

TAP Framework Implementation Review Committee (FIRC)
Friday, December 9, 2016--10:00 a.m.--Noon
61 Woodland Street, Room 310
Hartford, CT

Present: D. Weiss (co-chair, SCSU), L. Doninger (co-chair, GCC), G. Adamek (NCC), M. Coach (ACC), F. Coan (TXCC), N. Esposito (MCC), S. Fagbemi (CCC), G. Gelburd (ECSU), B. Merenstein (CCSU), P. Raymond (MXCC), S. Selke (TRCC), E. Steeves (HCC), B. Tedesco (NVCC)

Present Non-Voting: K. Pittman (TXCC)

Absent: R. Gustafson (WCSU), N. Kullberg (WCSU), B. Donohue-Lynch (QVCC), R. MacDonald (COSC), S. Williams (NWCC)

Guest: J. Seabury (NVCC)

Call to Order: D. Weiss called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Announcements: So, who wants to take the minutes in February? (Awkward silence, downcast eyes, the shuffling of a paper or two, a cricket chirping in the distance)

Minutes of 11/11/16: Approved with the following change: At TRCC, the Business pathway has been endorsed at the departmental level, while the Foreign Languages pathways are being considered at the departmental level.

Campus Updates

ACC: No report

CCC: Has endorsed the Foreign Languages and Business pathways but not the Computer Science pathway.

CCSU: Has endorsed the Physics pathway. The Business pathway will be considered by the Senate. The Foreign Languages pathways are stalled.

COSC: No report

ECSU: The Mathematics pathway is moving towards endorsement. The ECTC pathway is not ready to be considered.

GCC: Will vote on the Exercise Science pathway next week but cannot take action on the ECTC pathway until ECSU completes its pathway template. The Communication pathway is being worked on. The Computer Science pathway will likely not be endorsed, or endorsed with caveats, because GCC cannot offer the necessary courses.

HCC: Has endorsed the Foreign Languages and Physics pathways. The Business Department does not favor endorsement of the Computer Science pathway. The list of courses vetted for TAP has been changed.

MCC: The Senate has endorsed the Exercise Science pathway.

MXCC: Has endorsed the Business and Computer Science pathways and downsized the number of courses vetted for TAP.

NVCC: Consideration of the Business pathway is on hold. There is sentiment to endorse the Computer Science pathway, but the institution will need to create two courses to make the pathway viable on campus.

NWCC: No report

NCC: The Curriculum Committee has endorsed the Business pathway. In January, the Foreign Languages and Exercise Science pathways may be ready for a final vote.

QVCC: No report

SCSU: Several minor concerns have been raised about the Exercise Science pathway, which will not be acted upon until January at the earliest.

TRCC: Has endorsed the Business and Spanish pathways. The Curriculum Committee abstained from voting on the French, German, and Italian pathways because the institution does not offer the courses needed to make these programs viable on campus.

TXCC: Endorsed the Exercise Science pathway with the understanding that the institution will not be able to offer the program.

WCSU: No update

TAP Co-Managers' Report (K. Klucznik and C. Barrington)

- Will archive the list of system courses vetted for TAP once per year (in time for catalog publication).
- Distributed a TAP pathway endorsement list, arranged by institution, to those present and asked them to check the list for accuracy and completeness.
- The Physics and Computer Science pathways may go before the BOR for final approval in January.
- The BOR has approved changes to the cross registration policy that will enable all TAP students to enroll in classes at any CSU school without having to complete registration forms at each school. Any TAP student at a community colleges will be able to take classes at any of the CSUs on a space-available basis so long as he can demonstrate that the courses (especially labs and 200-level offerings) are not available at the two-year institution but are required in the pathway. Community college students will be allowed to register for CSU classes when non-matriculated students register. Students who pursue this option will pay the community college tuition rate for the courses and will not have to fill out additional financial aid forms. It is hoped this policy modification will also encourage CSU students to take classes at the community colleges.

