will be required to take CCS 101. The policy could be that the course must be taken within your first 9 credits at CSCC and therefore students who transfer in will not be required to take it. S.M., H.L. and S.S. will craft a statement regarding the need for flexibility to reduce the barriers for students.
Reports on status of endorsement process at each institution, FIRC reps discussed the processes at their respective campuses.

NVCC: Discussed at curriculum committee which led to a conversation on the fate of campus-based curriculum committees.

ACC: Didn’t get feedback, final vote scheduled May 6th.

CCC: Emailed entire campus, revisions were favorably accepted at some departmental meetings, final vote is April 28th.

GCC: FIRC rep will present at assessment committee and faculty and staff council meetings at the end of April. Favorable reactions so far. Faculty council will vote on April 28th.

HCC: FIRC rep sent out to all chairs. There were two concerns, one faculty member would like SR outcomes to include text to restrict labs on ground. Members discussed their opinions regarding online laboratory activities. A faculty member was concerned with the “thesis-driven” wording in the WC SLOs.

MCC: Received feedback from several disciplines. A faculty member asked about the diversity outcomes. English faculty at Faculty Senate wanted to have a lengthy discussion so the vote was tabled until April 7th. An Arts and Humanities faculty member discussed whether the use of the term, “actively engaged.” A final vote will take place on April 7th.

MxCC: Final vote on April 20th, a faculty member asked about rubrics.

TRCC: Will have a discussion on Friday, April 8th both curriculum and general education committees will make recommendations.

TxCC: The faculty will engage in the process after some discussion.

Members discussed that a vote against the SR SLOs because text regarding online laboratories is excluded will only revert the SLOS back to 2012 SLOs.

ECSU: Faculty feel that it is unnecessary to endorse SLOs that relate to courses at community colleges. No representative was selected to serve on the safe course task force.

SCSU: A vote will most likely be at the end of April. A task force to revise the general education program was assembled and H.L. wasn’t allowed to serve on it. H.L. will seek feedback from individual TAP managers. H.L. discussed that general education changes may politicize the vote on community college SLOs.

Co-Chair report (H. Lockwood & S. Selke) H.L. and S.S. presented the SLOs at the Academic Council meeting.

CCS 101 outcomes may not satisfy CLIL, so H.L. and S.S. will meet with Joe Cullen. Members will discuss rubrics at future meetings.

Meeting adjourned: 12:02pm