

GE Council

December 12, 2016, **10:00am - 12:00pm**

Colorado Department of Higher Education
1560 Broadway - Suite 1600
Denver, CO 80202

Webinar URL <https://enetlearning.adobeconnect.com/gecouncil/>

Call in Number: 1-877-820-7831; Access code: 368215#

Draft NOTES

I. GREETINGS & INTRODUCTIONS (10:00-10:05am)

Wayne Artis (CFAC-PPCC)
Ann Bentz (UNC)
Darcy Briggs (CCCS-ACC)
Al Buyok (CMC)
Helen Caprioglio (CSU-P)
Linda Comeaux (CCCS-RRCC)
Tony Contento (CSU-G)
Charlie Couch (UNC-Registrar)
Margaret Doell (ASU)
Kurt Haas (CMU)
Bernice Harris (MSUD)
Chad Harris (MSUD)
John Lanning (UCD)
Kelly Long (CSU-FC)
Barbara Morris (FLC)
Patrick Tally (UCB)
Mike Lightner (CU System)
Ian Macgillivray (CDHE)
Maia Blom (CDHE)

II. Adoption of last meeting's notes [*See handout: 2016-11-07- GE Council - draft NOTES.docx*]

Al Buyok added to attendance. Barbara Morris already listed. Extra "r" removed from Item IV, B. Approved and posted.

III. INFORMATION ITEM (10:05-10:10am)

- A. **2017 GEC MEETING DATES** - meets the second Monday of every month (**except for August**), 1:00-4:00 pm @ CDHE, Emily Griffith conference room.



(Also posted on the website:

<http://higherred.colorado.gov/Academics/Groups/GE25/Meetings/schedule.html>)

- January 9 - **May not need this meeting. Wait and see how CRT goes.**
- February 13
- March 13
- April 10
- May 8
- June 12
- July 10
- **August 7**
- September 11
- October 9
- November 13
- December 11

IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Communication Concerns (10:10-10:30am)

- Follow-up on last month's discussion regarding role of GE Council and how decisions get made ([November 7- Agenda Item IV, B](#)).
 - Changing landscape: increased accountability from General Assembly, CCHE, HLC - need for more data and improved outcomes. Does GE Council need a clearer mission, goal, need to redefine itself, a retreat?
 - Also need to acknowledge that GE Council is not the only advisory to CDHE/CCHE when considering the influence GE Council can have.
 - Idea: Set time limits for each Discussion Item to use as a guide and gauge.
 - Smaller group discussions during meetings.
 - Idea: When Ian sends an email, such as the one communicating a decision was made on the new GT Pathways review process, request an acknowledgement, comments (if any), and follow up with those who do not respond.
- **Retreat is a good idea. Include GEC mission and goals; priorities; look back at old priorities to gauge if GEC accomplished them; consider the language "GEC shall recommend to CCHE" in Policy I,L; utilize an independent facilitator and different, nice location like last time; can also take care of business agenda items, if needed.**
 - **Updates on GEC and Registrar Council meetings could be standing agenda items on each other's agendas to enhance communication between the two councils.**
 - **Smaller group discussions could exclude members on the phone. Idea: mute phone, turn down volume, and members on the phone could be their own small group.**
 - **Continue to utilize subcommittees that meet outside of GEC meetings to provide preliminary "footwork" on especially difficult issues. Subcommittees work well and help to avoid overly long conversations that can occur with the GEC as a whole.**

B. STAA Template Language (10:30-11:15am) [*See handout: TEMPLATE with ANTH as example - Draft - 2016-11-22.docx*]

- First discussed at the October 10, 2016 meeting ([Agenda Item IV, E](#)) and got stalled because we realized that changing “any GT Pathways course” to “any GT Pathways course or equivalent” would require CCCS to change its AA/AS degree requirements. This language was removed.
- The red track changes are the proposed revisions.
- One of the proposed changes regards course substitutions, which was discussed at the November meeting. Point made that if a course substitution is allowed and it is not noted on the transcript then other receiving institutions will not know that a substitution was made. CCCS will create a comment for transcripts that notes what substitution was made and they are currently working on this.
- Get the research from CCA that shows taking courses in the major in the first 30 credit hours increases persistence and degree completion.
- Noted that Chemistry DwD does not contain the full 31-credit GT Pathways curriculum and relies on reverse transfer to award the associate degree.
- The Prescribed Curriculum needs to be double-checked in each degree to verify that the Gen Ed requirements match the complete GT Pathways curriculum.
- Noted that the Chemistry, Early Childhood Teacher Education and Elementary Teacher Education DwDs have differences in language from the standard template so retain those differences that are particular to these DwDs.
- Question raised for Registrar Council: Are there any institutions that do not note which credits on their transcripts were awarded through PLA? If so, which institutions and would they consider noting PLA credits as such?
- Question: Course Substitution Form, developed by Arapahoe Community College and shared with the other 2-year schools to also use, requires 4-year faculty to sign off? Or can an advisor sign off? CDHE holds the list of contacts at each 4-year institution. Each 4-year institution should have this discussion internally and decide who holds the authority to sign off on these DwD course substitution forms and that person should be listed on the contact list that CDHE holds. It was previously agreed this list will not be made public and is to be used when a 2-year institution does not know whom to contact, at a 4-year institution, regarding course substitutions and other DwD-related issues.

