

TAP Framework Implementation Review Committee (FIRC)
Friday, March 2, 2018--10:00 a.m. to Noon
61 Woodland Street, Room 207
Hartford, CT

Present: G. Gelburd (co-chair, ECSU), E. Steeves (co-chair, HCC), G. Adamek (NCC), F. Coan (TXCC), B. DeVito (CCC), L. Doninger (GCC), N. Esposito (MCC), M. Jackson (CCSU), P. Raymond (MXCC), J. Seabury (NVCC), S. Selke (TRCC), D. Weiss (SCSU), C. Wiggins (NWCC)

Present Non-Voting: S. Marcelynas (SCSU)

Teleconferencing: P. Boily (WCSU), B. Donohue-Lynch (QVCC), R. MacDonald (COSC), E. VanDermark (ACC)

Absent: M. Buccilli (SO/GCC)

Guest: F. Rosselli-Navarra (SO/MCC)

Call to Order: G. Gelburd called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Minutes of 2/9/18: Approved with one minor correction.

Campus Updates

ACC: Has endorsed the Biochemistry Pathway and is seeking a representative to serve on the General Education Work Group. Similar to their brethren at GCC, faculty are creating a list of recommended revisions to the TAP competencies and learning outcomes.

CCC: Voted not to endorse the Biochemistry Pathway.

CCSU: Is making preparations to receive incoming TAP students.

COSC: Update coming via email.

ECSU: Is making arrangements to accept TAP students.

GCC: Is hoping to assess SPU and AD artifacts. Faculty have endorsed the “Gateway Community College Faculty Statement on Framework30” (see attached document).

HCC: Program and discipline coordinators and leaders are being encouraged to communicate with TAP students in their respective areas and encourage said students to meet with their advisors. Some faculty are questioning the General Education assessment plan.

MCC: Has vetted additional courses for Creativity and Global Knowledge.

MXCC: Has endorsed the Biochemistry Pathway. Artifacts are being collected for assessment purposes.

NVCC: Has endorsed the Biochemistry Pathway. Is in the process of producing an assessment report on Written Communication and vetting courses for Creativity and Global Knowledge.

NWCC: No report

NCC: The Senate considered the Biochemistry Pathway with uncertain results.

QVCC: Update coming via email.

SCSU: Gearing up for incoming TAP students.

TRCC: No report

TXCC: Nothing new and exciting

WCSU: No report

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

- Distributed a TAP census to committee members, listing number of TAP students per college and major. Two hundred forty students have designated two TAP degrees as their majors, although most have listed two that are in closely related fields. Fall 2017 to Spring 2018 retention has been 65 percent for TAP Art Studies students and 55 percent for Tap Political Science Studies students. A significant percentage of TAP students who were enrolled part-time in the fall are enrolled full-time this semester.
- Will be working with the Academic Council to clarify the extant reverse transfer policy and encourage all students who complete at least fifteen credits at a community college and transfer to a CSU before completing an associate's degree to transfer their CSU credits back to the community college and earn that degree.
- Distributed an updated Course Substitutions/Retroactive Policy.
- Are working on standard language for inclusion on a form that CSU faculty may use as they make curricular changes that might impact TAP programs. CSU faculty should please inform the TAP co-managers about all such changes.
- Are encouraging faculty or others with questions or concerns about some specific pathway to communicate with members of the appropriate work group rather than the TAP co-managers only.
- Since several colleges have not yet voted on the Biochemistry Pathway and several have voted not to endorse it, said pathway will not be approved for Fall 2018. The Biochemistry work group will consider feedback received from the various campuses and review the proposed program.

Rotation of FIRC Members

Representatives from TRCC, TXCC, ACC, CCSU, and NCC are up for re-election by the end of this academic year. At the close of the 2018-2019 academic year, representatives from MCC, GCC, QVCC, MXCC, ECSU, and SCSU will be up for re-election. Due to the desire and need to retain institutional memory and the steep learning curve that new FIRC members face, those present agreed that the three-year term limit, with the possibility of an additional consecutive three-year term (six consecutive years in all), should be changed to a three-year term with no limit on the number of terms a representative may serve. The FIRC co-chairs will forward this recommendation to the Coordinating Council.

At the April meeting, the committee will accept nominations to fill the co-chair positions for the 2018-2019 year. Finally, with M. Buccilli serving at the system office, there is a need to recruit an additional student services representative for the FIRC. FIRC representatives are encouraged to solicit possible

candidates on their respective campuses and nominate those who are interested in serving. In April, FIRC will choose at least one, but perhaps more than one, of these candidates to serve on the committee.

Assessment

- Members of TAP-FIRC call for and unanimously support the election of faculty from each community college to serve on the General Education Subcommittee (GES). Most committee members are opposed to having representatives from the four-year institutions serve on the GES.
- A discussion ensued about the need to and timing of updating or modifying the TAP learning outcomes, and perhaps the TAP competencies as well. The consensus is that the existing eighty-four learning outcomes—widely disparate in rigor, expectation, tone, and presentation and some probably impossible to measure—need to be pared down to far fewer (perhaps two to three per competency) and their language harmonized to some degree. There is no point in waiting for assessment data to be collected and analyzed to go forward with changes because a) CSCU institutions are at various stages in implementing assessment, are using various means of doing so, and are operating under different schedules, meaning the data will never be complete and, even if it is, will be difficult or impossible to compare across campuses; and b) the weaknesses and problems with the existing competencies and learning outcomes are self-evident and were noted by the original TAP Steering Committee.
- In order to prevent the GES from adopting or copying a model that is flawed and needs to be modified, members of the FIRC should be elected to serve on the GES or, at a minimum, there needs to be an ongoing dialogue between the two committees.
- Serious consideration should be given to using the Assessment Council or some qualified agency outside the system (e.g., the New England Education Assessment Network, Council Oak Assessment) as consultants.
- It was agreed that the TAP FIRC co-chairs will compose a letter, the draft of which will be shared with the committee, to the Coordinating Council, M. Stefanowicz, and P. Bouffard that summarizes the concerns and makes the recommendations listed above. The co-chairs will present the letter at the April 12 meeting of the Coordinating Council.

New Business: None

Next Meeting: April 13 from 10:00 a.m. until noon, Room 207.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Francis M. Coan