

TAP Framework Implementation Review Committee (FIRC)
Friday, February 19, 2016: 10:00 a.m. – Noon
Conference Room – Charter Oak State College
55 Paul Manafort Drive
New Britain, CT 06053

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

Teleconferencing: R. Gustafson (WCSU), B. Tedesco (NVCC)

Present Non-Voting: N. Kullberg (WCSU)

Guests: M. Enjalram (SCSU), M. Gow (NWCC), P. LeMaire (CCSU), N. Tirfessa (MCC), W. Yu (SCSU)

Absent: S. Fagbemi (CCC), S. Gusky (NWCC), B. Donohue-Lynch (QVCC), K. Pittman (TXCC)

Call to Order: L. Doninger called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Campus Updates

ACC: Will be voting to approve Template 4 on February 24.

CCC: No report

CCSU: Has endorsed the English and political science pathways. All of the other pathways are working their way through governance.

COSC: Nothing to report

ECSU: The Senate has endorsed the TAP umbrella degree, while the history, sociology, and criminology pathways are working their way through governance.

GCC: Has completed Template 4 and adopted a General Education core that is a subset of TAP. The communication pathway was not endorsed. The English pathway was similarly rejected but is being revisited.

HCC: Still working on harmonizing TAP and General Education requirements in some fashion.

MCC: Has endorsed the criminology (despite opposition to the title), mathematics, and social work pathways. Concerns have been raised about the separate admissions process for students seeking to pursue a degree in social work at the CSUs. It was pointed out that both native and transfer students must apply for admission into said programs, which can only accommodate a limited enrollment, but that transfer students will not be at a disadvantage. Also, the existence of separate admissions process

is clearly noted on the pathway documents. There is some concern that TAP might be squeezing foreign language courses out of the curriculum.

MXCC: Has completed Template 4

NVCC: The Curriculum Committee has endorsed the criminology and social work pathways. A vote on the mathematics pathway is being delayed because a course that is listed in the Pathway30, CSC 205, is being phased out on campus. Faculty are investigating to determine if a replacement course, CSC 113, can be listed in the pathway for NVCC instead of CSC 205.

NWCC: No report

NCC: The Mathematics Department has endorsed the mathematics pathway.

QVCC: No report

SCSU: Nothing to report

TRCC: Has completed Template 4.

TXCC: Has completed Template 4.

WCSU: Has sent two more pathways to the Senate for a vote.

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

The co-managers showed the TAP website, still under construction, to committee members, who praised it. The website will go live on April 4. The FIRC representative from each campus should let the co-managers know who will be overseeing each of the pathways on his or her campus, as the names of these people will be listed on the website. Otherwise, the FIRC representative will be listed as the default contact person.

Eight schools have submitted Template 4, and two more are just about to do so. To ensure that students satisfy a behavioral science requirement, the HCC faculty divided their Social Phenomenon and Understanding courses into two groups, SP I and SP II. While all of these courses will meet the TAP competency, only the Group II courses will satisfy the behavioral science requirement.

The co-managers distributed copies of a draft TAP informational brochure as well as a protocol for transferring TAP Framework30 courses among the community colleges.

New Business

Physics Pathway: M. Enjalran, P. LeMaire, and N. Tirfessa presented a brief overview of the pathway. It was noted that while the CCSU B.S. (Physics), SCSU B.S. (Physics: General Concentration) and B.A. (Physics), and COSC B.A. (Physics Concentration) degrees all accord with the 60/120 credit hour protocol, the following programs do not: *Physics B.S.: Concentration in Biology (CCSU)*, *Physics B.S.: Concentration in Biomolecular Studies (CCSU)*, *Physics B.S.: Concentration in Finance (CCSU)*, *Physics B.S.: Engineering Concentration (SCSU [also requires a minor])*. One culprit is foreign language requirements,

which can add up to nine additional credits. It was noted that many students satisfy the FL requirement before they matriculate into a program with their high school FL. Other factors that add credits include the large number of four-credit courses included in all of the programs as well as an eighteen-credit minor that is required for students pursuing the engineering concentration at SCSU.

A brief discussion transpired regarding the possibility of creating multiple physics pathways. While this may be a way to meet the 60/120 protocol, it may well result in other pathway work groups (e.g. business) moving to do the same.

The TAP co-managers will ask the Board for guidance concerning the programs italicized above and the 60/120 protocol. They do not believe the Board will grant a waiver. In addition, the co-managers will continue to work with the members of the physics pathway group to see what might be done to address the excessive number of credits in these programs. Also, they will craft a statement for insertion in the pathway documents that makes clear to students that they may have to complete credits or requirements over and above those that are listed. Finally, they request data from the system office regarding the number of students who complete their foreign language requirements by taking college coursework as opposed to in some other fashion.

Those present agreed that the first four programs listed above are ready to be referred back to the seventeen CSCU campuses for consideration and a vote. Work will continue on the other programs.

The FIRC praised the members of the physics pathway group for their initiative, collaboration, and good work.

Computer Science Pathway: M. Gow and W. Yu presented this pathway. The first sixty credits include no unrestricted electives. In order to participate in the pathway, some of the community colleges will have to develop new courses, modify existing courses, or both. It was noted that the curriculum and learning outcomes for many computer science and computer information systems courses are already common throughout the system.

A question was asked about the existence of options at the CSUs. SCSU offers a Computer Information Systems option, but it is not clear how similar or different the option is from the standard computer science degree.

Several committee members questioned the wisdom of asking the faculty on each CSCU campus to vote on a pathway for which some courses, particularly in the Pathway30, are not clearly defined and which at least some colleges do not yet offer. Others argued that these details will work themselves out and that feedback is needed from the campuses sooner rather than later. If most or all campuses endorse the pathway as it is, the computer science faculty will then complete the necessary course development and modifications. If many campuses oppose the pathway, it is likely that the work group will revisit the pathway before proceeding with said curricular changes.

Those present agreed that before the pathway is sent back to the campuses for a vote it would be desirable to list, by school, all the existing courses that will satisfy the requirements listed in Lines 19 through 24, inclusive, of the Pathway30. Also, the work group and TAP co-managers will craft a brief explanatory statement on the pathway that FIRC representatives can use on their respective campuses.

The FIRC praised the members of the computer science pathway group for their hard work and unstinting willingness to compromise for the common good.

TAP FIRC Membership and Rotation: The TAP co-chairs asked committee members to review the membership section and rotation schedule listed in the TAP implementation plan.

FAC Conference: Will be held on April 8 at HCC.

Liberal Arts Colloquium: April 22 at NVCC.

Next TAP FIRC Meetings: March 11 and April 15, 10:00 a.m. until noon (unless otherwise noted), location to be announced.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Francis M. Coan