

Connecticut State Colleges & Universities
TAP Framework Implementation and Review Committee
September 12, 2014
10:00 a.m.-Noon
Middlesex Community College

Present: D. Weiss (co-chair, SCSU), L. Doninger (co-chair, GCC), B. Alves (QVCC), M. Garcia-Bowen (CCSU), M. Coach (ACC), F. Coan (TXCC), S. Fagbemi (CCC), G. Gelburd (ECSU), K. Gorniak-Kocikowska (COSC), M. Hart (MCC), R. James (WCSU), R. Picard (NVCC), P. Raymond (MXCC), S. Selke (TRCC), E. Steeves (HCC), S. Steiz (NCC), S. Williams (NWCC for S. Gusky)

Call to Order: D. Weiss called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Announcements: NVCC, NCC, TRCC, and TXC have adopted the TAP competencies as their General Education core. Preliminary discussions are underway at GCC to do the same *sans* the lab science requirement.

TAP Co-Manager Update: Candace Barrington and Ken Klucznik welcomed all present. They steadfastly support placing and keeping faculty at the center of the TAP and pathways processes and will be working to create straightforward implementation plans for both, including explanatory language, worksheets, and templates. They hope to be able to reactivate the existing pathways committees (biology, business, communications, and psychology) and convene a second group of committees (chemistry, English, history, mathematics, political science, and sociology) in October. Before the pathways committees can complete their work, however, the CSUs and COSC will need to specify how the TAP course/competency package will transfer into their respective institutions and list the remaining requirements, courses, etc., incoming students will need to complete. It is hoped that this process can be completed by early October. Finally, the TAP co-managers have requested compensation for FIRC members, perhaps in the form of release time.

Old Business: Each community college needs to vet courses for the TAP and ensure that students transferring via the pathways are exposed to all TAP learning outcomes. The four-year institutions need to specify how the TAP course/competency package will transfer into their respective institutions and list the remaining requirements, courses, etc., incoming students will need to complete. Four-year institutions must also vote to affirm or reject the proposal that there be one TAP package accepted from all community colleges regardless of variations in Part B designations. It was noted that it may not be possible to complete these tasks quickly because faculty and other stakeholders on each campus need to have sufficient time to meet, deliberate, and have their respective governance structures approve their recommendations.

New Business

1. Introduction to the TAP Framework: L. Doninger presented a brief history and overview of the TAP framework, mainly for the benefit of FIRC members who did not serve on the TAP steering committee. Several people had questions or comments about decisions reached by the TAP steering committee or by various system colleges and universities.

2. Recommendations to the Coordinating Council: In order to maintain momentum and continuity and preserve institutional memory, the TAP co-managers will recommend to the Coordinating Council that only one-third (or as close to that figure in whole numbers as mathematically possible) of FIRC members be rotated off of the committee each year. Similarly, they have recommended that chairs be allowed to serve up to three consecutive single-year terms. These recommendations stem from those made by the TAP Steering Committee in the spring of 2013.

3. Parameters for Pathways: A motion was made and seconded that each pathway committee be required to provide the FIRC with an explanation and rationale for any specific course(s) listed in the TAP framework portion of the pathway and demonstrate that the inclusion of said course(s) in the framework is necessary to allow students to complete a baccalaureate degree in four years. A discussion ensued. Some committee members advocated making the framework as flexible as possible so as to give students, advisors, and PCs multiple course options, to retain and respect the decisions made by the individual community colleges regarding TAP, and to preserve the competency-based nature of the framework. It was suggested that specific courses should, whenever possible, be listed in the second thirty-credit portion of a pathway or the final sixty credits of a degree program. All agreed that, should the motion pass, the FIRC would have to make its expectations explicit to the pathways committees before said committees begin or complete their work.

The motion was approved on a vote of 16 yea, 1 nay.

4. Timelines: D. Weiss asked the community college representatives to indicate whether or not the process of vetting courses for the TAP framework on their respective campuses would be completed by the end of the Fall 2014 term.

ACC: Probably

CCC: Yes

GCC: Yes

HCC: Yes

MCC: Maybe, but Spring 2015 seems more likely

MXCC: ?

NVCC: Yes

NWCC: Yes

NCC: Yes

QCC: Uncertain

TRCC: Probably

TXCC: Yes

C. Barrington and K. Klucznik stated that the tentative plan is to have the biology, business, communications, and psychology pathways committees complete their work by the end of the calendar year and the chemistry, English, history, mathematics, political science, and sociology committees to complete pathways in those disciplines by the close of the Spring 2015 term.

5. LA&S Template for Pathways: Several committee members advocated for the creation of a Liberal Arts and Sciences TAP pathway template, probably by the LA&S PCs, that would facilitate the completion of transfer pathways for the various non-program liberal arts disciplines (e.g., English, history, psychology) at the community colleges. Such a template might speed the work of the various liberal arts discipline pathways committees and would result in a more uniform product being presented to the FIRC. Many of those present agreed that, at a minimum, the various LA&S PCs and appropriate faculty members need to be communicating and coordinating with the liberal arts discipline pathways committees as the latter do their work. The committee briefly discussed the merits of creating a template before convening the next group of pathways committees vs. working on a template and working on the pathways simultaneously.

6. Next Meeting: October 10, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. until noon, Middlesex Community College.

7. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Francis M. Coan