C. Prior Learning Assessment Policy: CLEP & DSST Recommendations (11:15am-12:00pm)

- Constituent Review Team will meet this afternoon to consider faculty’s and GE Council’s recommendations
 - [see handout: [2016-12-12 - AGENDA-CRT.docx](#)]
 - [see handout: [Summary Notes and Recommendations for CLEP and DSST Exams.docx](#)]
 - [see handout: [Summary of CLEP and DSST Exams Taken by Colorado Faculty.docx](#)]
- Better for students to take a course on the campus to ensure quality learning.
- Prometric, the company that develops DSST, does not generate any data or reports. There are no data anywhere (disaggregated for DSST) on student success. (There are reports that lump DSST in with other forms of prior learning assessment and the concern is there is no way to know how much of an effect getting credit for DSST, versus AP or CLEP for instance, has on student success.)

- GEC likes the idea of a writing requirement to get credit for CLEP, such as UNC (and at least the History Department at CSU) have implemented. However, if writing is not required for a GT Pathways content area then it should not be required for a CLEP exam in that same content area. (Ian's note: the GT Pathways content criteria for ALL GT Pathways content areas do require writing so the note above, beginning with "However," should be changed to reflect that writing is required by all.)
- CLEP and DSST are not aligned to the GT Pathways content criteria and competencies so it is difficult to justify awarding GT Pathways credit for CLEP and DSST. (Note that when faculty reviewed AP and IB exams for the PLA policy: i) No record was kept of discussions whether those AP and IB exams were aligned with GT Pathways content criteria and competencies although at least one GEC member recalls that faculty did have that conversation; and ii) since that time, the GT Pathways content criteria and competencies have been revised.) At least one CRT member and CDHE staff's point was that, even for AP and IB, saying those are (or were at the time) aligned with GT Pathways is somewhat tenuous. But CRT members also pointed out that there is a significant difference between the AP and IB experience, which involves taking a course, and the CLEP and DSST, which involves simply taking an exam. We often transfer in credits for courses (from other IHEs) that meet general studies requirements but that may not have the same competencies that we have for our GT Pathways courses.
- Could Colorado faculty work with the College Board (CLEP) and Prometric (DSST) to improve their exams? Maybe align them with the LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes (which would bring them into closer, if not sufficient, alignment with GT Pathways)?
- CLEP and DSST exams were designed for non-traditional students. If institutions have to advertise their availability then traditional aged students will take them in greater numbers and could pass them and so not benefit from the learning experience in the classroom.
- General agreement that DSST exams should not be used to award credit. Point raised that the Colorado Community College System (13 schools) currently gives credit for about 17 DSST exams and question raised about implications.
- Perhaps the timing of this activity is not the best given that, right now across Colorado, faculty are beginning work to incorporate new learning outcomes in all GT Pathways courses and the outcomes are required to be on the syllabi (along with a school's own general studies outcomes, etc.). Most of these outcomes have to do with specific skills rather than content—skills such as critical thinking, etc. Yet, CLEP and DSST are exams based solely on content. Are there mixed messages here?

V. ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS

- A. Possible STAA/DwDs in the Works
 - A.A.S. to B.S. in Cybersecurity - CCD, Aims, MSU Denver (for A.A.S. only need 15 credits of GT Pathways)
 - Architecture - UC Denver
 - Women's Studies - CSU

VI. FOR FUTURE PLANNING (PARKING LOT)

A. Science Courses in Current STAAs

- When the original STAAs were made, the CCCS system had no GT-SC2 (non-lab) science courses, so there was no way to finish the Science requirement in 7 credits. Now that the CCCS system has non-lab GT-SC2 courses, it is possible to complete an associate's with 7 science credits. Older STAAs might benefit from revising these course options?

B. GPA Calculation for Transfer Students

- Some 4-year institutions recalculate students' community college GPA upon admission.

C. Track Transfer Complaints (quantity, nature of complaint, etc.)

- Provide regular updates to GEC (every 6 months? every 3 months? once a year?)

VII. OTHER BUSINESS?

- Wayne sent a document titled "Proposed Process for Audit of GT Pathways Syllabi" that is saved on the Z drive in the "Handouts" folder for the GEC January and February 2017 meetings (just so CDHE staff sees it).
- Hold the January 9, 2017 meeting? GEC will decide whether to meet in January after the CRT meeting. The Council might want to review the CRT's CLEP and DSST recommendations before they go to the CCHE on February 3.
- Change the GEC meeting time to 10:00AM - 1:00PM? Put this on a future agenda for consideration.