

CFAC Fall Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2015, Pikes Peak Community College

In Attendance: Wayne Artis, (Pikes Peak CC), Jeff London (MSU-Denver)), Nick Saenz (Adams State), Jo Ann Beine (Arapahoe CC), Kelly O'Dell (CC of Aurora), Ray Gregg (Colorado Northwestern CC), Candace Garrod (Red Rocks CC), Fred Boettcher (Otero JC), Phil Crossley (Western), Melinda Piket-May (CU-System Faculty Council Chair), Mike Mincic, CSU-Pueblo), Tony Bridgman (CO School of Mines), Matt Stillwell (Front Range CC), James Ayers (Colorado Mesa), Valerie Reifschneider (Lamar CC)

Guests: Lisa Donaldson, Vice President of Instructional Services, Pikes Peak CC), Ian Macgillivray, Director of Academic Affairs, DHE;

9:30-9:40 Welcome. PPCC Vice-President of Instructional Services Lisa Donaldson

9:40-10:30 Welcome and Chair Report. Wayne Artis

- WA outlines the major issues to be discussed during the day based on the current agenda of the DHE and the GE Council: continued discussion of Prior Learning Assessment and GE Competencies and Content revision proposals;
- Several noted the completeness of information available on the DHE website (e.g meeting agenda) and the efforts of DEH to consult faculty while policy being developed, and commend Ian and Maia at DHE for their consistent and open efforts to solicit faculty input.
- HB 1319 (Funding based on performance measures) Implementation, CCHE to make recommendations re: second year implementation of the funding formula. More conflict in the implementation noted this year, apparently due to impacts of declining enrollments at many institutions

- One issue for next year's funding relates to a Health Care Provider Fee which may divert funding from Higher Ed, depending on whether this fee is included in the TABOR budget calculation or not (if it is included, will reduce Higher Ed. funding; not guaranteed to keep Higher Ed. funding if it isn't included). Governing Boards being asked by CCHE to advocate for taking out of the TABOR calculation.

- discussion of perception of raising tuition as 'solution' to further state budget cuts, and that none of us feel that 'just increase tuition' is actually right or viable; that the cost of education is not increasing, it's the proportion that students now have to pay, and that tuition costs are significantly impacting students' learning when they have to work so much to pay and going into debt

- recognition that it can be easy to blame faculty and 'higher ed. costs' without understanding the impact of increasingly high administrator salaries, reduced state funding on tuition costs.....and that student debt load and burden of tuition are significant challenges

10:20-12:00 Prior Learning Assessment and Revising gtPathways Competencies. Ian Macgillivray, Director of Academic Affairs, CDHE

- State Policy on Prior Learning Assessment
 - intend to decide on common cut scores from typical assessments (e.g. AP, and IB): CCHE advocating using 3 as common cut score for AP (based partly on experiences in other states that have done so), a 4 for IB; institutions

- DHE believes a uniform policy will increase student success
 - prevent loss of credits when students transfer, thus less debt, higher graduation rates especially for adults returning to school
- several other states have already implemented these approaches (e.g. common AP cut scores) and have documented subsequent success by students
- CCHE willing to consider different cut scores for GE credit (the CCHE Phase 1 focus) vs higher scores for entry into certain majors at certain institutions
- have requested additional input from institutions which feel such an approach necessary
- other forms of Prior Learning Assessment will be considered (e.g. based on military or workforce experience),
 - general interest among the faculty regarding how to implement these in ways that are clear about transferability of any credits awarded, without overburdening faculty assigned to evaluate portfolios, developing standardized approaches to assessing portfolios, how to ensure that relevant coursework completed (e.g. science lab component) not just the AP Test etc. Assurance that these issues are being considered and that institutions will have to develop or modify some systems in order to adequately address some of the complexities.
- DHE reminds that State Statute mandates providing opportunity for students to test out of any gtPathways courses

- **gtPathways Competencies and Content Revision**

- review of the gtPathways system continues: concern that the current competencies (last revised in 2005) are both out of date and are not written as assessable learning outcomes
- intent is to help institutions implement and assess programs that meet HLC Accreditation standards, not to require state-level assessment
- desire to enhance learning, facilitate transfer, ability to count on student proficiency when they take subsequent courses
- desire to align State gtPathways competencies with the AAC&U LEAP competencies
- hoping for completion of revisions by December to submit to CCHE in Spring 2016, and beginning to re-review gtPathways courses in Fall 2016
- plan to reduce to a single required competencies per gtPathway area with freedom and encouragement to focus on other competencies with GE courses
- Math content and competencies will be split into 4 separate pathways that better reflect the needs and skills of different career paths (QuanThinking, StatPath, CalcPath, Other) and to help students succeed better

- main proposed changes to the Content statements is to add phrase "Students will be able to" before list of assessable learning outcomes

12:00-12:30 Lunch

12:30-1:30 Campus Reports

No notes taken on a range of issues of great concern to faculty at their institutions and in Higher Ed. in general.

1:30-2:30 GE Council Report. Jeff London

- requested our sense of the faculty's priorities at our institutions, that we'd like CFAC to focus on

General Discussion

- What kind of organization do we want to be? Wayne asks whether we think what we have is sufficient, or do we want to be more like the other Councils that meet more often, have DHE staff support?

- some interest expressed in having meetings focused on specific topics of concern, also some interest in meeting more frequently or meeting over two days

-interest in facilitating remote attendance as well as live, possibly alternating, especially **if we have more regular meetings...**

Spring Meeting: Tentatively set for Feb. 19 at DHE

NOTE: different meeting sites, or alternate date now being discussed

3:00 Adjournment