- Committee members were asked to review a list of courses that are included in the first eleven TAP pathways but that are not offered at all twelve community colleges. Which courses are no longer offered? Which courses are offered irregularly? Committee members should let the TAP co-managers know.
- As per FERPA, unless and until a student applies for admission into a CSU, the student's community college transcript cannot be automatically forwarded to the CSU. This will make the transfer of credits from two-year school to four-year school a bit cumbersome for TAP students. The plan is to develop an opt-out that students may sign if they wish to do so.
- The Community College Governance Association met to discuss TAP and the problems involved in the implementation of TAP. While some concerns were raised, none of them were substantial and many of them were based on misunderstandings about the goals, parameters, and oversight of TAP. A letter written by our very own E. Steeves, which was circulated to the Association, did much to explain TAP and diffuse opposition to it.
- The TAP co-managers have been negotiating with representatives from SCSU and ECSU about the General Education I and General Education II courses. A possible compromise has been reached that would create two new competency areas, to be called, tentatively and colloquially, Globally and Artsy. The community colleges will be asked to vet courses for these areas, submit a list of said courses to the CSUs, and, once learning outcomes are developed (these are being worked on), assess these competencies.

FIRC representatives expressed lukewarm support for this proposal, which will add two more competency areas, and attendant learning outcomes, to the existing eleven. It was hoped that the CSUs would be much more flexible in accepting courses for the Gen Ed I and Gen Ed II categories.

- Three TAP students, two from MCC and one from MXCC, will be graduating in December.
- In the spring, the BOR will be rolling out a big honking marketing scheme for TAP, complete with street cars and conductors in smart uniforms and hats handing out transfer tickets to smiling, fresh-faced, wholesome-looking students (with a few frowning, pimply, seedy-looking students thrown in to satisfy diversity requirements). All aboard!
- The deadline for submitting campus endorsement votes on the Theater and Art pathways is March 3.

Unfinished Business

Early Childhood Teaching Credential Pathway: The ECSU faculty, some of whom do not believe this pathway "works," have yet to submit their list of course equivalencies. Some of the ECE faculty are balking at the proposed pathway because it will allow community college students to take only one or two of the courses they will need to complete a teaching certification degree if they decide to pursue this option. The TAP co-managers will continue to work to address these concerns and resolve these problems. The deadline for campus votes on this pathway may have to be extended to March 3.

Theater Pathway: CCSU faculty have expressed opposition to this proposal, in part because there is no room in the existing CCSU theater programs to accommodate the additional credits (ten) of TAP students, in part because they maintain no incoming student will be able to complete a baccalaureate degree in this field in only two years, and in part because they have reservations about accepting some community college courses as prerequisites for their own courses. It was noted that CCSU did not send a representative to the Theater Pathway work group. Unless they have already satisfied their foreign language requirements through high school coursework, testing, etc., students in this pathway will be required to take two semesters of a foreign language at a community college.

A brief discussion ensued about how to proceed. Committee members agreed that the concerns of the CCSU faculty have been duly noted but that the pathway is ready to be sent to the various CSCU campuses for an endorsement vote. Those present thanked the members of the Theater Pathway work group for their good work.

Art Pathway: G. Gelburd presented an overview of this proposal to the committee. While the work was contentious at times, in the end the pathway work group reached agreement on key points and was able to craft a proposal that nobody loves but nobody adamantly opposes. The various campuses were well-represented on the work group. It was noted that the number of contact hours required of students enrolled in a community college studio art class varies greatly from campus to campus, from a high of 87.5 to a low of 43.75. The work group desires that this disparity be examined and addressed because the national standard dictates six contact hours per week in a studio art class. CSU faculty are considering not accepting courses and credits from community colleges (ACC, MXCC, NVCC, TXCC) that fall below this standard.

The FIRC representatives offered congratulations to the members of the Art Pathway work group for sorting out their differences and hammering out a solid proposal.

New Business

Assessment: FIRC representatives were asked to report out for their respective campuses answers to each of the following questions:

1. Which competency area(s) has (have) been most difficult to implement and may be in need of revision (select the top 1-2 of concern)?
2. Current assessment—Is your campus using the rubrics designed by the TAP subcommittees? If not, what is being used?
3. Long-term schedule—Has your campus set up a long-term schedule to assess all of the competency areas?

Fourteen representatives provided reports which yielded the following information:

- While six institutions either have encountered no difficulties implementing the competencies or no difficulties implementing some more than the others, eight schools report problems with at least one competency. Critical Analysis and Logical Thinking is the area of greatest concern (so noted by seven

institutions), distantly followed by Written Communication, Ethical Dimensions, and Social Phenomena (two responses apiece).

- Three institutions are using the TAP rubrics, while three others are employing modified versions of these rubrics.
- Six institutions, most of which have already begun assessment, have created long-term schedules for assessing the TAP competencies, while six others are in the process of creating a schedule.

Next TAP FIRC Meeting: February 10, 2016, 10:00 a.m.—Noon, 61 Woodland Street, Hartford, Room 305.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Francis M. Coan