

TAP Framework Implementation Review Committee (FIRC)
Friday, April 17, 2015 - 10:15am – Noon
Conference Room
Charter Oak State College
55 Paul Manafort Drive, New Britain, CT 06053

Present: D. Weiss (co-chair, SCSU), L. Doninger (co-chair, GCC), M. Garcia-Bowen (CCSU), F. Coan (TXCC), N. Esposito (MCC), S. Fagbemi (CCC), G. Gelburd (ECSU), K. Gorniak-Kocikowska (COSC), B. Donohue-Lynch (QVCC), P. Raymond (MXCC), S. Selke (TRCC), E. Steeves (HCC), S. Steiz (NCC), B. Tedesco (NVCC)

Present Non-Voting: N. Kullberg (WCSU)

Absent: M. Coach (ACC), S. Gusky (NWCC), R. James (WCSU), K. Pittman (TXCC)

Call to Order: D. Weiss called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m.

Announcements: None

Minutes of 3/13/15: Approved

Reports

TAP Co-Managers: The pathways work is proceeding at a steady pace. English, political science, and history will probably be ready to be reviewed by the FIRC in May. The business pathway requires more work but is progressing. While funding for TAP work is problematic at this time, the legislature considers TAP a top priority. The TAP Co-Managers will be revising two Transform 2020 roadmaps, namely those on TAP and assessment. The latter will include some general guidelines for assessing the TAP General Education core. The Co-Managers will also be meeting with registrars and IT personnel to begin work on making TAP information available electronically and creating some tracking mechanisms for students, advisors, and registrars. Finally, they are pondering ways to ensure that pathways students who enroll at a college that does not offer all of the courses for a pathway, or does not offer or run them on a regular basis, will be able to complete the requirements of the pathway.

CSUs: SCSU, COSC, ECSU had no updates. CCSU will have to elect a new FIRC representative as M. Garcia-Bowen will be rotating off the committee.

Community Colleges: GCC may adopt a subset of TAP as its General Education core. Vetting of courses for TAP is proceeding slowly. HCC has completed vetting all designated courses and is working on embedded courses. NCC has vetted some fifty or sixty courses but is joining MCC in taking a vote to reject the pathways work. Many faculty at the two colleges believe they have been marginalized by the TAP process and view TAP as a threat to existing degree programs. NVCC will probably complete vetting courses for TAP by the end of this semester. TRCC hopes to complete this process by May 1. MXCC has vetted most of its courses. QVCC has vetted all Framework30 courses. Nothing new to report from TXCC, MCC, or CCC.

Rotation of Membership: A random drawing was held to determine the order in which FIRC representatives from the seventeen CSCU institutions will rotate off the committee. Those selected to rotate off this year have the option of being elected or reappointed from their respective institutions for another three-year term, with the possibility of a second three-year term to follow.

At the end of the current academic year, the representatives from TXCC, NCC, ACC, TRCC, and CCSU will rotate off the FIRC. At the close of the 2015-2016 academic year, the representatives from MCC, GCC, QVCC, MXCC, ECSU, SCSU will rotate off. Finally, at the close of the 2016-2017 academic year, the representatives from CCC, NWCC, HCC, NVCC, WCSU, COSC will rotate off.

Vote on Hearing Guests at FIRC: A motion was made and seconded to approve the following statement concerning guests at FIRC meetings:

Given that all CSCU campuses have a TAP-FIRC representative, and given that TAP-FIRC time to conduct business is limited, only representatives are empowered to make motions, vote, and, in general, engage in the work of the committee. When concerns are expressed on campuses regarding issues related to TAP-FIRC business, it is the role of the representatives to bring these to the committee. TAP-FIRC alternates are governed by the rules outlined in the TAP Implementation Plan.

Some of those present voiced support for granting FIRC alternates the power to act as FIRC representatives, which is not currently allowed unless a FIRC representative resigns from the committee or is unable to serve for some prolonged period of time. Accordingly, a motion was made, seconded and approved to revise the amendment as follows:

Given that all CSCU campuses have a TAP-FIRC representative, and given that TAP-FIRC time to conduct business is limited, only representatives are empowered to make motions, vote, and, in general, engage in the work of the committee. When concerns are expressed on campuses regarding issues related to TAP-FIRC business, it is the role of the representatives to bring these to the committee.

The amended motion was approved unanimously. The committee will revisit the matter of the role of FIRC alternates.

New Business

Explanation of Protocol for System-Wide Approval of TAP Degree Programs and Biology Pathway: The governance body of each community college is asked to vote on the creation of an umbrella TAP Pathways degree program that will house all of the TAP pathways. In addition, the governance bodies of each CSCU institution will vote to endorse, or not endorse, each TAP pathway as it comes forward. Any campus that chooses not to endorse a pathway should provide

the TAP Co-Managers with a rationale for the negative vote. Any pathway that generates significant opposition amongst the various CSCU schools will almost certainly be revised before it is sent to the Academic Council for final approval. The Academic Council will decide which campuses, if any, will be exempt from offering a given pathway, with an understanding that some of the smaller colleges may not have the resources to do so in all instances.

Campuses are asked to vote on the TAP Pathways degree program, as well as the biology pathway, and provide the results (and feedback if either vote is a negative one) to the TAP Co-Managers no later than October 17. For the biology pathway, as well as all subsequent pathways, governance bodies will be considering the cover sheet that lists the Framework30 and Pathways 30 requirements, not the innumerable worksheets.

Transition: When to Accept Pathways at Four-Year Institutions: While the first pathways will be officially implemented in Fall 2016, and the first TAP Pathways degree graduates will transfer to four-year institutions for Fall 2018, what will be the status of students who:

- a) Complete the requirements of a TAP pathway prior to Fall 2016?
- b) Transfer prior to Fall 2018?
- c) Complete courses (perhaps years ago) that were not part of a pathway at the time they took said courses?
- d) Complete courses that were not, when they were taken, mapped to TAP competencies?

A short discussion ensued. Some of those present argued in favor of a staggered implementation of TAP that would be inclusive, would not penalize students seeking to transfer earlier than 2018, and might create critical mass and momentum for TAP. Others argued that this approach would create a tracking nightmare and stressed that it would be cleaner and simpler to begin in Fall 2016 and not grandfather current students into the program. Another matter that needs to be resolved is how to advise students who are currently in a degree program at a community college but who may wish to switch into a TAP Pathways degree program. Should these students be advised to follow their existing plan of studies, with no guarantee that their credits will transfer seamlessly to the four-year schools, or should they be allowed to begin to complete the requirements of a TAP pathway as soon as the pathway is approved and the requirements are known?

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis M. Coan