

Admissions and Transfer Policy Review
Task Force
08/10/2012

Introductions and Goals Discussion for the Meeting

- After the President of Red Rocks Community College welcomed the group, Tamara quickly went through the goals for today's meeting which were:
 - *Overview of Colorado Academic Standards*
 - *Overview of National Assessment Consortia*
 - *Overview of Colorado Assessment System*
 - *Overview of Graduation Guidelines and Postsecondary Workforce Ready Endorsed Diploma Criteria*
 - *Development of Preliminary Admission Requirements*
- Tamara put the following considerations on the white board:
 - *Demonstration of Mastery*
 - *Current Remedial Ed cut Scores:*
 - *Math 19* *460*
 - *Eng 18* *440*
 - *Reading* *430*
 - *No index*
 - *Minimum GPA/ACT/SAT by selectivity: 4 math; 4 English; 3 natural science; 3 social science; 1 foreign language; 2 academic elective*
 - *Window*

Colorado Academic Standards

- Representatives from the Colorado Department of Education gave a presentation concerning what this means for Admissions guidelines.
- Mastery is considered to be around five 21st century skills:
 - *Invention*
 - *Critical Thinking*
 - *Information Literacy*
 - *Collaboration*
 - *Self Direction*
- Questions remain on how to accurately assess students' "mastery" of these skills; CDE is working to create tools/methods to accomplish this
- Students writing skills will have to convince and compel rather than just be able to write a paragraph
- Tests will no longer be what is solely counted but rather will carry more weight thereby discouraging grade inflation

Smarter Balanced Assessment

- Jacque King spoke concerning this assessment tool and methodology

Partnership for Assessing Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) Assessment

- Emmy Glancy discussed this methodology
- Colorado will be a PARCC state whereby this tool will be used to measure students college and career readiness
- The standards will be the same as Smarter Balanced but the metrics will differ
- Colorado could also use both tools where Smarter Balanced is utilized by teacher's throughout the year and then the PARCC assessment will come into play near the end of the year
- In response to the question of what about states that don't use either tool, Emmy said the new policy would accommodate a "suite" of assessments
- www.PARCCOnline.org

New Colorado Assessment – Jo O'Brien

- The new assessment will be rigorous and realistic, and will begin at the end of the year
- Currently assess grades 3 through 10 but the new system will assess 3 through 11, utilizing PARCC
- Students will have to demonstrate mastery and skills, and will no longer be able to simply memorize the material

Postsecondary Workforce Ready Endorsed Diploma Criteria and Graduation Guidelines

- In 2011, 75% of Colorado students graduated from high school
- Each school district has their own graduation requirements
- By June 2015, Colorado will begin an endorsed diploma which would automatically admit students into moderately selective Colorado colleges based on mastery of a few subjects, without the need for remediation
- By May 2013, the State Board of Education will adopt graduation guidelines which all districts will need to meet or exceed

Small Group Exercise: Dig into current policy with one of three areas in mind – 1) academic standards; 2) PARCC & Smarter Balanced; and 3) graduation guidelines/PWR endorsed diploma

1) Academic Standards group

- Current policy is too long; maybe draft a new policy followed by procedures
- Goal should be to better prepare high school students
- 47 states currently are standardized
- Need to increase the education of parents specifically in regards to student ownership of their education experience
- Is HEAR still relevant with a mastery model of assessment?
- Need consistent course description/content across the country

2) Assessments group

- Keep the status quo until the new system has been developed and tested
- Communicate simplicity of new assessments and their intended uses with K-12, families/students, colleges, etc.
- Could include uses for admissions

- The next task force could assess whether the new assessments were successfully integrated into admissions standards
 - The naming of the “PWR/Endorsed” Diploma
- 3) Graduation guidelines/PWR endorsed diploma**
- Do we need HEAR & admissions policy if we have statewide graduation guidelines? Aren't they the same?
 - Need different levels of diploma
 - Need time and research data equivalent to approximately five years
 - Need to see predictive value of graduation requirements
 - Academic GPA vs. overall GPA

Next meeting

Will be with the Advisory Council, on September 14th at the CCCS Offices.