

TAP Framework Implementation Review Committee (FIRC) Committee
Friday, March 13, 2015. 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Conference Room
Charter Oak State College
55 Paul Manafort Drive, New Britain, CT 06053

Present: L. Doninger (co-chair, GCC), D. Weiss (co-chair, SCSU), M. Garcia-Bowen (CCSU), M. Coach (ACC), F. Coan (TXCC), S. Fagbemi (CCC), G. Gelburd (ECSU), K. Gorniak-Kocikowska (COSC), P. Raymond (MXCC), S. Selke (TRCC), S. Steiz (NCC), B. Tedesco (NVCC)

Present Non-Voting: N. Esposito (MCC), N. Kullberg (WCSU), K. Pittman (TXCC)

Guest: R. Picard (NVCC)

Absent: S. Gusky (NWCC), R. James (WCSU), B. Donohue-Lynch (QVCC), D. Simmons (MCC), E. Steeves (HCC)

Call to Order: L. Doninger called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 20 were approved.

Announcements: The next TAP FIRC meeting will take place on April 17, place to be announced.

Reports

TAP Co-Managers: No report due to a scheduling conflict.

CSU and CC Updates: ECSU has approved the common package. The curriculum committee at NVCC is still vetting courses for TAP. The faculty at TRCC raised an interesting and important question: Does the TAP framework prohibit students from taking four-credit TAP General Education courses beyond the one specified for either Scientific Reasoning or Scientific Knowledge and Understanding? Allowing students to enroll in additional four-credit courses will make it difficult for pathways to adhere to the 60 credit/120 credit guideline. The TAP FIRC co-chairs will ask the TAP co-managers for their interpretation of this matter.

Old Business

Biology Pathway: M. Coach presented the biology pathway. S. Fagbemi noted that there is "growing opposition" to this pathway at Capital Community College (CCC). The chief concern is the ability of students to use Intermediate Algebra as an elective in the pathway. The WCSU BA in Biology curriculum currently includes Intermediate Algebra in

the first year which their students can use to fulfill baccalaureate degree requirements. Some CCC faculty members have concluded that the proposed pathway represents an injustice in that community college students will be held to a higher standard than their WCSU counterparts. As a resolution, Capital requests room in the Biology pathway (within Pathway30) for a three-credit free elective. Community college students who so desire would be able to use Intermediate Algebra completed at the CC's to fulfill that free elective.

In response to the above concerns, several members of the committee pointed out that the WCSU catalog makes clear that students enrolled in the B.A. biology program must indeed take Precalculus and are encouraged to complete Calculus as well. Also, although Intermediate Algebra cannot be used to satisfy the TAP Quantitative Reasoning (QR) competency, and may or may not satisfy a mathematics requirement, both two-year and four-year students alike can use it as a general elective. Likewise, students seeking a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology, whether they begin at a four-year institution or at a community college may not be able to complete their baccalaureate degree in four years, depending on their starting level of quantitative reasoning and the four-year institution they select. Finally, given the very credit-heavy Bachelor of Science programs at the four-year CSUs (especially that of ECSU which has no room for electives), unless the Framework specifies Precalculus or higher, CC students who are able to begin at that level will be at a disadvantage if they do not do so.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Biology TAP pathway. The motion carried on a vote of eleven yea, one nay.

Rotation of Membership: Two current TAP FIRC members expressed their intent to rotate off the committee at the conclusion of this academic year, while a third will be on leave next year.

New Business

Protocol for TAP FIRC Pathway Review: The committee briefly reviewed two documents, the first outlining the process for reviewing and approving TAP pathways at the system level and the second outlining the process for TAP pathway review at the campus level. It was agreed that the word "approval" in the title of each document should be replaced by the word "review." With that change, the committee unanimously approved both documents.

Protocol for Hearing Guests at FIRC: After a brief discussion, those present agreed that while anybody is welcome to attend TAP FIRC meetings, and indeed the committee is legally obligated to allow such attendance, only TAP FIRC representatives are empowered to make motions, vote, and, in general, engage in the work of the committee. The charge of TAP FIRC alternates is not to act as representatives except in

cases when a primary representative is unable to continue serving, resigns, or will be absent from the committee for some extended period of time.

Pathway Transfer GPA Requirements, Pre-Requisite Course Grade Requirements, and Processes for Application to Competitive Admission

Majors: GPA requirements and prerequisite course grade requirements must be the same for both two-year and four-year students. Students will need to be advised of application processes to competitive programs.

AP Courses: Those present agreed that each campus will have to determine how, to what degree, and under what circumstances AP courses, as well as CLEP courses and international courses, can be used to satisfy TAP requirements.

TAP Revision: The committee agreed that it is premature to revise any portion of TAP until assessment of the learning competencies occurs and the data are analyzed.

Assessment: A process will have to be developed for assessing the TAP program. In addition, guidelines will need to be established that will allow for comparison of learning outcomes assessment data among the CSCU institutions. Such guidelines will likely include collection of student artifacts and the inclusion of at least one person not affiliated with the pertinent institution on each review team.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Francis M. Coan